

PREVspectives

Networks of Centres of Excellence—New Initiative



Volume 2, Issue 3

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Bullying Awareness Week 2008—Stand UP!

Bullying Awareness Week is November 17-21, 2008. Listed below are some of the many wonderful and important activities being undertaken by our partners across the country and increasingly around the globe.

Together we are making progress through our partnerships in building bridges between the current research understanding of bullying problems and the current practices of those who work with children and youth in all the places where they live, work, and play.

Please take a look through the activities below and our website <http://www.prevnet.ca> for tip sheets and tools for parents, teachers and kids based on our research, links to other resources, and the Bullying Awareness Week activities below.

Centre for Restorative Justice, Simon Fraser University

Manjit and Suman Virk, the parents of Reena Virk, are speaking on Monday November 17th from 10:30-12:30. Manjit recently released his book titled "Reena: A Father's Story". A reception and book signing are to follow the presentation.

Family Channel

It's time to Stand Up and speak out for Bullying Awareness Week. Family Channel and PREVNet want YOU to join thousands of your fellow peers across Canada to take a stand against bullying. The Stand UP! website also has tip sheets, videos, and much more! Please visit <http://www.family.ca/standup/index.php>

Media Awareness Network, Canadian Teacher's Federation, and Historica Encounters with Canada

On November 5th a youth media event will be held in Ottawa to celebrate National Media Education Week (NMEW). The 130 students in the forum, from across Canada, presented their own public service announcements on the subject of ethical and pro-social internet use. The theme of this year's NMEW is "Think critically, act ethically: Inside and outside the classroom".

National Bullying Awareness Week

This is Canada's 6th National Bullying Awareness week and the theme is "Stand Up to Bullying". Please visit <http://www.bullyingawarenessweek.org> for supporting resources and examples as to how schools and communities are participating.

Toronto Coalition for the Awareness and Prevention of Bullying

Mayor David Miller of Toronto is going to issue a Proclamation of Bullying Awareness Week and will read a statement on bullying. The Coalition has created an E-Kit containing logos and links of all the members which will be available on the Toronto City website. The event will take place at Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street at Nathan Phillips Square commencing at 8:30 on Monday, November 17.

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Bullying Awareness Week 2008—Stand UP!

Zapdramatic

An anti-bullying game developed with Dr. Debra Pepler, Dr. Joanne Cummings, and Ms. Catherine Cappadocia called "Sir Basel Pike Public School" for children aged 12 to 13 will be piloting in schools in association with the Rendezvous with Madness Film Festival November 7-14.

PREVNet: A Year to be Proud of!

On September 30th, PREVNet submitted its annual activities report for 2007-08, to the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE). Producing the report reminded us of how much we have achieved together in such a short time (and that we could have used far more than a 10 page allotment to talk about our shared success!) Here are just a few examples:

- Sixteen new researchers joined PREVNet in the past year, a 38% increase from 2006-07 (160% since our inception).
- Obtained more than \$4.5 million in new grants last year, adding to the \$2.8 million in annual funds from research grants previously awarded.
- PREVNet's graduate student network has doubled from 35 to 70 students, including the disciplines of education, psychology, social work, and business administration.
- Increased our NGO partner network by 50% (30 to 45 organizations)
- Canadian Teacher's Federation (CTF) cyberbullying strategy
- Respect in Sport and Respect in the Workplace training programs
- "StandUP!", Family Channel Bullying Awareness Week national promotion
- Girl Guides of Canada – new Girls United Badges awarded
- Partnerships with Practiquest Inc. and Zapdramatic Gaming Companies

- Canadian Red Cross - Respected Program evaluation and online training
- Web-based Assessment tool developed for Kindergarten to Grade Three, Grades Four to Six, and Grades Seven to Twelve.
- PREVNet seal of approval created to foster quality standards and awareness
- PREVNet's 3rd AGM and Annual Conference there were 360 attendees (85% increase from 2007).
- The PREVNet website has had over 24,000 site visits and 250,000 page views, plus more than 5800 downloads, by users from 75 nations.
- In partnership with PREVNet, the Hospital for Sick Children presented a sold-out public conference entitled A Focus on Relationships: Understanding and Addressing Girls' Aggressive Behaviour Problems.
- Published our first book by PREVNet researchers *Understanding and Addressing Bullying: An International Perspective*
- Private sector support for PREVNet activities: Meighen Foundation (development of web-based assessment tool); Microsoft, Rogers Wireless, and Shaftesbury Productions, Cogeco (conference sponsorship)

Through the partnerships in the PREVNet network, we are pioneering an exciting new model for the social sciences in Canada, one that increases research capacity/excellence, knowledge exchange/translation via thriving collaborations between the academic and NGO communities, industry, and government.



We thank all of our partners for their dedication, insight and expertise in making this country safer for children and youth, and for all Canadians. We hope that you will share our pride in what we have achieved. Together, we are creating a world without bullying, starting in Canada.

To download a copy of the PREVNet Activities Report, please visit <http://www.prevnet.ca>

PREVpectives

PREVNet's Featured Researcher, NGO, and Student

Dr. Faye Mishna



My main areas of research include bullying (traditional and cyber), cyber abuse, cyber

counseling/interventions and school-based and attachment informed interventions with children at risk. Overall, my main interest is really doing both research and clinical practice that promotes the well-being of kids.

I am most pleased with my work on a collaborative project between The Cyber Risk Group and the *Canadian Coalition for CyberRisk Reduction*. The group includes organizations that are school based, treatment service providers, law enforcement, health promotion, and academic researchers as well as PREVNet. What started as a small group brainstorming ideas has become a group of various agencies that address cyber abuse from various angles and that work with different levels of cyber risk. We are now submitting grants, and operationalizing our project in a way that we hope will make an impact.

PREVNet has played a very important role in my work, as it has helped promote and foster relationships between myself and other researchers and organizations. For example, with the cyber abuse project, we wanted to conduct focus groups with parents so PREVNet helped us to get in touch with parent organizations in which there may be parents interested in participating. My ultimate goal for my partnership with PREVNet is to continue to use the network to connect

with other researchers and organizations, at which point we would be able to create and disseminate information amongst the organizations. This goal would be a very mutual relationship, where I could network and get support from others, and at the same time I could work to provide them with data that provide a systematic way of assessing bullying.

Media Awareness Network



Media Awareness Network (MNet) is a not for profit, media education organization

that has been pioneering the development of media literacy programs in Canada since 1996. MNet is the leading Canadian provider of media literacy resources for educators, parents, librarians, children, and youth. The organization produces resources used in classrooms; professional development programs for educators; and public awareness campaigns in partnership with corporate sponsors and other not for profit organizations.

Over the past year, there have been events/programs that we are extremely pleased with. First, MNet organized, in partnership with the Canadian Teachers' Federation and many other collaborators, Canada's 3rd annual National Media Education Week (November 3-7, 2008). Also in November, we are launching a new multimedia tutorial, for students in Grades 4-8, to teach critical thinking skills for the internet. In the past year, we signed province-wide license agreements with Alberta and Ontario which have put our professional development internet resources into two thirds of Canadian schools.

Finally, with funding from the federal government we produced a series of cyber-bullying lesson plans for Grades 4-12 classrooms.

Media Awareness Network has particularly enjoyed the connections that PREVNet facilitates between us and other organizations. Also, we have enjoyed being able to connect with researchers who are doing work in areas that related to our mandate, as it is important that our materials are evidence-based and have the support of Canadian research whenever possible. One goal for the future would be to use the resources of PREVNet to properly evaluate our programs and resources.

Please visit <http://www.prevnet.ca> for more information on Dr. Faye Mishna and Media Awareness Network

Every issue of PREVNet will feature a Graduate Student. We have selected Ms. Danielle Quigley to be the first student selected for this section as she has been an exceptional member of PREVNet's Student Network

Ms. Danielle Quigley



My primary interest is the study of relational aggression. I'm interested in knowing the ways that conflict between friends might

lead to the use of aggression within a friendship, and how this differs from aggression between peers. The idea that victimization might actually occur

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PREVNet's Featured Researcher, NGO, and Student

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amongst friends is not well-publicized, while a large percentage of kids in our studies are reporting some form of victimization by their friends. What factors lead to these conflicts? And more importantly, what can be done to prevent this victimization?

I've been a part of a number of projects since I started working with PREVNet, including my position as a member on the PREVNet Student Executive Committee, most recently in position of communications liaison. Being part of the SEC is rewarding because it operates as a true collective, where decisions are shared and everyone can be heard. I've been provided opportunities to attend workshops, help organize and give presentations at the Annual General Meetings, and give presentations to the Safe Schools Network, among other places.

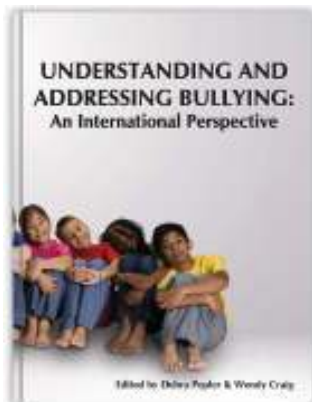
Currently, I am starting my PhD at Carleton University with Dr. Tina Daniels. Working with Dr. Daniels has provided me with the exciting opportunity to work within PREVNet in collaboration with the Girl Guides of Canada. Together we've created a

training program for girls called 'Girls United'. The program is designed not only to help educate girls on what social aggression is and to give them the tools and strategies to deal with it, but also how to build healthy relationships such that they don't get to a place where social aggression occurs.

I believe, whole-heartedly, in the power that PREVNet has to give and have jumped at every opportunity that I've been provided. I have been so grateful for the invaluable experience and the chance to gain contacts with other incredible researchers, graduate students, faculty, and NGOs across the country. Ultimately, being a member of PREVNet has helped me to figure out what my goals are for the future. Research has always been a passion of mine; however through my experiences with PREVNet, I've realized that research must be translated into practice. It is so important to ensure that what we do, as researchers, can be implemented onto the front lines into programs that can help support children and youth, and directly help individuals. PREVNet has provided me with

opportunities to be engaged in these types of processes, and has motivated me to help promote research that is accessible to people everywhere.

The growing success of PREVNet derives not just from the academic excellence of Drs. Pepler and Craig but from their personal qualities of humility, integrity, and commitment to social justice. Their openness and generosity have inspired academic colleagues and community organizations to work together in a genuinely collaborative manner. As research partners and now as Scientific Co-directors, their own partnership with one another is characterized by the sharing of resources, the division of labour, a spirit of cooperation and above all, a remarkable synergy. This relationship serves as a vibrant model of what can be accomplished through trust and collaboration, and it sets the tone for PREVNet's model of collective and sustained effort to promote healthy relationships and reduce bullying among Canadian children and youth.



PREVNet's First Book Available for Purchase

PREVNet is pleased to announce the release of the first volume in the PREVNet Series: Understanding and Addressing Bullying: An International Perspective. This volume is based on the workshops presented at PREVNet's First Annual conference in May 2006.

Please look for the second volume of the PREVNet series based on the workshops from our Second Annual conference "Rise Up for Respectful Relationships!" in May 2007.

For more information and to order your copy of the first

volume please visit:
<http://www.authorhouse.com/BookStore/ItemDe-tail~bookid~51727.aspx>