

September 2009

WWW.BCCSSC.CA



1.888.224.7233
safeschoolscommunities@ufv.ca
A203 - 33844 King Road
Abbotsford BC V2S 7M8

Keeping you up to date on events and resources essential for healthier schools and communities

About Us

**Monthly
Theme**

**Library
Corner**

**Upcoming
Events**

**Hot Topics &
Releases**

About Us



Our Vision: Children and youth in British Columbia are nurtured in safe, caring, and inclusive schools and communities in order to ensure their well-being and maximize their potential.

Our Mission: To facilitate the use of evidence-informed approaches to promoting safe, healthy, and inclusive schools and communities.

Our Mandate: To provide research and resources which support the creation of safe and socially just schools and communities throughout the province.

To learn more about us and what is available through our centre...

Visit us online: www.bccssc.ca

Contact us: safeschoolscommunities@ufv.ca

1-888-224-7233 (TF)

1-888-870-5927 (FAX)

Office Hours: Mon to Fri - 8:30 – 4:30 pm

Closed Saturdays, Holidays

A203 - 33844 King Road
Abbotsford BC V2S 7M8

Theme

Bullying and Harassment in Schools

With the excitement of a new academic year, there are four things schools can do to promote respectful behavior and create a positive learning environment. Dan Olweus, a leading researcher on bullying and victimization, suggests:

1. Developing a clear and firm set of expectations for behaviour. By creating these together with school staff, students, and parents, schools are more likely to create buy-in.
2. Communicating these behavioural expectations to everyone. This includes students, all school staff, and parents.
3. Being a positive adult role model at all times. By developing relationships that are constructive and supportive, students are more likely to reciprocate.
4. If unacceptable behaviour occurs, using consistent non-physical and non-punitive responses work best.

The BC Centre for Safe Schools and Communities provides educators, parents, government affiliates, and others with resources, research, and referral information to identify, deal with, and eliminate bullying in schools and communities. A sample of resources from our public lending library is featured below. For quick facts, view a fact sheet on bullying and harassment in schools:

http://www.ufv.ca/bccss/Resources/Fact_Sheets.htm : For assistance in conducting research in your local area, please visit the RESEARCH tab on our website for contact information.

Interesting finding: Did you know that children who bully others are often the more popular and socially connected students? Read more: <http://www.psychologymatters.org/bullying.html>

Sexting: entails sending offensive or distressing sexual images through electronic means. Find more info about its proliferation among teenagers. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/8182033.stm

IMPORTANT DATES FOR PLANNING BULLYING PREVENTION ACTIVITIES:

November 16-20, 2009: (International) Anti-Bullying Week

This UK initiative was established for children, parents, and school personnel to reduce bullying. On-line resources for children and parents, as well as simple lesson plans for teachers can be found at <http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk> .

February 24, 2010: Pink Shirt Day. Initiated by two grade 12 students in Nova Scotia, Pink Shirt day began in response to the homophobic teasing of a grade 9 student for wearing a pink polo shirt on his first day of school. The campaign has now moved well beyond its local borders to become a national inspiration for students and adults in raising awareness about the damaging effects of homophobia.

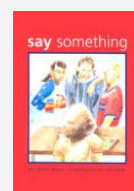
The Centres communication with the BC Ministry of Education determined that an awareness day will likely be declared to help guide the efforts of school staff and students, and encourage the support of parents, community organizations to enhance social responsibility among students and improve the social climate of schools. Notice will be communicated through the school system for raising awareness about harmful effects of behaviours such as bullying, harassment and intimidation.

Library Corner

A sample of the many bullying prevention resources in the CSSC library for borrowing:

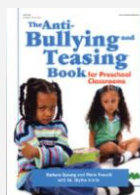
Say something

At this school, there are some children who push, tease, and bully. Sometimes they hurt other kids by just ignoring them. The girl in this story sees this happening, but would never do these mean things herself. Then, one day, something happens that shows her that being a silent bystander is not enough. Resources at the end of the book will help parents and children talk about teasing and bullying and find ways to stop it at school.



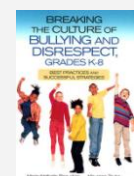
The anti-bullying and teasing book for preschool classrooms

Teasing and bullying can affect a child's learning, physical health, and emotional well-being. This book uses activities, the classroom environment, and family involvement to develop empathy in children and create a climate of mutual respect in the classroom.



Breaking the culture of bullying and disrespect, grades k-8: best practices

This book provides a comprehensive approach to a vast array of behavior-related problems. It includes numerous easy-to-implement activities along with programs and curricula appropriate for working with individual students, classes, and entire schools.



Cyber-bullying: issues and solutions for the school, the classroom, and the home

Author Shaheen Shariff provides a thought-provoking book that alerts all educators and policy-makers to the rise of cyber-bullying internationally, and the dangers of implementing reactive responses towards controlling it.



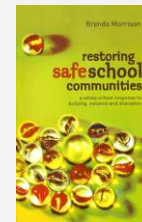
Girl wars: 12 strategies that will end female bullying

Gossip, teasing, forming cliques, and other cruel behaviors are tactics used to bully females. These forms of bullying harm both the victim and the aggressor. This book offers practical and effective solutions aimed at helping girls to stop hurting each other with their words and actions. This book explains how to stop, intervene, and overcome female bullying behaviours.



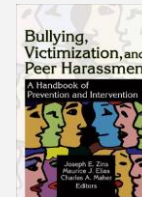
Restoring safe school communities: a whole school response to bullying, Violence, and alienation

In this book, Brenda Morrison shows that bullying, violence, and alienation are connected to many other problems, such as youth suicide and crime. The research evidence in this book also suggests that all of it is preventable.



Bullying, victimization, and peer harassment: a handbook of prevention and intervention

This handbook provides a thorough review of a wide spectrum of innovative, evidence-based practices and targets the complex problems of victimization, peer harassment, and bullying in schools.



The Centre's library has a wide variety of resources for themes in addition to bullying. We welcome you to search our on-line catalogue at www.bccssc.ca or call us for more information 1-888-224-7233.

Upcoming Events and Activities

2009:

Crime Prevention: The Next Generation

September 24-26, 2009, Sheraton Guildford Vancouver Hotel, Surrey, BC
<http://www.bccpa.org/symposium/index.htm>

Cities Fit for Children: A Provincial Summit of Municipal Leaders

October 22-23, 2009, Langley Events Centre, Langley, BC
http://www.wstcoast.org/training/Cities_fit_for_children09.pdf

12th Annual Making Connections Conference

November 4-6, 2009, Best Western Richmond Hotel & Convention Centre, Richmond, BC
<https://mail.sd35.bc.ca/~BC-PBS/>

Action Towards Reducing Health Inequities

Public Health Association of BC, November 23-24, 2009, Plaza 500 Hotel, Vancouver, BC
<http://www.phabc.org/>

2010:

The Early Years Conference: The Rights of the Child

February 4-6, 2010, Victoria Conference Centre and The Fairmont Express, Victoria, BC
http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Early_Years_2010.html

Conference on Adolescents and Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

April 14-17, 2010, Hyatt Regency, Vancouver, BC
<http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Adults.html>

Childhood and Adolescent Obesity 2010

October 27-29, 2010, Hamilton Convention Centre, Hamilton, Ontario

http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Obesity_Conference.htm

Hot Topics and Releases

Lessons from Jubran: Reducing School Board Liability in Cases of Student Harassment To access this paper, you will need to paste the following link directly into your browser:

http://www.bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Social_Justice/Issues/Homophobia/JubranCAPSLEPaper.pdf

A Chronology of Advances in LGBT Rights in Canada, and in BC

<http://www.bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=6100>

Brain Cells

Computer games have been criticized for glorifying bullying behaviour. An interactive program on Cellphone Safety, *Braincells* was produced in Vancouver, in conjunction with BC Ministry of Education. Students learn how they can work together to stop bullying through the use of stories and games about bullying, hackers, and cyber bullying. Suitable for Grades 5 -7. View more at www.braincells.net or email wake@livewwwires.com.

Grants and Funding Information Available Through RURAL TEAM BC

Rural Team BC keeps BC residents up to date on grants and project funding options along criteria themes related to inclusive communities and work places, social enterprise technical assistance, sustainability, and northern development. http://www.communityfutures.com/cms/Funding_Sources.2.0.html

On the Turn - Gambling Awareness DVD

Produced by The Healthy Aboriginal Network, a non profit society in Vancouver released a new DVD on gambling awareness. The story is about a young woman who experiences peer pressure at school, and in order to fit in, she starts to play Texas Hold'em. Contact sean@thehealthyaboriginal.net for info.

We would love to hear from you!

If you have information or an event to support the goal of promoting healthier schools and communities, please call or forward your correspondence to safeschoolscommunities@ufv.ca for consideration in our next newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you!



www.bccssc.ca



www.bccnpsd.ca



www.bccsr.ca