

**Title of Session:** Internet Safety/Cyberbullying  
**Moderator:** Susan Roseman and BJ Berquist  
**Title of File:** 20041118internetsafetycyberbully  
**Date:** November 18, 2004

Room: After School Online Room

**BJ:** While we wait for Nancy, let's take care of some housekeeping  
**BJ:** if you're new to Tapped In, go to the actions menu in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH  
**BJ:** we usually start the discussions in Tapped In with introductions  
**BJ:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In  
**KatieBo:** I am a preservice middle childhood major, Ohio  
**JessicaEd:** I am a pre-service teacher at the University of Houston: ec-4  
**SusanR:** K to 8 Occasional Teacher (substitute) from Ottawa Ontario Canada  
**MaryBethC:** I am also from the University of Houston - preservice teacher EC-4  
**DarlaGst10:** I am a preservice teacher (middle) in Ohio  
**TrishaN** joined the room.  
**BJ:** Hi, Trisha. Just in time for intros  
**JavierSa:** I am a preservice teacher at University of Houston.  
**GeneKe** joined the room.  
**TrishaN:** Hello, I'm Trisha. I am a preservice teacher at Maryville College.  
**GeneKe:** I'm a preservice teacher in Akron Ohio  
**BJ:** Has anyone had time to look at Nancy's Cyberbully page?  
**TrishaN:** Where can that be found? I have not gotten to look at it yet.  
**ShannanM:** No. Do you have a link?  
**MaryBethC:** I haven't either.  
**BJ:** I'm looking for it...give me a sec  
**DarlaGst10:** Does anybody have any info about Nancy  
**SusanR:** Bj Nancy has been featured On Education World  
**SusanR:** [http://www.education-world.com/a\\_tech/tech119.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_tech/tech119.shtml)  
**BJ:** <http://cyberbully.org/>  
**BJ:** Did you all read your November Tapped In newsletter?  
**GeneKe:** nope  
**BJ . o O** ( Nancy is quite a celebrity! )  
**GeneKe:** didn't get it  
**BJ:** <http://tappedin.org/tappedin/web/newsletter/>  
**GeneKe:** k  
**BJ:** everyone getting the urls?  
**ShannanM:** I linked onto the cyberbully site  
**ShannanM:** Wow.... I didn't realize high school kids were doing that!  
**MaryBethC:** I did too. I didn't know that was going on! That's horrible!  
**ShannanM:** That is bad  
**SusanR:** Please follow up with the Education World feature on Nancy Willard as well  
**ShannanM:** I didn't get the newsletter either.... let me check it out  
**SusanR:** Keeping Kids Safe [http://www.education-world.com/a\\_tech/tech119.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_tech/tech119.shtml)

**JessicaEd:** that stuff is horrible!! poor kids  
**SusanR:** Both sites are worth bookmarking!  
**BJ:** Nancy has been very active in Washington and she also is working with ASCD on some projects  
**BJ . o O ( [www.ascd.org](http://www.ascd.org) )**  
**GeneKe:** it's not much different than when we were kids...merely a different medium  
**KatieBo:** yeah  
**SusanR:** There is so much temptation out there!  
**BJ:** Gene, it's different in that the kids can hide behind the anonymity of the web  
**GeneKe:** if you're smart you can bully more covertly  
**GeneKe:** but there are more trails through technology  
**JavierSa:** I think that is the issue. anonymity expose anyone but the perpetrator.  
**MaryBethC:** unfortunately, kids are becoming more creative with our technological advances  
**TrishaN:** It's scary stuff... And so many kids don't even know what's happening until its too late...  
**GeneKe:** True  
**DarlaGst10:** kids today usually know more about computers/internet than their parents  
**GeneKe:** but once it's egregious, malicious, libelous, slanderous, etcetera, the law can get involved  
**SusanR:** Luckily some students approach their teachers or/and another adult before it gets out of control  
**JavierSa:** is there any law to prevent / correct this?  
**JessicaEd:** those kids know more about computers than me!!  
**GeneKe:** freedom of speech is a constitutional right  
**GeneKe:** however there are limits  
**GeneKe:** defamation is a sueable infraction  
**SusanR:** You might want to note the definition of cyberbullying here and what it includes ..  
**SusanR:** a Canadian site ... <http://www.cyberbullying.ca/>  
**TrishaN:** But at what point is any of this considered more than teasing and actually defamation? Does this apply to minors as well or just those over 18?  
**SusanR:** Read Bill's introductory quote  
**GeneKe:** That's a matter for the court to decide  
**ShannanM:** I've looked at the education world site  
**SusanR:** It's a good start, Shannan  
**SusanR:** and introduces you to Nancy  
**SusanR:** Nancy Willard, that is  
**GeneKe:** BJ---are you facilitating tonite, or bidding time for someone else  
**JavierSa:** I think it is our responsibility to teach children about respect... Not only online, but in every context. When they lack respect, they will abuse any resource.  
**DarlaGst10:** does anybody know any court cases w/ cyberbullying  
**JessicaEd:** good point Javier  
**ShannanM:** I thought Nancy was going to be with us tonight?  
**SusanR:** court case, Darla  
[http://archive.salon.com/mwt/feature/2001/07/03/cyber\\_bullies/print.html](http://archive.salon.com/mwt/feature/2001/07/03/cyber_bullies/print.html)

**SusanR:** 2001..but there must be more

**JessicaEd:** the children's internet protection act is just about teaching students to make right choices on the internet

**MaryBethC:** I'm sure new laws are now being developed because of the newity of the internet, etc...

**SusanR:** We are still waiting for Nancy. Perhaps she is experiencing some technical difficulties

**JavierSa:** wow.. that article is scary... cyberbullying can be the precursor of physical violence.

**TrishaN:** I could believe that. In a way, it is a form of violence that students can use then they are afraid to physically bully someone but still want to intimidate them...

**SusanR:** INCREASING numbers of children are falling victim to cyber bullies, who have adopted the internet as their preferred weapon of humiliation and abuse.

**SusanR:** Here's a current article out of the UK on cyberbullying

**SusanR:** <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-1278665,00.html>

**JessicaEd:** i'm glad i'm not in middle or high school right now, i can't imagine dealing with that embarrassment - people can be so cruel!!

**SusanR** waits for it to load

**ShannanM:** That article is pretty shocking

**TrishaN:** I agree

**SusanR:** and now most young people have cell phones

**DarlaGst10:** I agree the article makes me think about how people can be so mean

**JavierSa:** I am with you Jessica!

**MaryBethC:** Shannan, which article did you read?

**ShannanM:** the Salon case

**JavierSa:** ok, the problem is there, but what can we do to fix the problem?

**SusanR:** Here's the salon article, MaryBeth ..and for anyone who missed it ...

[http://archive.salon.com/mwt/feature/2001/07/03/cyber\\_bullies/print.html](http://archive.salon.com/mwt/feature/2001/07/03/cyber_bullies/print.html)

**MaryBethC:** could someone tell me on that article's web address if those are zeros? I'm having trouble pulling it up

**BJ:** try this, Javier: <http://responsiblenetizen.org/>

**DarlaGst10:** well I take it Nancy is not attending the discussion 2night

**JavierSa:** thanks!

**JessicaEd:** wow there are even activities on that website for safe internet instruction

**BJ:** Doesn't look like she'll make it, Darla. But Sue and I are giving you much of the information she would have given you....

**MaryBethC:** Thanks Susan

**TrishaN:** Does anyone have other articles on cyberbullying and what we can do about it?

**JessicaEd:** bj-you have been very helpful

**BJ:** you can also check out the archived transcripts of her sessions at

[www.tappedin.org/transcripts](http://www.tappedin.org/transcripts)

**DarlaGst10:** thank you- BJ & Sue

**ShannanM:** I will check out the responsible article

**BJ:** thanks, Jessica.

**JavierSa:** yes, very helpful. It seems like you know some stuff about this. Have you any experience with cyberbullying?

**BJ:** I did email Nancy and didn't hear from her, so I'm assuming she's got tech problems or a personal emergency

**BJ:** I've attended conferences that had featured speakers on the topic

**BJ:** o O ( more on Bullying in general )

**BJ:** bullying got a lot of press after Columbine

**MaryBethC:** After reading this article, it makes me think of the tragedy that happened at Columbine High School in Colorado. I believe those two boys had a website in which they used it to threaten other students

**MaryBethC:** We were thinking on the same lines, BJ

**BJ:** then everything settled down...and counselors at columbine were actually saying that they were relieved to see bullying returning to the school because it was a sign of back to normal!

**BJ:** o O ( pretty scary when you think of it )

**ShannanM:** that is a great article for students

**JessicaEd:** wow

**JavierSa:** what! This is crazy!

**SusanR:** BJ, in another article Nancy stated that technology can also affect a young person's ethical behaviour

**SusanR:** because it doesn't provide tangible feedback about the consequences of actions on others.

**ShannanM:** the responsible citizen site

**SusanR:** It's from the media awareness site

**BJ:** nods to Sue. I think that is where schools are missing a serious opportunity by filtering out offensive sites

**BJ:** by doing that (even if it's ineffective), they are not giving students the responsibility of making good choices

**BJ:** and being accountable for their decisions

**JavierSa:** I think that is only making the bullying more difficult. However, the social problem will be there anyway.

**ShannanM:** I thought schools had software that filtered the internet for students

**JavierSa:** I think education is more than curriculum.. it is civics and responsibility.

**MaryBethC:** good point, Javier

**JessicaEd:** yes Javier

**ShannanM:** Not all students can be trusted to make the right decisions so we have to make them for them

**TrishaN:** thank you... technical issues : /

**BJ:** Shannan, we have to make decisions because students can't be trusted?

**BJ:** yikes...how do we create trustworthy citizens?

**ShannanM:** when it comes to a decision such as filtering offensive web sites

**JavierSa:** we must teach responsibility, morals and ethics!

**SusanR:** btw, Javier, are you aware of the media awareness network as a teaching tool for cyberbullying

**TrishaN:** I hate to sound pessimistic-- but what a job that would be!

**ShannanM:** no I don't think we should just trust that the students will not visit web sites that aren't appropriate

**JavierSa:** no, I am not... I would like to know more...

**JavierSa:** but it is our mission!

**ShannanM:** yes we must teach them

**SusanR:** Take a look at this site ..it may answer some of those nagging questions....

<http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/index.cfm>

**BJ:** <http://www.media-awareness.ca/>

**JessicaEd:** i agree

**SusanR:** Thanks BJ

**TrishaN:** I agree wholeheartedly- but it seems almost overwhelming

**ShannanM:** are you suggesting we not filter the internet at school?

**MaryBethC:** that would be a big mistake

**TrishaN:** Mary Beth, I agree...

**ShannanM:** I think so

**JessicaEd:** I think we should filter the internet at school

**BJ:** Our time is almost over, everyone

**JavierSa:** yes, we should do that, we need to raise parent's awareness and teach respect at school.

**BJ . o O** ( this discussion is a wonderful example of how we learn from the members of the community! )

**MaryBethC:** This is just a classroom example, but I have witnessed teachers not allowing students to research the internet in their classrooms because of the amount of monitoring it takes from the teacher

**BJ:** Thanks, everyone for all your input.

**BJ:** I do apologize that Nancy wasn't here

**MaryBethC:** thank you

**MaryBethC:** I still learned a lot

**JessicaEd:** thank you for all you help

**TrishaN:** Thank you for hosting for her

**JavierSa:** thanks!

**SusanR:** Thanks for your input!

**TrishaN:** And thank you for the resources- they are invaluable

**ShannanM:** bye everyone

**MaryBethC:** bye, and thanks!

**SusanR:** Thanks Bj, Nancy Willard's transcripts are worth reading.