

Phi Delta Kappa

NEWSLETTER

UBC Chapter #0124

Vancouver, BC



www.pdkubc.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 8, 2008

Dear Kappans,

Welcome to 2008-09 and an exciting year of PDK-UBC Chapter events! We hope that you all had a chance to enjoy some summer fun in the sun.

The executive for 2008-09 met in August to plan for our anticipated dinner meetings.

The following is our executive slate for this coming year:

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At the August planning meeting, our enthusiasm still carried over from the last dinner meeting in April when we had to turn away guests who hoped to learn more about cyberbullying. Thus we have dedicated our first dinner meeting in the fall to a follow-up session on Cyberbullying with Wanda Cassidy and Karen Brown as guest speakers on **Tuesday, October 14th** at the **Arbutus Club**. We hope that those of you who missed the most interesting session last school year will take the time to join us in October. Those of us who attended last time are certainly planning on taking advantage of further professional development and stimulating table discussions at Cyberbullying Part II.

Membership in PDK not only provides opportunities for professional growth and networking through our dinner meetings as

well as the subscription to the ever well-read Kappan journal, but also through the PDKintl website publications of EDge Magazine, Topics and Trends, Classroom Tips, eKappan, and PDK Connection. One of the articles published in volume 7 of Topics and Trends was about cyberbullies. I have taken the liberty to include a copy of the article. As a member of PDK-UBC you are able to go onto the PDKintl website and choose from a vast selection of interesting articles.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Tuesday, October 14th dinner meeting.

Sincerely,
Marion Broadbent
President, UBC Chapter

The following is the article on

CYBER BULLIES

The Issue

The last issue of Topics & Trends dealt with bullying in general. Bullying is not a new phenomenon, but until recent years it has been limited primarily to schools and other public places. But today, due to the widespread use of technology, bullying has invaded the privacy of the home. Cyber bullying provides anonymity and means that students can be harassed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Research

According to the office of the Pennsylvania Attorney General, "Cyber bullying is sending or posting harmful or cruel text or images using the Internet or other digital communication devices, including cell phones and PDAs (personal digital assistants)."

A 2004 survey of middle school students by i-SAFE provided the following information:

- 58% of students surveyed had been the online recipients of mean or hurtful things.

- 53% of students in the survey admitted to having said mean or hurtful things to someone else while online.

- 42% of the students said they had been bullied while online; the distinction between mean or hurtful things and bullying was not clarified.

A more recent poll cited by the West Regional Equity Network provides additional data:

- More than 30% of all teenagers and almost 20% of children between 6 and 11 reported that they have had

- hurtful things said about them online.

- 10% of the teens and 4% of younger children had been threatened with physical harm.

- Just half of the children in the 6-11 age bracket and less than one-third of the older children had told their parents. Almost 20% of the students had told no one about the bullying incidents.

- Younger children were as likely to have received bullying messages at school as they were at home, while at-home messages were much more prevalent for teenagers —70% at home, compared with 30% at school.

Other studies indicate that, while face-to-face bullying is more prevalent among boys, cyber bullies are more predominantly female.

Practical Implications

What can schools do:

- Update school board policy to address harassment via technology.

- Include a section on cyber bullying and district policy in the student handbook.

- Establish serious consequences for students who do not abide by the policy.

- Develop and implement a classroom-based antibullying program that includes cyber bullying.

- Block districtwide access to any personal e-mail accounts or blog sites that cannot be monitored.

i-SAFE offers these suggestions to students who are victims of cyber bullying:

- Tell a responsible adult and keep telling until action is taken.
- If the bullying is school-related, tell a school teacher or administrator.
- Don't respond to messages from cyber bullies.
- Don't erase messages; they can be used for evidence if action is taken.
- Call the police if a cyber bully threatens harm.

Questions to Consider

- Does our district have a bullying policy that includes cyber bullying?
- Have we taken necessary actions to reduce the opportunity for cyber bullying at school?
- Is cyber bullying addressed in our overall program to reduce or eliminate bullying?

References

i-SAFE America Inc. "Beware of the Cyber Bully." Undated. Retrieved September 15, 2007, from <http://www.isafe.org/imgs/pdf/education/CyberBullying.pdf>

Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. "Cyber Bullying." Undated. Retrieved September 15, 2007, from <http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/kidsparents.aspx?id=1567>

West Regional Equity Network. "About Cyber-Bullying." December 11, 2006. Retrieved September 15, 2007, from http://www.ed.arizona.edu/wren/bully_cyber_about.html

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PDK Presentation on Students' Experiences with Cyber-Bullying, Tuesday, October 14

The abuse and misuse of technology provides many challenges for teachers and administrators.

The UBC Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa will convene on Tuesday, October 14 to visit with colleagues and return to this important topic entitled

"Sticks and stones can break my bones, but how can pixels hurt me?"

Wanda Cassidy is well positioned to guide this exchange. A noted professor and Director of the Centre for Education, Law and Society at Simon Fraser University, she conducts research to assess the extent and impact of cyber-bullying in BC schools, as well as its counterpoint, "cyber-kindness." She will be accompanied by her colleague, Karen Brown, who is a PhD candidate in the School of Criminology at SFU and also the Coordinator for the Centre for Education, Law and Society. An experienced lawyer, she has investigated cyber-bullying and relational aggression in schools.

After the presentation, they will circulate among the tables and you will have an opportunity to question them directly.

Don't miss this chance to join us and share your experiences. Mark your calendar!

Place: the Arbutus Club is in Vancouver on Arbutus Street just south of 25th Avenue opposite Safeway at the pedestrian light at Nanton. Entrance is off Nanton.

Arrivals: 6:00-6:30 p.m. Program price: \$35 for members, \$45 for nonmembers. Dinner is free. Pay at the door of the Quichena

Room. Your colleagues are also welcome.

Please respond to Celina Mau, our Registrar, at cmou@vsb.bc.ca by noon on Friday, October 10 for a reservation. An early response is recommended. You will be sent a confirmation and instructions for parking.