



Low Hanging Fruit

Tips and tools from your school library.

October 2014

Cyberbullying

By Jeannie Standal

Bullying is bad. It is not kidding, playing, or just joking around. It is most definitely not a matter of “kids will be kids;” that is the category for Crayons in a hot car or gum in the hair from chewing it in bed.

The latest incarnation of bullying is cyberbullying, which follows the victim wherever technology goes. In the past, kids who were bullied could find some peace in their homes, safely tucked away in their bedrooms. Now, that is where some of the worst offenses take place through email, social networking sites, texting, instant messaging, and the list goes on.

According to a Microsoft Corporation survey published in *Teaching and Learning Magazine*, 86% of respondents reported being bullied either on or offline, and 24% reported that they have bullied someone online. A whopping 42% of respondents admitted to bullying someone offline.

October is Cyberbullying Prevention Month, so let’s take a good look at cyberbullies. As it turns out, the motive and personality of the cyberbully is not the same as that of the school yard bully. There are 4 types of cyberbullies according to STOPcyberbullying.org:

1. The Vengeful Angel is seeking justice or protecting himself or friends,
2. The Power-Hungry or Revenge of the Nerds bully is empowered by anonymity and is often the victim of offline bullying,
3. Mean Girls want an audience and bully for entertainment, and
4. The Inadvertent or “Because I Can” cyberbully is often surprised when accused of bullying because they didn’t think the interaction was hurtful or mean.

Since there are different types of cyberbullies, there is no single solution to the problem—those addressing the bullying must understand the motive to solve the problem.

Learn more about preventing and addressing cyberbullying by visiting the links provided.

Sources:

StopCyberbullying.org at <http://stopcyberbullying.org/parents> accessed 10/7/2014.

Idaho Commission for Libraries at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/teresalipus/cyberbullying> accessed 10/7/2014.

Digital Tool

[Cyberbullying Information & Prevention for Educators and Librarians by LiLL.org](http://www.lill.org). Resources of all sorts

compiled in one organized place with sections for students and parents, along with teachers and librarians.

[To This Day..for the bullied and beautiful by Shane](#)

[Koyczan](#): This TEDTalk is a funny, accurate, and raw spoken word poem about bullying. **Warning:** this performance contains some profanity, and *is appropriate for an adult audience*.

[Internet Safety](#) — The Idaho Office of the Attorney General features Internet Safety information targeted to young people in different age groups, plus many resource links.

Practical Application

Not In Our School (NIOS) — Use the ready-to-go lesson plans at <http://www.niot.org/nios>.

NOIS provides prepared modules for grades K-12. The lessons include short videos, implementation ideas, activities, and discussion questions. Lessons are sorted by grade level, popularity, and topic area. The website links to online videos and includes printable documents for offline use.

The lesson plans available through NIOS are also tied to Idaho Core Standards for English and Language Arts. There are lists showing which standards are met by the individual lesson plans found at the site. The lessons help students learn to think, analyze, and speak articulately on the topics presented.

Links to More Learning

- StopBullying.gov—<http://www.stopbullying.gov/what-you-can-do/educators/index.html>
- Bullying Prevention: 5 Tips for Teachers, Principals, and Parents—<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/bullying-prevention-tips-teachers-parents-anne-obrien>