Cyber-Bullying

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What is cyber-bullying?

"**Cyber-bullying** involves the use of information and communication technologies such as e-mail, cell phone and pager text messages, instant messaging, defamatory personal Web sites, and defamatory online personal polling Web sites, to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others."

(Bell Belsey, www.cyberbullying.ca)

Who bullies whom?

- Student to student
- Students to student
- Student to teacher
- Students to teacher
- Students to school administrators
- Employee to employer
- Employer to employee

Cyber-bullying hurts

Electronic or Cyber-bullying includes the use of email, cell phones, text messages, and internet sites to threaten, harass, embarrass, socially exclude, or damage reputations and friendships.

http://prevnet.ca/Bullying/tabid/94/Default.aspx PREVnet

Vehicles for cyber-bullying

- Email
- IM – MSN
- Social networking sites – Facebook
- Web sites
- Chat rooms
- Virtual learning environments – school work sites
- Cel phones
- Camera phones
- On line and interactive games
- Blogs
- Wikis
- Bashing site – Rate My School
- Internet polling – Doodle
- http://www.cyberbullying.ca/ Click on **Examples** on the left of the site

Characteristics of Cyber-bullying

1. **Unequal** power
2. **Hurtful** actions
3. **Repetitive** behaviours
4. Bully can remain **anonymous**
5. Bully can pretend to be another person
6. Bullying can happen **anywhere, anytime**, given that cyber-space is everywhere all of the time
7. Bullying can take many forms within the cyber-space environment
8. Capacity for **instant and limitless dissemination** of words and images

   - Kids Help Phone Cyber--bullying Study, April 2007

Why do they cyber-bully?

- Motivations of anger, revenge or frustration
- For entertainment or laughs
- They are bored and have too many tech toys
- To get a reaction.
- By accident – they reacted impulsively
- Power-Hungry - to torment others and to boost their ego
- *Revenge of the Nerd* may start out defending themselves from traditional bullying to find they enjoy being the tough guy or gal
- Mean girls do it to sustain their social standing
- Some think they are righting wrongs or defending others

Direct cyber-bulling

- Direct attack to the victim via email, IM, blog
- Warning war – fake squealing on someone
- Phishing email address or web site
- Text war leading to huge bills and denial of service
- Photoshopped pictures sent or posted as real pics
- Using a stolen password to lock out the rightful owner and then hijack the account for nasty purposes
- Create a poll or survey to vote on who is hot or ugly or a slut
- Create a bash board to vote on who is sexy or ugly or a slut

Direct cyber-bulling

- Ganging up against a player in a game
- Sending spam to overload an email account
- Post pictures without permission and ask others to rate who is fat or ugly or sexy
- Ridiculing on web sites, blogs, IM
- Pretend to be a friend, share secrets and publicize the secrets
- Arrange to socially ostracize or ignore someone
- Create and share insulting code names for people (bb=big butt)

Direct cyber-bulling

- Tease
- Taunt
- Insult
- Threaten the victim or a member of the victim's family
- Impersonate someone else
- Spread rumours (true or not)
- Post clips on YouTube without a context

Cyber-bullying by proxy

- The bully instigates others by creating indignation or strong emotion, and then lets others do their dirty work.

- The bully sets up the victim and then prints / publishes / shows the final explosion to the parents, teacher or principal while claiming innocence.

- The "forwarding" accomplice

Cyber-bullying players

- Victim
- Perpetrator / Bully
- Lurkers / Bystanders
- Unwitting participants / Forwarders
- Accomplices
- Technology providers

Technology can help win against the bullies!

- **CBC News:**

Two Nova Scotia students are being praised across North America for the way they turned the tide against the bullies who picked on a fellow student for wearing pink. The victim — a Grade 9 boy at Central Kings Rural High School in the small community of Cambridge — wore a pink polo shirt on his first day of school. David Shepherd and Travis Price decided to spread word of their 'sea of pink' campaign on the internet. Bullies harassed the boy, called him a homosexual for wearing pink and threatened to beat him up, students said. "I just figured enough was enough," said Shepherd. They went to a nearby discount store and bought 50 pink shirts, including tank tops, to wear to school the next day. Then the two went online to e-mail classmates to get them on board with their anti-bullying cause that they dubbed a "sea of pink." But a tsunami of support poured in the next day.

Not only were dozens of students outfitted with the discount tees, but hundreds of students showed up wearing their own pink clothes, some head-to-toe. When the bullied student, who has never been identified, walked into school to see his fellow students decked out in pink, some of his classmates said it was a powerful moment. He may have even blushed a little. "Definitely it looked like there was a big weight lifted off his shoulders. He went from looking right depressed to being as happy as can be," said Shepherd. And there's been nary a peep from the bullies since, which Shepherd says just goes to show what a little activism will do. "If you can get more people against them … to show that we're not going to put up with it and support each other, then they're not as big as a group as they think are," he says.

http://www.bullybeware.com/index.html Bully B'ware web site

Real life stories

- http://www.internet101.ca/en/educators_youth_presentations.php Internet 101
  - Sharing personal pictures and videos
  - Personal webcams
  - Cyber-bullying

Heroes who help

- [Scenarios](#) to discuss
- What would you do to stop the bullying?
  - As a fellow student
  - As the student's teacher
  - As the parent
  - As the school administrator

What educators can do

- Educate your students, teachers, and other staff members about cyber bullying, its dangers, and what to do if someone is cyber-bullied.
- Be sure that your school's anti-bullying rules and policies address cyber bullying.
- Investigate reports of cyber-bullying immediately even if the cyber-bullying occurs off-campus
- Notify parents of victims and parents of known or suspected cyber-bullying.
- Notify the police if the known or suspected cyber-bullying involves a threat or a sexual component
- Closely monitor the behaviour of students at school for possible bullying.
- Talk with all students about the harms caused by cyber-bullying.
- http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov

What educators can do

- Investigate to see if the victim(s) of cyber-bullying need support from a school counsellor or school-based mental health professional.
- Cyber-bullying that occurs off-campus can travel like wildfire among your students and can affect how they behave and relate to each other at school, therefore the school must deal with this as though it happened on campus
- Contact the police immediately if known or suspected cyber-bullying involves acts such as:
  - Threats of violence
  - Extortion
  - Obscene or harassing phone calls or text messages
  - Harassment, stalking, or hate crimes
  - Child pornography
- http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov

What schools can do

- Understand and talk about cyber-bullying
- Update existing policies and practices
- Make reporting cyber-bullying easy
- Promote the positive use of technology
- Evaluate the impact of prevention activities
- Reflect the culture, needs and preferences of your school community.
- Decide who within the school community is responsible for the coordination and implementation of cyber-bullying prevention and response strategies.
- http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov

What schools must do

- **Address** cyber-bullying in the curriculum
- **Educate** everyone about the consequences of cyber-bullying
- **Enforce** the clearly and publicly stated consequences of cyber bullying including the pressing of criminal charges
- **Include** cyber-bullying in the school's code of behaviour

BULLY FREE
THE WAY TO BE !

Cyber-bullying + Canadian Law

- Under the Criminal Code of Canada, it is a crime to communicate repeatedly with someone if your communication causes them to fear for their own safety or the safety of others.

- It is a crime to publish a "defamatory libel" - writing something that is designed to insult a person or likely to injure a person's reputation by exposing him or her to hatred, contempt or ridicule.

- A cyber-bully may also be violating the Canadian Human Rights Act, if he or she spreads hate or discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or disability.

Teach the students to:

- **Never share** passwords or log-in information except with their teacher or a parent
- If harassed they should
  - **tell** a trusted adult
  - **leave** the harassment location
  - **never respond** to harassing messages
  - **save** the harassing messages for the ISP or school
  - **report** it to the police if necessary
- Take a **stand against** bullying of all kinds

  - http://www.bewebaware.ca/english/CyberBullying.aspx

Resources

- http://www.cyberbullying.ca/
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- http://www.internet101.ca/en/educators_youth_presentations.php
- http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov
- http://www.bullying.org/public/frameset.cfm