Title of Session: Cyber3 - C3 Baseline Survey
Moderator: Davina Pruitt-Mentle
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Room: Cyber 3 Group

DavinaP: Katy where are you from and what brings you to learn more about C3?

BJB2: Katy, we usually start discussions with introductions

DavinaP: hello Dino

DinoO: hello Davina

BJB2: a reminder if you are new to Tapped In to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and select DETACH

DavinaP: please share where each of you are from

KatyM: I'm a student at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and one of my assignments is to participate in a chat room discussion.

DavinaP: I am "broadcasting" from Maryland

DavinaP: Excellent!

DavinaP: well this session meets each month to discuss issues related to Cyberethics, safety and security

DavinaP: sometimes we have many other night like tonight are light

DavinaP: I thought I'd toss out for discussion the groups thoughts on the ruling for the cyberbullying case

BJB2: kind of scary

BJB2 . o O (how's that for an academic comment ;-))

DavinaP: how so?

VenessaS joined the room.

DavinaP: hi Venessa

BJB2: The woman was only given a slap on the wrist for her involvement in the cyberbullying

VenessaS: Hello

BJB2 . o O (good thing I wasn't on the jury!)

BJB2: Venessa, Davina is the discussion leader and she asked for opinions on the cyberbullying trial

VenessaS: Which women are we talking about?

DavinaP: we are discussing the indictment case on cyberbullying---i.e., Megan Meier, 13, who committed suicide last October after receiving cruel messages on Myspace.

VenessaS: oh okay, I saw that on the news.

VenessaS: She needs to be punished

DavinaP: A federal jury issued what legal experts said was the country's first cyberbullying verdict Wednesday, convicting a Missouri woman of three misdemeanor charges of computer fraud for her involvement in creating a phony account on MySpace to trick a teenager, who later committed suicide.

VenessaS: That was cruel

BJB2: of course we're responding to what we heard via the media

DavinaP: cruel for the girl you mean or for the verdict for the women

KatyM: I feel it was a very unfortunate situation.

VenessaS: cruel for the young girl

VenessaS: That lady should get what she deserves

DavinaP: do you think this will "open" some eyes for students who do similar cyberbullying ?

KatyM: It's hard for me to believe a grown woman would do something like that.

VenessaS: I hope it does

VenessaS: That is a real eye opener for anyone

VenessaS: I agree - grown women playing junior high games

VenessaS: It was uncalled for

VenessaS: What do you think?

KatyM: I think it will make people realize that cyberbulling can really hurt someone.

VenessaS: Cyberbulling shouldn't be taken lightly

DavinaP: what is interesting is the stats for the number of students who indicate that they have been "cyberbullied"--especially female against females

VenessaS: It's crazy, I think myspace has gone way out of its way to help in the process

KatyM: yes I am 22 it is was a big thing when I was in middle school.

DavinaP: while a large number of students just indicate they ignore "it"--many others are impacted

VenessaS: who wouldn't

VenessaS: I think even the ones who say that they ignore it, still have some kind of impact

KatyM: I agree

VenessaS: those comments are always lingering in their heads

DavinaP: students indicate the reason for cyberbullying because its an easy way to get a message across and because many feel they can not be traced--they are doing it without someone knowing

KatyM: That's right

VenessaS: but obviously that has been proven to be false

DavinaP: so perhaps this verdict--if nothing else will help "pass the word on" that if you send something it can be traced back

VenessaS: I think they need to just grow up and not cyberbully anyone... nobody likes it done to them

VenessaS: I hope it does

VenessaS: Maybe the cyberbullying will decrease

DavinaP: so my next question is... what can schools do to help eliminate or at least decrease the problem? Ideas please

VenessaS: Maybe reduce the internet time for students

BJB2: what about being more aware of plain old in person bullying?

BJB2 . o O (which has been going on forever)

VenessaS: That's a good idea but being aware is going to be the problem

VenessaS: Teachers have always tried to be aware but they find out too late

VenessaS: Students are not the best at letting their feelings be heard

VenessaS: especially of its the victim

BJB2: I think that the whole issue of ethics and treating others with respect is a big issue in today's society

KatyM: I think many students don't see cyberbulling as really bulling

DavinaP: tying this to the national C3 baseline study that was just released reveals that over 75% of educators/media specials surveyed state they would feel uncomfortable and/or unprepared to share information on what to do regarding cyberbullying...

VenessaS: WOW, that's something that has to change

DavinaP: yet most internet safety curriculum programs state--what to do when you are cyberbullied.."tell a trusted adult" like a teacher--yet teachers say they wouldn't know what to do

DavinaP: I find this fascinating!

VenessaS: I agree, what can we do?

BJB2 . o O (I find it depressing :-( )

VenessaS: talking to the other student is pointless

VenessaS: they will probably state the "he said" "she said" defense.

DavinaP: well let me ask--if a student came to you and shared that they were being cyberbullied--what would you state--don't be afraid to answer--no wrong answers here

KatyM: If I am aware of cyberbulling when I am a teacher I am going to take it very

seriously and deal with it the same way as I would any other threats.

VenessaS: well, I think I would try to get down to the bottom of it and find out what happened and why this person is being bullied to begin with. Then depending on the situation and whether or not I can handle it on my own.

KatyM: I would do the same.

VenessaS: If further assistance is needed, I think I would go out of my way to help this individual.

BJB2: I would also ask the victim why he/she feels that s/he is being bullied

VenessaS: Sometimes the victims are good kids just trying to get ahead.

DavinaP: so of course one thing to make sure you do is also document the conversation and also pass along to your adminstrator--more and more schools are starting or including safe schools initiatives and bullying which includes cyberbullying (or most include it) falls under this domain...

DavinaP: perhaps ask if it has happened more than once and or what specific things were stated?

VenessaS: that would be a good idea, maybe make documentations of all approaches from both parties

VenessaS: get to the bottom of it

VenessaS: What about having the individual block all incoming messages from the person bullying him/her

DavinaP: one key to remember is not to tell students to "just delete it"--many educators responded that this would be what they would tell students--actually keeping the messages becomes part of the "digital forensic footprint"

ElizabetLE joined the room.

DavinaP: blocking is a good idea---unfort if the person really wants to bully they can open up more accounts and send--but this would be even "more evidence" if needed

KatyM: Hi Beth

BJB2: I think it's important to teach children that words can be very cruel.

ElizabetLE: hi

VenessaS: I agree, but let's take Megan's situation. If she had stopped the messages when they started they wouldn't have let it get the best of her.

KatyM: We are talking about cyberbulling

ElizabetLE: ok

ChelseaLH joined the room.

DavinaP: hi Elizabeth

ElizabetLE: hi

DavinaP: hello Chelsea

ChelseaLH: Hi

BJB2: Chelsea, we're discussing cyberbullying and the teacher's responsibility

DavinaP: we are discussing the Megan case along with one stat from the C3 baseline study--which shares that over 75% of educators surveyed indicated they would not no what to say if a student approached them regarding cyberbullying

VenessaS: what do you think about that?

DavinaP: then we tossed out some ideas in terms of --what would you suggest to a student if they came to you

KatyM: What happened to the woman involved? Did she get any prison time?

ElizabetLE: I think that it is the teachers responsibility to watch their students and to know what to do if cyberbullying does occur

DavinaP: one item mentioned was to try and block the incoming messages--good suggestion

VenessaS: Okay but how would you handle that situation?

ChelseaLH: I think that if a student approached me with a cyberbullying situation I would be frazzled as well as to what to tell them as well but I would monitor the student and offer my help

ElizabetLE: well it would put a stop to that person at least in some ways

VenessaS: I agree, but I don't think anything will stop it completely

ChelseaLH: are there examples of when students have come in contact with this?

VenessaS: kids are cruel and its just a matter of time before they really get to someone

ElizabetLE: no I agree with that too but I think it would definitely help

DavinaP: First I would document the conversation with the student and also let the admin know--as mentioned because of safe schools initiatives in place---it becomes important from a legal aspect that if a student does come to you (just like if they came and shared they were being sexually abused or physically abused you need to pass this information along....

VenessaS: To some extent, but I think we have to come up with a way to actually help the process

KatyM: If a student who was a victim of cyberbulling brought me a transcript of their conversation with the bully and I knew the other student I would notify the administration and if nothing is done I would involve the parents

VenessaS: What about having the parents get involved

DavinaP: after documenting--if suggestions were in order suggestions would be to block the incoming messages...

ElizabetLE: I don't think you could ever completely stop just inform the kids about it like you would any other type of bullying and of course tell them to come to you if it does happen

ChelseaLH: I agree but I don't think the student should stay involved in the situation

DavinaP: however, that stated believe it or not many do not know how to filter their mail/text messages---so tutoring session would then be in order

VenessaS: I agree

BJB2 thinks that the teacher's primary responsibility is to model appropriate behavior...and this includes modeling appropriate social behavior.

KatyM: That's true and sometimes it's for more than one bully

VenessaS: just in case they do come in contact with a problem like that

DavinaP: next NEVER tell the student to "just delete the messages and ignore them..."

VenessaS: of course not, that's the actual documentation

KatyM: I agree they need to know what is happening to them is not okay

ChelseaLH: Yeah I don't think a problem such as this should be overlooked

ElizabetLE: I agree with that cause then the problem will just keep happening with out anyone knowing

VenessaS: exactly

DavinaP: one, it's hard to just ignore and getting rid of the message causes more problems to show admin and local police etc...--even if deleted you can get back from your internet provider but just the same have them save the messages

VenessaS: or have printed copies

KatyM: exactly and if a student does not feel that they are being taken seriously they may not come for help again

DavinaP: excellent point

ChelseaLH: I don't think students should be allowed to "chat" in school

VenessaS: I agree, anytime a student comes for assistance you have to greet them with open arms

ElizabetLE: I agree because if you don't they won't feel comfortable coming to you

VenessaS: Nothing should be taken lightly

VenessaS: Everything should have consequences

DavinaP: sometimes the admin will be called in but many times the school systems will wiggle out as the exchange was not done on schools network

VenessaS: which seems to always be the defense

VenessaS: School related or not. They are our students

KatyM: I think the laws regarding cyberbulling should be more strict.

ElizabetLE: I agree and they need someone they can come to no matter what the problem is

VenessaS: and something has to be done because if it is happening online it probably is going on in school as well.

ChelseaLH: I agree and I feel this situation is beyond the need of the teacher's assistance

DavinaP: telling your local police dept might not get far--BUT the better contact would be the local or state att generals office and/or the local internet crimes division of local police dept

KatyM: I feel that schools are just as responsible for students as the parents and they all should be looking out for the students best interest

VenessaS: and they will have paperwork on the situation as well.

VenessaS: I agree, teachers are the responsible party when they are at school

ChelseaLH: Yeah and parents should be notified of the situation

ElizabetLE: yes because it is their responsibility while the kids are at school

VenessaS: If we all come together and think of a cyberbullying plan and how to approach the situation

BJB2: any suggestions for developing a plan, Davina?

VenessaS: teachers won't be faced with the question as to "?what do I do"

KatyM: I think parents should be more aware of what their children are doing on the internet

VenessaS: and maybe reduce their intake at home too

ElizabetLE: I think the plan should be one that is not just on a personal or school basis but more on a school district or state level that way everything is the same

ChelseaLH: I agree Katy and I also think they should have an input as to what to do

VenessaS: That would be something

BJB2: should there not be an 'ethics' section in the district AUP?

ElizabetLE: I think there should be

VenessaS: That could work

KatyM: I think keeping computer out of children's bedrooms and keep them in a place where the parents can keep an eye on what their children are doing on the internet and who they are talking to.

ChelseaLH: I think online chatting should not be allowed

ChelseaLH: In schools that is

KatyM: would help

DavinaP: more and more schools are approaching it this way ie in their AUP plans--the concept of if something outside of school effects the instruction in the classroom then action can be taken

BJB2 . o O (Tapped In has a safe and secure student campus where kids can learn appropriate social networking)

BJB2: the teacher gets the text transcripts that the students generate

KatyM: That's a good idea

VenessaS: Yes, they do

ChelseaLH: That's smart

DavinaP: but it's tough--what is nice is that it is becoming easier and easier to track down "who done it" via the Internet providers and now some legal teeth regarding what can happen if you did something against the AUP of a site/email service social networking site etc....

VenessaS: Maybe websites like myspace should do the same for parents of underage students

KatyM: I think that is going to cut down some of the cyberbulling

ElizabetLE: I agree

VenessaS: Whatever measures need to be taken, should

DavinaP: Venessa share what you meant above regarding parents/underage students etc...

ChelseaLH: I think that might be taking it too far though. Parents should be allowed to make decisions on cybermessaging

VenessaS: well if myspace were to come up with a site where parents of kids under the age of 18 can read and check up on their child's messages and chats.. maybe they can get ahead of the cyberbullying

KatyM: That's an idea

BJB2 looks at the clock on the wall. The next Cyber 3 discussion will be on January 5. I hope you all will log in . This has been an interesting discussion that needs to be continued!

ChelseaLH: That would definitely help

ElizabetLE: I think that would help a lot because I think most parents are just not aware of what is going on

VenessaS: It is a discussion that can go on forever.

DavinaP: So as we come to a close I want to summarize...if a student comes to you (or a parent) the to do list to share with students are...first (for yourself document the conversation) have students also document the messages/dates times instances---block messages-....

DavinaP: also..

DavinaP: if they think they know who it is and that is related to school turn over to admin (who is now leg respon for documenting) ..tell your provider--they can track and cut off services if the person does not follow directions to stop

VenessaS: with that said, cyberbullying is a situation that needs to be addressed and shouldn't be taken lightly

DavinaP: contact local or state att generals office--who will pass along to the correct dept within your local police dept usually internet crimes division

ElizabetLE: I agree it must always be followed up on and never just ignored

DavinaP: and above all--don't tell them to ignore and delete!

ChelseaLH: And offer open arms to the student's words

VenessaS: Davina, you are really onto something here.

DavinaP: C3 baseline study with interesting facts--the link can be found within the C3 forum correct BJ

VenessaS: Goodnight and Goodbye all.

DavinaP: or at http://staysafeonline.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=67&item=45

ChelseaLH: Are there any major issues with this we can look up

DavinaP: thanks again

DavinaP: goodnight all

DavinaP: next month we will continue

BJB2 nods to Davina. Thanks for an excellent discussion

KatyM: Thanks everyone. Goodbye

ElizabetLE: thank you and good bye

ChelseaLH: Goodnight and thank you for everyone's input