

Information for parents: Bullying and Conflict

In honour of provincial Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week November 15-21, KPR schools are launching a new series of posters to discuss what bullying looks like, and to remind students that bullying is never acceptable. In concert with the posters, KPR also is introducing a series of monthly articles for students, parents and guardians. Like the poster series, the articles will be based on the two core graphics below, exploring the issue of bullying in greater depth. The following article is the first in this series.



A bully is someone who...

...may surprise you. PREVNet – Canada’s network of researchers and organizations devoted to preventing bullying – has released some interesting research results. They show that bullies don’t fit the traditional stereotype of being high-strung, insecure, socially clueless and unsuccessful in school. In fact, PREVNet’s research indicates that often bullies are confident, social individuals who have a “coolest kid” status and a strong peer group in their school.

The research also suggests bullies may have difficulty with moral reasoning and empathy. In other words, they have difficulty understanding how their bullying affects others, and they rationalize, or make excuses for, their behaviour. PREVNet’s research suggests that, as a society, we need to address the way bullies reason about moral issues, improve the way bullies communicate with their families, and emphasize authoritative discipline (firm AND fair).

Most importantly, PREVNet emphasizes that we all need to take a clear stand against bullying. Bystanders – that is, adults and students who do nothing to stop bullying when they see it happening - send the message that bullying is OK. In KPR, schools focus on the fact that bullying is NEVER OK, under any circumstances. We encourage all students who have been bullied, and those who witness bullying, to speak with a caring adult. If you have concerns that your child or teen is being bullied, please tell us, as soon as possible. Please speak with the teacher, principal or vice-principal, or use our online Report Bullying weblink to let us know, at <http://www.kprschoos.ca/students/reportbullying.html>