

# Counselor's Corner

## We take Bullying very seriously at Loyola Catholic School!

We take it seriously and we know that it takes a community to prevent bullying of children. The Third Annual National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week, Oct 5-11, 2008 encourages communities nationwide to work together to increase awareness of the prevalence and impact of bullying on all children.

### **Bullying Fast Facts**

- An estimated 160,000 children miss school every day out of fear of attack or intimidation by other students. (National Education Association, 1995)
- About 20 percent of Anoka-Hennepin (Minn.) students said they had been bullied. Boys and girls reported that they had experienced bullying in about the same numbers. The survey also revealed that Anoka-Hennepin minority students felt less safe than white students. (Anoka-Hennepin District 11, Minnesota, 2004 survey of students in grades 4, 6, 8, and 10)
- Some 69 percent of 7- to 12-year-old rural Minnesotans said there were bullies in their town. More than 50 percent said they had been picked on by these bullies. (Downloaded Aug. 24, 2006, at [www.extension.umn.edu/info-u/families/BF923.html](http://www.extension.umn.edu/info-u/families/BF923.html))
- One out of every 10 students who drops out of school does so because of repeated bullying. (Oklahoma Health Department, 2001)
- Victims of bullying are more likely to suffer physical problems such as common colds and coughs, sore throats, poor appetite, and night waking. (Journal of the American Medical Association, 2003)

### **Cyber (electronic) Bullying Statistics:**

- 42 percent of children have been bullied while online. One in 4 have had it happen more than once.
- 35 percent of children have been threatened online. Nearly 1 in 5 have had it happen more than once.
- 58 percent of children admit someone has said mean or hurtful things to them online. More than 4 out of 10 say it has happened more than once.
- 53 percent of children admit having said something mean or hurtful to another person online. More than 1 in 3 have done it more than once.
- 58 percent of children have not told their parents or an adult about something mean or hurtful that happened to them online. (Cyber bullying statistics are based on a 2004 i-SAFE survey of 1,500 students grades 4-8)

### **More Bullying Facts:**

- Bullying is the most common form of violence; between 15 percent and 30 percent of students are bullies or victims. Some 3.7 million youth engage in it, and more than 3.2 million are victims of bullying annually.
- Since 1992, there have been 250 violent deaths in schools, and bullying has been a factor in virtually every school shooting.
- Direct, physical bullying increases in elementary school, peaks in middle school, and declines in high school. Verbal abuse, on the other hand, remains constant.
- More than two-thirds of students believe that schools respond poorly to bullying, with a high percentage of students believing that adult help is infrequent and ineffective.
- 25 percent of teachers see nothing wrong with bullying or putdowns and consequently intervene in only 4 percent of bullying incidents. (Cohn & Cantor, 2003; Council on Scientific Affairs, American Medical Association, 2002)

**PLEASE TALK WITH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT BULLYING!**

*Ann Kjasen*