

INDYSTAR★COM

Tracie Wells: Education can stop bullying in its tracks

This is what we know about bullying: Little bullies grow up to be big bullies, who produce more little bullies, who then go on to bully others, at school and at home. We also know that the pervasive and growing culture of bullying means that today's kids are hurting more than any previous generation, a state of affairs that is socially irresponsible, morally unacceptable and, at best, economically thoughtless.

What everyone needs to know is that peer-on-peer bullying behavior and the resulting cycle of violence that leads to domestic abuse and criminal conduct can be stopped through empowerment training and education of children, parents, school personnel and the larger community. That's the goal of BullySafeIndiana, a statewide program launching a pilot this month.

In collaboration with The Villages/Prevent Child Abuse Indiana and the local National Council of Jewish Women, on Nov. 7 BullySafeIndiana will distribute anti-bullying curriculum through "Train the Trainer" workshops involving participants from all 10 elementary and middle schools in Washington Township. These sessions, based on SuEllen Fried's proven successes with BullySafeUSA, will train participants to

be "champions" of their schools who are then qualified to train other teachers, staff and parents to prevent bullying. The three-day program includes student empowerment sessions, aimed at banishing bullying behavior and changing the culture over the long term into one of empathy and kindness. Washington Township deserves recognition for its commitment of time and resources.

The statistics prove the time for action is now. Federal data and research studies show 25 percent of kids identified in third grade as bullies having a criminal record by age 30, and 40 percent have three or more convictions.

Children who are bullied frequently report increased thoughts of suicide. Federal data show a dramatic increase in child suicide rates over the past 30 years.

A third of teenagers report being bullied in school. Across the country, 160,000 children stay home from school each day with truancy and dropout problems.

Advertisement



**Protect Your Home
with ADT!**

**Click Here
to Learn More!**

ADT AUTHORIZED DEALER

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

INDYSTAR★COM

Bullying-related issues also affect bystanders, or "witnesses," who report increased anxiety and decreased concentration in the classroom. But when children are involved in social and emotional learning programs, including bullying prevention, they score at least 10 percent higher on achievement tests.

Federal workforce data show decreased productivity and increased employer liability with workplace bullying, which grownups actually call stalking, harassment and intimidation.

If we want this Millennial Generation to become productive members of society, capable of healthy relationships at home and at work, and if we want them to contribute to our economic development rather than be a drag on the welfare and criminal justice systems, then we must ensure their environment teaches empathy and nurtures self-respect and respect of others.

For more information, visit www.bullysafeindiana.com or www.bullysafeusa.com.

Wells directs public education and outreach for BullySafeIndiana and BullySafe USA.

AdChoices



Ads by Pulse 360

57-Year-Old Mom Looks 25

Indianapolis: Local Mom Exposes an Anti-Aging Miracle. Her \$5 Trick ERASES Wrinkles!
PopularLifestyleJournal.com

Safe Alternative Spine Procedures

Get Your Life Back in 5 days! Learn More...
LaserSpineInstitute.com

Free Stock Report

Earn 1,000% On The Next Internet Boom.
www.smauthority.com

Advertisement

**Protect Your Home
with ADT!**

**Click Here
to Learn More!**

ADT AUTHORIZED DEALER

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™