

IN THE KNOW:

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE

The destructive effects of vandalism, graffiti and material theft are not only impacting the environment of schools across the nation but also the safety of the students attending these institutions. Broken glass from a recent act of vandalism may endanger the safety of the students on the playgrounds. Graffiti on campuses may instill fear and unease amongst both student and faculty.

Many studies have also linked the effects of the building quality to the academic performance and behaviors of the students. For example, a classroom without air conditioning on a hot summer day, due to copper thieves destroying the unit to extract the metal, impacts the attention span of the students. Children that are exposed to this destruction of property at an early age may be more inclined to conduct these behaviors themselves. These studies concluded that a good physical environment of a school is more conducive to learning, with less distractions and providing a safe haven for the students and faculty to grow and thrive in.

To prevent these nuisance crimes from making school grounds a liability, continuous maintenance to reverse the damages or even preventing these crimes from happening is crucial. As with any form of destruction, uncontrolled areas tend to attract other types of crime, creating a larger issue that may grow to an unmanageable condition. Unfortunately, prompt action to address these unplanned and unwanted events is not only costly, but also wastes valuable time and resources for most schools that are already facing tremendous budget cuts across the board. Thousands of dollars are being spent fixing broken windows and painting over graffiti, when these funds could be allocated to a program that contributes to the overall education system.

Source:
National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities. November 2002.
Facilities Manager. Operational Guidelines for Educational Facilities. July/August 2011.

TYPES OF NUISANCE CRIMES IN SCHOOLS

TRESPASSING

An individual that enters private property unlawfully is likely to have malicious intentions.

Trespassing opens the doors to other crimes such as vandalism or theft, and should be addressed individually as a nuisance crime.

VANDALISM

Willful damage to school property such as:

GRAFFITI

GLASS BREAKAGE

**PROPERTY
DESTRUCTION**

SCHOOL BREAK-IN

THEFT

School theft by students of items such as backpacks, wallets, school supplies and equipment occur during or after school hours.

Recently, incidents of **metal theft** have become more prevalent in schools.

Copper wire in air conditioners, pipes in walls or underground is being targeted, costing schools thousands in repair costs.

STOP THE CRIME BEFORE IT HAPPENS

The FlashCAM is a solar-charged, portable deterrent system that will help allocate valuable resources to other areas of need.

“At our schools, the *FlashCAM* has put an END to ongoing vandalism, saving tens of thousands of dollars in broken windows alone.”

Jeffrey Christensen
Director, Maintenance & Operations
Central School District
Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Schools that have implemented a FlashCAM program on their campuses have all reported a dramatic decline in unwanted activity such as **graffiti, vandalism, trespassing** and **metal theft**.

The customizable voice message and bright flash features of the FlashCAMs deter the criminals before they engage in the activity, while the high resolution images that showcase individuals in the act are used to clearly identify individuals for prosecution.

“...the dollar savings is really not as important as the emotional value the *FlashCAM* provides. Kids no longer have to deal with walking into vandalized classrooms and overturned desks.”



Children are captured on the FlashCAM, before the deterrent is triggered.



The customizable audio message is triggered, prompting the children to face the FlashCAM.



The metal rod that the child had is thrown at the FlashCAM, and the act has been prevented.

For more information or to request a FlashCAM demonstration, visit our website at www.qstartech.com or contact us at 310.294.8194.

