

**Title of Session:** Cyber 3 - Sexting

**Moderator:** Davina Pruitt-Mentle

**Title of File:** 20090601c3sexting

**Date:** June 1, 2009

Room: Cyber 3 Group

**LisaM** joined the room.

**BJB2** waves hi to Lisa!

**BJB2:** Here for the cyber3 discussion?

**LisaM:** Hello. Yes, I am.

**BJB2:** great! Davina should be here in about 10 minutes

**LisaM:** Do you know what the topic is today?

**BJB2:** Sexting

**BJB2:** were you here for last month's discussion?

**BJB2** . o O ( Davina discussed sexting then and there was a great deal of interest )

**LisaM:** Thanks, as you were typing I read it on the event info. No, I am a new member.

**BJB2** . o O ( especially in light of the suicides that have been the result of this phenom )

**BJB2:** Davina tries to empower teachers to empower students to resist this harmful practice

**LisaM:** It is a new topic for me. I have not heard to much about it. But, I am exploring web 2.0 tools to use with my students and doing a large amount of educating myself in the process.

**BJB2** smiles. That is how most teachers go about it!

**BJB2:** what we try to do in Tapped In is support you on that journey!

**BJB2:** and keep you and your students safe in the process

**LisaM:** I am in Hawaii now but from New Mexico. Our students in NM did not have access to computers in education like many schools here do.

**JohnMe** joined the room.

**BJB2** cheers. Hi, John!

**BJB2**: welcome to the Cyber 3 group.

**JohnMe**: Hello!

**BJB2** nods to Lisa. Isn't it amazing the different resources available to schools?!

**JohnMe**: It is amazing.

**KristenSc** joined the room.

**BJB2**: welcome, Kristen.

**BJB2**: Davina should be here shortly

**KristenSc**: Wonderful!

**BJB2**: I see you are also a bit new to Tapped in, John

**JohnMe**: So easy to tell?

**BJB2**: I hope you will be able to participate in the Middle School Portal discussion next Monday

**BJB2** grins...only because I IDd you!

**JohnMe**: No grad classes on Mondays.

**BJB2** . o O ( click on the name under the HERE tab to the left of this chat )

**BJB2**: then click on the green i at the bottom

**BJB2** . o O ( you can ID Lisa and Kristen and me )

**BJB2**: Kristen is getting to be a regular in TI!

**BJB2**: and Lisa is also new

**JohnMe**: I see! Thank You.

**LisaM**: I Did the TI orientation last Saturday, very helpful.

**BJB2**: ahhhh...great, Lisa. I should remember that!

**JeffC** joined the room.

**BJB2** waves hi to Jeff

**BJB2** . o O ( now all we need is Davina )

**JeffC** waves

**JeffC**: yup

**BJB2**: just sent her an email so she's sure to log in now :-)

**BJB2**: let's start with some intros and a couple tips...

**BJB2**: if you're new to Tapped In go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and select DETACH

**BJB2**: that will make your chat much larger and easier to read

**BJB2**: you can also go to Actions and select larger text

**BJB2** . o O ( Jeff and I need the big type! )

**BJB2** winks at Jeff

**JeffC**: yup... sometimes!

**BJB2**: then let's do introductions, please. Tell us where you are located and what you teach

**LisaM**: I am located in Paia, Maui. I teach middle school math

**KristenSc**: Northern Virginia. Currently teach 8th grade Civics (ie. government), but still working on my license and masters

**BJB2**: I'm a retired teacher in Pennsylvania.

**JohnMe**: John is in Ct., I teach sixth grade Earth Science in an urban school district.

**BJB2**: excellent!

**BJB2**: Lisa, there is also a middle school math group...Math Transformers

**BJB2**: they meet monthly, but are off for June

**LisaM:** Thanks. I will join.

**BJB2:** the topic Davina has chosen for today is Sexting...are you familiar with this?

**KellyA** joined the room.

**BJB2:** hi, Kelly

**BJB2:** just in time for introductions

**BJB2:** please tell us where you are located and what you teach

**KellyA:** Hello- I currently am an instructor and I teach early literacy for pre-service teachers

**BJB2:** great, Kelly. The topic for today is Sexting and I'm looking to see if anyone is familiar with this

**KellyA:** It currently has been an item in the news.

**JohnMe:** Very popular in the news.

**BJB2:** in her last discussion Davina defined Sexting as the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, primarily between cell phones.

**BJB2:** any issues that have been in the news in your area?

**LisaM:** nothing in my area. But it is popular with the 20's crowd

**JohnMe:** Most of the middle school kids have their own phones.

**KristenSc:** I believe that there was an incident where a teen committed suicide as a result of sexually explicit messages becoming public at their school.

**BJB2** nods to Lisa. Teens are doing it too with some dire consequences

**BJB2** nods to Kristen

**KellyA:** at a local hs some teens were recently charged...

**LisaM:** Charged?

**BJB2:** child porn is one of the charges that kids can face

**BJB2:** the main issues that arise with sexting is that right now the way the laws are written (or not written) children under age can still be tagged with a criminal record for

possession and worse distribution of porn

**KellyA:** yes

**BJB2:** many --several in the state att general office throughout various states consider this to be too severe.

**BJB2:** Vermont lawmakers introduced a bill in April 2009 to legalize the consensual exchange of graphic images between two people 13 to 18 years old. Passing along such images to others would remain a crime

**KellyA:** Are they being made an example of...

**BJB2:** probably...since there isn't much guidance

**BJB2:** In Ohio, a county prosecutor and two lawmakers proposed a law that would reduce sexting from a felony to a first degree misdemeanor, and eliminate the possibility of a teenage offender being labeled a sex offender for years. The proposal was supported by the parents of Jessie Logan, a Cincinnati 18-year-old who died by suicide after the naked picture of herself which she sexted was forwarded to nearly everyone in her high school

**BJB2:** Utah lawmakers lessened the penalty for sexting for someone younger than 18 to a misdemeanor from a felony

**LisaM:** I am not too sure that making new laws will curb the action. Example...marijuana smoking

**BJB2:** good point, Lisa. Anyone else have a comment?

**JohnMe:** These kids don't realize that those photos can't be retrieved.

**BJB2:** so what do you do, John?

**BJB2:** an interesting report (for later) can be found at [http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/sextech/PDF/SexTech\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/sextech/PDF/SexTech_Summary.pdf)

**JohnMe:** There has to be some education provided.

**BJB2** nods solemnly to John

**BJB2:** while the legal aspect will start to settle after awhile--I assume things will soften and policies will be put into place regarding under age etc... the fact still remains...

**BJB2:** students need to understand the consequences of sending info digitally --the same themes or guidelines play out as with other online reputation guidelines...

**LisaM:** It is hard to tell kids to stop when movies and the like are very sexually explicit. The kids will say "it's only a picture"

**BJB2:** assume what you send or post will be seen by everyone--because it will probably or at least it will seem like it...

**KellyA:** I agree with your comment, Lisa.

**BJB2:** I disagree with that comment, Lisa. Kids de-humanize movies and TV

**BJB2:** but when it's THEM it's a different story

**LisaM:** I agree

**KellyA:** I would think that they do view as only a photo

**KristenSc:** Our students very often have a misguided and ill-conceived notion of sexual activities. Therefore, it is difficult to address a subject that is rarely addressed within the context of many schools, especially middle schools.

**BJB2:** if the child intended to only share with one person and the photo goes viral, it can have terrible consequences

**BJB2** sadly, that is true, Kristen...but as educators I think we have an obligation to do something

**ShayneTr** joined the room.

**BJB2:** here's another thought on the topic...understand that what you post can come back and revisit you several years down the road...college admin--that internship/scholarship you wanted --job

**KellyA:** so John is correct in stating we need to have education...

**BJB2** waves hi to Shayne

**ShayneTr:** waves back

**BJB2:** it effects also your employment possibilities

**BJB2:** can you think of any good "in the news" efforts of folks being caught online or things sent online coming back to haunt them?

**KristenSc:** This is a similar notion to when facebook and myspace first came to be widely used and students posted images of drinking alcohol and other activities that did

in fact place them in jeopardy with scholarships and organizations.

**BJB2** nods

**BJB2:** for some real life examples how about several of the Miss America contestants?

**ShayneTr:** People in positions of authority are getting sanctioned all the time for inappropriate postings

**BJB2:** and, since marijuana was mentioned, what about Michael Phelps?

**KellyA:** good examples

**BJB2:** John Edwards is another example

**ShayneTr:** The teacher candidate who was denied her degree because of Facebook pictures with alcohol taken years earlier

**JohnMe:** So what could be done and what are the legal implications?

**KristenSc:** While all good examples, most of our students don't have some great talent or countless gold medals to back them up so to speak...they are "real" people with "real" consequences.

**BJB2:** Netsmartz has some GREAT video clips that help students realize the impact...not a simulation but close to it

**BJB2:** if the incident takes place within a school, the school may be liable

**LisaM:** Fear of future consequences do not seem to work with middle school. But immediate. Like the video....

**BJB2:** Unfortunately we know from newer brain research that thinking through long term consequences etc... for most doesn't fully develop until their 20's and for ADHD and ADD even later..so..

**BJB2:** what we have found to be promising is to instead push to share with students how to positively craft their messaging online

**JohnMe:** for example?

**BJB2:** . o O ( one of the reasons that the Tapped In student campus is so valuable...it gives kids a safe and secure place to be responsible for their behavior in a social networking environment while still being safe and secure )

**BJB2:** to tell them not to send something or what not to post sometimes doesn't click...

**BJB2:** but when you share instead the benefits of what others have received because of what they have posted (in a positive manner) makes them think a little deeper about what messaging they could use to help themselves

**BJB2:** take a few minutes to look at <http://www.netsmartz.org/netteens.htm>

**LisaM:** yes, modeling in a controlled environment. Teaching self confidence skills.

**BJB2:** ready to continue?

**LisaM:** yes

**KellyA:** yes

**JohnMe:** I think that Lisa has hit the nail on the head with self confidence

**ShayneTr:** Yes. I like the use of videos. My high school students were affected by Everyone Knows Your Name and Think Before You Post (on Youtube)

**BJB2:** Here's another article with a short video clip that might be powerful for students to see - <http://www.lipstickwisdom.com/category/teenagers-and-sexting/>

**JohnMe:** Thanks for the resources.

**BJB2:** working education/prevention into several areas but health or family life would be a good start

**BJB2:** VA does include internet safety lessons I know. How does your school system address these issues?

**KellyA:** It was very basic at the primary level which was my only experience...

**BJB2** nods to Kelly.

**LisaM:** I am not sure about Hawaii. We do have a parental permission slip in New Mexico that releases the school from the legal

**JohnMe:** Having older students educate the younger could be very powerful.

**BJB2:** Counselors are also a great resource...they often have access to teaching materials on the topic

**KristenSc:** I think that would be very useful for my students who are going to high school next year.



**KristenSc:** ...to have older students educate them

**BJB2:** along with sexting is cyberbullying...both important issues

**KellyA:** I have noticed that as teachers we may not utilize "specialists" in our buildings.

**BJB2:** and often specialists are over extended...but they do offer some good programs

**ShayneTr:** I've dealt with cyberbullying as the school's computer teacher. Make sure that students know that they can come to you for help.

**KristenSc:** What exactly is cyberbullying?

**ShayneTr:** I also make sure students know how to use privacy settings, although also let them know that anyone can forward images and text.

**BJB2:** one example of what a counselor can do - usually starts with stranger danger, which they are all very familiar with - and examples of how that will carry over online. He then developed safety guidelines WITH the students, using examples when possible

**ShayneTr:** In one case, someone started a Facebook group that insulted and humiliated certain students. Facebook shut it down upon my request.

**BJB2:** Cyberbullying is similar to sexting, but doesn't necessarily have the sexual overtones...insults and humiliation are the rule

**BJB2** . o O ( the mother who cyberbullied the girl in Texas (?) who committed suicide? )

**JohnMe:** There have also been incidents of video of fights between students being posted

**BJB2:** yes, I've also seen that, John...and even if the parents don't hold the school liable...the law might! Same with drinking.

AnneB joined the room.

**BJB2:** hi, Anne.

**JohnMe:** Even if it doesn't happen in school, we have to deal with the aftermath

**KellyA:** What does that mean that the school is liable?

**LisaM:** I have got to sign out early. Thanks to all participants.

**BJB2** nods to John. And the consequences last a long time

**LisaM** left the room (signed off).

**BJB2:** the school could be held responsible for a posting of something inappropriate...especially if it's done on school time

**BJB2:** or if it mentions the school or the students

**JohnMe:** On the bus?

**BJB2:** yes, there's another place that is technically "school property"

**BJB2:** . o O ( bless those bus drivers! )

**BJB2:** guess what the #1 issues for kids online is?

**KellyA:** downloading? music etc...

**BJB2:** cyberbullying--ramps up in middle and increases thru high school

**KristenSc:** I find it interesting that my school has disabled facebook access on school computers, yet my students can access it via wi-fi on their ipods.

**ShayneTr:** We tried to filter sites and the kids all found proxies -- only the admin and teachers were blocked! :-o

**JohnMe:** They are not through the school network

**BJB2:** and filtering isn't the answer either.

**KellyA:** Are ipods allowed?

**ShayneTr:** I have been pushing for proper monitoring and the liability issue is useful.

**BJB2:** the Berkman report shares the number concern is cyber bullying--read the report along with the sexting report (links found within) when you have a chance--VERY interesting

**ShayneTr:** Do you have a link (did I miss it?)

**BJB2:** <http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/research/isttf>

**KellyA:** thanks

**BJB2:** positive crafting of what to do or how to positive behave online and the benefits you can reap from that behavior are also VERY powerful

**ShayneTr:** From me too!

**KristenSc:** I allow ipods for certain students who need to drown out the background noise of the classroom. Music has been proven to help with effective study habits. My students know that they are not a free for all. However, I wouldn't be surprised if cyberbullying were taking place on school property.

**BJB2:** I'll put in one more plug for the student campus

**BJB2:** it's difficult to catch all behaviors, Kristen...

**KristenSc:** Indeed.

**BJB2:** but I think it's our responsibility as educators to model and to teach the responsible use of online resources

**BJB2:** much of the education is just teaching values...respect for others

**KellyA:** I agree- I think that goes a long ways

**ShayneTr:** Our Teacher's college is in the process of discussing appropriate teacher use of social networks, etc.

**BJB2:** any comments I can take to Davina on the discussion? Any topics you would like to have discussed in future sessions?

**JohnMe:** It's been a great place to reflect. Thanks all. Good night from Ct.

**ShayneTr:** I just wanted to post a link to an article I really like:  
<http://vanelsas.wordpress.com/2009/01/26/it-is-naive-to-think-our-online-lives-are-not-connected-to-real-life/>

**KellyA:** Perhaps after participating in future sessions- thanks for the resources

**KristenSc:** I truly appreciate the acknowledgement of the issue as one that needs to be addressed by the educational community.

**BJB2:** thanks, Shayne

**BJB2** nods to Kristen...and it's not something that can be solved in one hour!

**KristenSc:** Right. Thank you and good evening.

**JohnMe** left the room (signed off).

**BJB2** . o O ( that is another advantage to Tapped In...and this group...that it can sustain learning on a topic. )

**BJB2** waves goodnight