

The Bully Happens To Be His Teacher

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New Summer Parent/Child Evening Program

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High School Musical Camp!!

New Parent/Child Evening Program This Summer!

[Click here for program information](#)

Mother/Daughter & Mother/Son Yoga Empowered workshop

Spend an evening of empowerment, learning and reminding ourselves to be happy with who we are and then relax with yoga. A great way to bond with your children.

- **Monday, June 30 6:00-7:30 Girls 6-9 & their moms**
- **Monday, June 30 7:30-9:00 Girls 10-14 & their moms**
- **Wednesday, July 9th 6:00-7:30 Boys 6-9 and their moms**

Location: Franklin Athletic Club

The Bully For This Little Boy Happens To Be His Teacher

Recently, a kindergarten teacher had her class vote on whether or not they wanted to keep Alex Barton, a 5-year-old little boy in the class. Fourteen of the children voted him out and two voted to keep him in the class. This travesty happened at Morningside Elementary in Port St. Lucie, Florida. The bully's name is Wendy Portillo. She also happens to be the teacher.

High School Musical Camp

Does your daughter LOVE the movie High School Musical?

Does she love to dance and sing?

Join Girls Empowered in examining the messages of High School Musical –giving up who you are to fit in, excluding your friends, peer pressure, wanting to be popular, not fitting in the girl box..... These are very powerful and complex issues that girls (and women) face every day. Girls will have fun creating scenes, the props for their musical, their dance and songs! Girls will create their own version of High School Musical.

Sign up now before space runs out:

June 23-27

Novi Life Time Fitness
Girls 6-9, 10-12 yrs
9:00-4:00 248-735-5318

July 14-18

Troy Community Center
Girls 6-10 yrs,
9:00-12:00 248-524-3484

Aug 18-22

Birmingham Community House
Girls 6-10 yrs
1:00-4:00 248-644-5832

***Some of the awesome things
happening at our summer camps***

Alex had been diagnosed that same week with Asperger's, a type of high-functioning autism. And yes, the teacher knew he was undergoing testing.

[Click here](#) to read the full story.

So many questions came to my mind after I wiped the tears away.

How could this person be teaching our little ones?

What did the other parents in the class and school do? Did they call the parents of Alex and offer their support?

Did they invite Alex for play dates so that Alex could maintain some kind of consistency since he was no longer welcome in school?

Did the parents of the 14 kids explain to their children that their teacher was a bully and what she did was wrong? Did the two children who stood up for Alex and do the right thing get acknowledged for their courage?

Is the school district of Port St. Lucie taking steps to get training for their teachers in relational aggression and bullying?

What is your school doing to train staff, parents, and children about relational aggression and bullying?

When is enough, enough? Every day there are children whose self-worth is destroyed by bullies. The bully can be other kids, siblings, a teacher, their parent or even other parents as we know what happened to Megan when a parent began posting negative things about her on Myspace.

Why won't schools do more to deal with bullying and relational aggression? These are some of the reasons we hear from schools:

-There is no time

But yet we hear from teachers and Principals all the time how much time they spend dealing with the problems caused from relational aggression. Additionally, children who are dealing with these

for girls

Do a hip hop dance at a Shock game
Be in a Fashion Show
Have a spa day
Do fun activities with their America Girl Doll
Learn to be happy with yourself

For boys

Learn to problem solve
Learn to know your feelings
Learn to express your feelings
Play capture the flag
Learn how to handle rejection
Do yoga
Rock climb
Learn to believe in themselves

See camp schedule at www.girlsempowered.com click on Summer camps.

Girls Empowered and Boys Empowered is dependent on our parents who have had their children in our programs to spread the word! We are a small but a mighty organization!! Please take a moment to tell as many parents as you know about our great summer day camps! This is the kind of feedback we get:

"After doing your program, my daughter stands up for herself."

"Your program changed my child's life."

"Your program changed the way the kids in my child's class treat each other."

issues can't focus on their schoolwork if they are worried about other kids making fun of them, teasing them, calling them names, excluding them, etc.....

-There is no funding

Get the PTA involved, have parents help share the costs with after-school and evening programs, and apply for grants that are available. If this is important to the parents and school, people will find a way to raise the money. It has always been interesting to me to see parents complain about the cost of programs like these but they are buying their children \$100 outfits. Is wearing trendy clothes more important than teaching our children social skills, how to deal with conflict and relational aggression. Are material things more important than a child's self-worth and what they think, feel, and believe about themselves?

-Politics

Often the politics with staff and parents stand in the way. Nobody wants to step on anybody's toes!

-Afraid of looking bad

Some schools think if they offer programs then parents will think they really have a problem.

This is the craziest excuse of them all—I know there are a few disbelievers out there but what parent or teacher doesn't know that the kids are calling each other names, running away from children on the playground when they ask to play, excluding, teasing, making fun?

-In Denial

They don't believe there really is a problem.

And the worst is..... **they know there is a problem but they don't feel it is *their* problem.** Don't you love the parent who says the school must handle the way their child is behaving or the parent who won't talk to you about the problems your children are having because they say the children must work it out.

What kind of message do we send children when they are told by adults if someone is being mean

“My child still talks about what she/he learned in your program.”

THANKS!!!

A big thanks to all families of the Girls/Boys Empowered Community that came to the Kids Against Hunger program. We packaged over 20,000 meals that will be shipped to feed children at school in Kan, Cameroon who have no lunch. We also delivered meals to St. Christine's Food Bank. We had over 130 people and some of the participants went to presentations by the Michigan Darfur Coalition and the Wellspring of Hope Foundation.

www.wellspringofhope.net

www.KidsagainsthungerMI.org

www.michigandarfurcoalition.org

Join Girls Empowered at the screening of "What's Your Point Honey" A film to inspire our young women to find a political voice. After the movie meet Lexie one of the girls featured in the film and the producer who is from the Detroit area.

This is an opportunity for our girls to see women being powerful and making their voice heard! Don't miss it. If you purchase the Girls Empowered ticket you will receive a DVD and \$10 will go to a scholarship for a Girls Empowered camp. Please let us know if we will see you there!

WHAT'S YOUR POINT, HONEY?

to you go tell an adult and then nothing happens? When they see one of their classmates being picked on and no one does anything about it. The message is of learned helplessness- we can't do anything about it—this is the role of the bystander. What happens when you live in a world where being a bystander is acceptable?

Atrocities like 40,000 children die EVERY DAY from malnutrition, starvation, and hunger related diseases, 33 million refugees, the genocide in Darfur, or maybe you live in Harford, Connecticut and you see a 78-year-old man get hit by a hit and run driver and you do nothing but watch.....victim is in critical condition. [Click here](#) to view video.

The question remains—who is it up to to create a society in which others care about their neighbors and help their neighbor down the street, in another city, in another country? It is up to us—ALL of US. We must all ask ourselves- if that was my child in this situation what would I want someone to do? The first is to care but the second is just as important- do something about it.

“The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them: that's the essence of inhumanity. “ - **George Bernard Shaw**, *"The Devil's Disciple" (1901), act II Irish dramatist & socialist (1856 - 1950)*

Thursday, June 12, 2008

7:00 PM

Maple Art Theater

4135 West Maple Road

Bloomfield Hills, MI

Attire: Summer Work Casual

Space is Limited.

Visit www.SmartTix.com or
WWW.WHATSYOURPOINTHONEY.COM
and buy your tickets!