

*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 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 the Centre...**

Visit us	<a href="http://www.bccssc.ca">www.bccssc.ca</a>	Office	Monday to Friday 8:30 – 4:30 pm
Online:	<a href="mailto:safeschoolscommunities@ufv.ca">safeschoolscommunities@ufv.ca</a>	Hours:	Closed Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays
Contact us:	1-888-224-7233 (P) 1-604-870-5927 (FAX)		A203 - 33844 King Road Abbotsford BC V2S 7M8

## Theme: Social Messaging and Our Youth

With the arrival of summer, many young people may find themselves with unsupervised time – alone with computers and webcams. It can be challenging to supervise the off and on-line activities of youth. Because social networking through Facebook, texting, and live chat is extensive among youth, parents who remain educated about these new technologies and connected to their kids are also more likely to know *how* their children spend time on-line.

Young people are curious about many things, including sex. A study through the Family On-Line Safety Institute (FOSI) affirmed that many teens relied on getting advice about sex from friends, magazines, and the Internet; with more than 60% having admitted to viewing online pornography. Surfing the Internet may result in locating YouTube videos that show sexually explicit images and use language that your child may not be ready to understand or that you may not be ready to explain. Perhaps an even more distorted way of learning about sex is through easily accessible live interactive websites that feature full or partial nudity. Young people can switch on their webcams and actively interact sexually with strangers; learning practices that do not translate well into off-line relationships.

Value laden messages found in highly sexualized media content are widespread. Not only is it important for parents to know that their children are staying away from posting semi-nude or provocative images of themselves, but that this behaviour contributes to self-objectification at the expense of valuing ones' character or inherent worth. Furthermore, this signals vulnerability. Early sexualisation and self-objectification are also associated with negative mental health outcomes, especially for teen girls. The American Psychological Association (APA) warns about the dangers associated with self objectification: eating disorders; low self-esteem; and depression. In her blog, [Michele Borba](#), provides a number of hints on how to address the “too early, too much” messages found in media.

It is important for children to remain safe on-line and to develop a healthy sense of identity. A useful resource for assisting

adults to keep up with children's online activities can be found on the [Media Awareness Network "For Parents"](#) section. This site not only offers games you may wish to introduce to your child to help them learn how to navigate the on-line world safely, but also tips for developing a community approach to Internet safety. While our children may be more swift to adapt to the rapidly changing world of social media, adults have an important role to play in tempering its use.

*This article was co-produced with Catherine Dawson, MA, M.Ed. who is a criminal justice researcher and educator who consults in the field of exploitation of children on line.*

### Speakers Bureau Updated

Find a workshop topics such as internet safety for your community. The BC Centre for Safe Schools and Communities has recently updated this provincial resource listing more than 100 workshops on topics related to safety, health, crime prevention, social responsibility, and social justice. Aiming to identify workshops grounded in theory and evidence to promote the well-being of children and youth, we are also interested to learn about additional needs and quality workshops to include as part of this collection. To access the Speakers Bureau [click here](#)

## Additional resources for on-line safety:

For educational resources, including curriculum in schools, information for parents, and games for children and youth, the following sites are helpful:

- [Family On-line Safety Institute](#) - The Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI) is an international, non-profit membership organization working to develop a safer Internet by identifying and promoting best practices, tools, and methods that also respect free speech. On their [family tab](#), find Top Internet Safety Tips for Parents, Kids, and a **Family On-line Safety Contract** that offers an excellent way to maintain positive online experiences.
- **Media Awareness Network** - MNet focuses its efforts on equipping adults and kids with information and tools to understand how the media works, how it affects lifestyle choices, and the extent to which consumers need to be well informed. [Website](#)
- [Netsmartz Kids](#) - NetSmartz® is an interactive, educational safety resource from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC) and Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). For children aged 5 to 17, parents, guardians, educators, and law enforcement, this resource uses age-appropriate, 3-D activities to teach children how to stay safer on the Internet.
- **Google Family Safety Tips** - Provides parents and teachers with tools to help guide and monitor the content that children view online. Google Family Safety Centre [Website](#)
- **Search Institute Parent Further's Newsletter** – a twice-a-month newsletter for parents, grandparents, educators, and other caring adults filled with practical ideas and creative strategies for raising successful children. To sign up, [click here](#).
- **News Article – Online Games and Social Media Used to Target Junk Foods at Children**  
Researchers from the International Association for the Study of Obesity warn that firms are using the internet to push foods with high salt, sugar and fat content. [Article](#)

### Publications:

- **Cyber bullying: Clarifying Legal Boundaries for School Supervision in Cyberspace**

To read a paper examining the psychologically devastating consequences of cyber bullying that also identifies a current policy vacuum regarding the legal obligations and expectations of schools to monitor and supervise online discourse while balancing student safety, education, and interaction in virtual space, [click here](#) .

- **Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre** – find publications about child sexual exploitation by [clicking here](#).
- **International Child Abductions: A Manual for Parents.**  
Child abductions are difficult and complex when they occur within Canada, and even more so when they involve other

countries. There are hundreds of active cases involving Canadian children who have been wrongfully removed from Canada, or who have been prevented from returning home by one of their parents. To access a manual for parents, [click here](#)

- **Beyond Borders** – is a national, bilingual, volunteer organization advancing the rights of children everywhere to be free from sexual abuse and exploitation. To subscribe to their newsletter, [click here](#)
- **Justice Institute of BC** - find various publications on sexual exploitation of children and youth by [clicking here](#)

### Safety Reporting:

- [Cybertip.ca](#) - Canada's national tipline for reporting the online sexual exploitation of children. Teachers and parents will find a wide variety of educational materials. Be sure to visit '[the door is not locked](#)'
- **Child Find British Columbia** – use this organization to report missing children or if you see a missing child. Child Find is recognized by the R.C.M.P. National Missing Children's Services in Ottawa, is recognized by the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children in Arlington VA., U.S.A., and has the endorsement of the Chiefs of Police of Canada.

## Important Dates:

**July 11 – Cheer Up the Lonely Day** – Make this a day to make a lonely person happy. For [information](#)

**August 9 – International Day of the World's Indigenous People** – With a focus this year on Indigenous Film Making, a screening of several short films will be followed by a discussion with film makers. Visit the [UN Website](#) or discover [ideas](#) for celebrating this event.

**August 12 – International Youth Day** - A celebration of young peoples' energy, imagination, and initiatives to recognize the contributions that youth make toward peace and development. [For further information](#)

**September 8 – International Literacy Day.** Literacy and essential skills are important for all Canadians because they help everyone participate more fully in the workplace, in families, and in the community. To learn more, [click here](#).

**September 11 – Grandparents Day** – National Grandparent's Day is celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day. [Find ideas](#) for crafts, games, and other activities.

**September 21 – International Day of Peace** - An opportunity for individuals, organizations, and nations to apply acts of peace on a shared date. Established by a United Nations resolution in 1981, it coincides with the opening of the General Assembly. [Website](#)

**October 5 – World Teacher's Day** – Celebrate the profession and promote international standards for teaching through this year's theme that focuses on teaching for gender equality. [Information](#)

**October 16 – World Food Day** – is a worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding, and informed, year-around action to alleviate hunger. Canada - [Information](#) United Nations [Website](#)

**November 7 – 11, Media Literacy Week** – This year's theme is Digital Citizenship which aims to encourage young people to think about their online lives, and their rights and responsibilities as digital citizens. [Website](#)

**November 16 – International Day of Tolerance** – In a world ever more closely tied by trade and information technology, a focus on tolerance has been created to counteract rifts between and within communities to mitigate poverty, ignorance and conflict." To [learn more](#) .

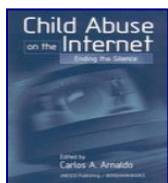
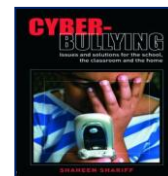
**November 20 – National Child Day** - An opportunity to celebrate progress and take action to promote the well-being of children. To view Canada's report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, [click here](#) .

## Library Corner

The BC Centre's Library collection has many resources to promote a better understanding of, and to promote child and internet safety. A sample of book titles that can be borrowed at no charge from our library is listed below:

### **Cyberbullying: Issues and Solutions for the School, the Classroom and the Home (2008)**

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

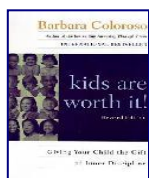
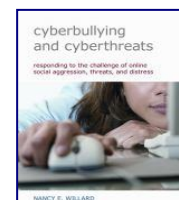


### **Child Abuse on the Internet: Ending the Silence (2001)**

This resource examines child pornography and sexual abuse of children through the misuse of internet/media and records responses from various sectors of society. The book also demonstrates how individuals and organizations can cooperate effectively to build networks, while reviewing work being carried out in Africa, Albania, Brazil, Guatemala, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

### **Cyberbullying and Cyberthreats: Responding to the Challenge of Online Social Aggression, Threats, and Distress (2007)**

This book examines the widespread problems and emotional harms caused by online communications in response to increasing reports of youth suicide, violence, and abduction. Offers school counselors, administrators, and teachers important information on how to prevent and respond to cyberbullying and cyberthreats.

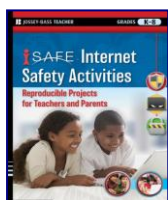
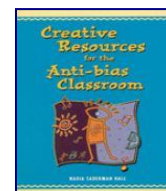


### **Kids are Worth it!: Giving Your Child the Gift of Inner Discipline (1999)**

This guide rejects "quick-fix" solutions and focuses on helping kids develop their own self-discipline by owning up to their mistakes, thinking through solutions, and correcting behaviours while leaving their dignity intact.

### **Creative Resources for the Anti-Bias Classroom (1999)**

This book focuses on children from birth to age twelve. It promotes self-esteem and individual uniqueness while offering developmentally appropriate interventions. This resource presents information in a simple, straightforward manner with hundreds of activities that demonstrate an integrated curriculum approach.



### **i-SAFE internet safety activities: Reproducible projects for teachers and parents (2010)**

Challenges elementary and middle school students to develop the technical and critical-thinking skills they need to navigate safely online.

The Centre's library has resources for a wide variety of safety and social responsibility-related themes. We welcome you to search our on-line catalogue at <http://www.ufv.ca/bccssc> or call us for more information at 1-888-224-7233.

## Upcoming Training, Conferences, and Events

### 16th Biennial International Foster Care Organization Conference

**July 10-15, Victoria, BC**

Take part in educational experiences, networking, and social activities centred on the theme of *Fostering Hope - Together We Can Make a Difference*. The theme is in recognition of the crucial role that parents, foster parents, social workers, clinicians, childcare workers, and extended families play in the life of a child. [For information](#)

### Positive Behaviour Support Training

**August 22 – 25 and November 2, Vancouver, BC**

Advanced behaviour support training session is open to district teams supporting schools with established School-wide PBS systems. Registration is limited to qualified participants only. Please contact [kent.mcintosh@ubc.ca](mailto:kent.mcintosh@ubc.ca) for approval prior to registration. [Click here](#) for more information.

### Creating Social Change in Communities

**September 15 - JIBC New Westminster Campus**

This course will focus on key steps in building trust in communities divided by race, ethnicity, class, or religion. The course will explore the DNA of a trustbuilder: the personal qualities needed to restore trust when it has been broken and to sustain a movement for honest conversation and constructive change. [For information](#)

### Dr. Gabor Mate on the Biology of Loss – Burnaby Workshop

**September 15, Burnaby, BC**

The Children's Foundation is presenting an all-day workshop regarding *what happens when attachments are impaired and how to foster resilience in early childhood*. Learn more about mental health implications of early childhood emotional loss, whether due to abuse in the family or simply of stress on the parents, on the subsequent loss of attunement with the child. Dr. Mate authored the book, *Hold On To Your Kids*. Click [here](#) for flyer.

### Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Annual Conference

**September 19-23, Banff, Alberta**

The Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (CATAP) was formed in 2004. The founders included professionals from law enforcement, academia, mental health, and corporate/private security communities skilled in threat assessment and risk management. [For information.](#)

### Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention Conference

**October 3 – 5, Vancouver, BC**

NEW CONVERSATIONS ON SUICIDALITY – Join with people from across the country interested in exploring, expanding, and building upon the spectrum of what is known about suicide; prevention, intervention, postvention, and research. The goal is to generate inclusive dialogue and stimulate new conversations on all aspects of suicidality. [Click here](#) for more information.

### Beyond the Blues: Depression Anxiety Education and Screening

**October 6, BC**

The next Beyond the Blues: Depression Anxiety Education and Screening Day community events will be held October 6th. [Click here](#) for more information or to access resources, such as an online depression/anxiety/risky drinking screener self-test.

### British Columbia School Counselors Association Conference

**October 19 – 21, Vancouver, BC**

The largest gathering of school counsellors in British Columbia, this year's theme is YOUTH IN MIND: Child and Youth Mental Health. To view the lineup of keynote presentations, workshops, and special events, visit the [website](#).

### Stepping Stones for Success: Hope for Vulnerable Youth

**October 21, Burnaby, BC (Provincial Pro-D Day)**

Coordinated by the Burnaby School District, a variety of workshops will be featured on building resiliency in the classroom, addressing mental health issues, empowering parents, building safe school climates, and enhancing Aboriginal education. Keynote speaker will be John Medina, author of *Brain Rules*. For more information, [click here](#).

## **Understanding the Pathways of Youth Violence and Trauma**

**October 21, New Westminster, BC (Provincial Pro-D Day)**

Safer Schools Together presents a one-day workshop for educational staff, mental health professionals, youth workers, and other community service providers. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Marlene Wong (Effects of Trauma on Children) and Dr. Leena Augmeiria (The Identification of Early Risk Factors). For more information or to register, [click here](#).

## **Making Connections Conference**

**November 2 – 4, Vancouver, BC**

This 14th annual conference will feature a preconference workshop on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, led by Dr. Tim Lewis on getting started with PBS for school teams. [For further details](#).

## **Family On-line Safety Institute Annual Conference and Exhibition**

**November 9-10, Washington, DC**

An international audience of policymakers, Internet Industry leaders, educators, legislators, law enforcement, Internet safety advocates, teachers, and technologists, this year's event will be an opportunity for all stakeholders to discuss innovative ways to keep kids safe online. [For information](#).

## **Early Years Conference 2012**

**February 2 – 4, 2012, Vancouver, BC**

Participate in a stimulating dialogue, reflection, and gain a deeper understanding of a child's total development as rooted in early relationships. The conference aims to revolutionize current approaches and practices with young children, their families, and their communities. [For Information](#)

## **21st National (American) Conference on Family Literacy**

**March 24 – 26, 2012, San Diego, CA**

For those dedicated to multigenerational learning and innovative approaches and resources to enhance the quality of their work, peers will gain an opportunity to exchange cutting-edge ideas and information. Individuals and businesses have opportunities to share strategies, resources, and innovations with leaders in the fields of family learning, literacy, early childhood development, adult education, and parent engagement. [Information](#)

## **American Educational Research Association (AERA)**

**April 13-17, 2012, Vancouver, BC**

The mission of AERA is "to advance knowledge about education, to encourage scholarly inquiry related to education, and to promote the use of research to improve education and serve the public good". For information on Conference, including calls for submission, click on [flyer](#).

## **Fifth National Biennial Conference on Adolescents and Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder**

**April 18 – 21, 2012, Vancouver, BC**

This year's theme, *It's a Matter of Justice*, will bring together a diverse group of professionals and families to share research, experience and practice in order to sustain and enhance the lives of adolescents and adults with FASD, their families, service providers, and communities. [Click here](#) for more information.

## **Canada International Conference on Education (CICE)**

**April 22 – 26, 2012, Toronto, Canada**

The CICE is an international refereed conference dedicated to the advancement of the theory and practices in education. The aim of CICE is to provide an opportunity for academicians and professionals from various educational fields with cross-disciplinary interests to bridge the knowledge gap, promote research, and the evolution of pedagogy. [For Information](#)

**BC's Child Care Resource and Referral Services** has ongoing learning opportunities for parents and caregivers of preschool aged children. To learn about workshops in your community, visit [their website](#)

**The Fourth R – further funded training opportunities will be offered in the Fall.** Fourth R integrates best practice approaches to target multiple forms of violence, including bullying, dating violence, peer violence, and group violence. Fourth R has already been successfully integrated into the Planning 10 programs in BC schools. For information on the program's effectiveness and how this secondary school program is rolling out across BC visit the [website](#) or contact [lhaberlin@telus.net](mailto:lhaberlin@telus.net).

## Hot Topics and New Releases

**Community Funding - The RCMP Foundation** Fall funding round for 2011 is now open, with closing date for submissions September 1, 2011. Community groups or individuals, *with the support of their local detachment*, may submit an application. For further information visit <http://www.rcmp-f.ca> or contact Sarah Bellissimo ([sbellissimo@rcmp-f.ca](mailto:sbellissimo@rcmp-f.ca)) or Sylvia Chan at [sylvia.chan@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:sylvia.chan@rcmp-grc.gc.ca).

### Promising and Model Crime Prevention Programs, Volume II

As part of its on-going effort to promote and disseminate information and knowledge on effective crime prevention programs and initiatives, Public Safety Canada's National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) has recently released a second volume containing descriptions of programs that have either been developed or successfully replicated in Canada. [Access report here.](#)

### New Ways to Reduce Bullying Explored

A conference at Cambridge University brings researchers from across Europe to share knowledge about how bullying and youth violence can be prevented more effectively. To read more, [click here.](#)

**Red Wire Media** – an 'uncensored' space for Aboriginal youth has been created to help youth develop their own voice. Media projects are initiated and led by youth, and intended to inspire creativity, confidence, motivation and action. [Website](#)

**Engaging and Empowering Aboriginal Youth: A Toolkit for Service Providers** – access a recently published toolkit for service providers to advance practices in working with Aboriginal youth. [Click here](#) for manual.

### Sex-abuse allegations prompt policy review in BC schools (Vancouver Sun News Article)

The B.C. School Trustees' Association has been working with the RCMP, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development to draft a sample policy for school districts to guide staff when allegations or concerns about child abuse occur. To read more, [click here.](#)

### Nominations Open for Representative for Children and Youth Awards of Excellence

Nominations are being accepted to recognize excellence in British Columbia's child and youth-serving system. Nominations can include individuals and organizations whose work contributes to improving the lives of children and youth in B.C. For nomination forms or more information visit the following [website.](#)

### Living with FASD – New DVD

The Healthy Aboriginal has turned their 'living with FASD' comic book into a DVD animatic. To preview one of five stories click [here.](#) The DVD may be ordered by sending an email with billing address to [sean@thehealthyaboriginal.net](mailto:sean@thehealthyaboriginal.net).

### Funding Restored to Roots of Empathy in BC

The British Columbia government has reinvested in the Roots of Empathy and Seeds of Empathy programs across the province over the next five years. [Click here](#) to view video of announcement.

## We would love to hear from you!

If you have a request for information for future newsletters or an event to support the goal of promoting safer schools and communities, please call or forward your correspondence to [safeschoolscommunities@ufv.ca](mailto:safeschoolscommunities@ufv.ca) for consideration in upcoming newsletters.



[www.bccssc.ca](http://www.bccssc.ca)



[www.bccnprd.ca](http://www.bccnprd.ca)



[www.bccsr.ca](http://www.bccsr.ca)