



LONDON ANTI-BULLYING COALITION

June 17, 2008 – Newsletter

"If we are truly committed to reducing bullying and victimization and insuring safer schools and communities for our children, then we must act now! Tomorrow, next week, and next year may cost lives, and the children, not a single one of them should be forced to wait. No child should have to wait while people quibble about who has the primary responsibility, what really works and just who has the time. It is perhaps hypocritical of adult onlookers to expect or demand more from young people so often chastised for being bystanders"

lamsafe.ca

Greetings LABC members!! As the 2007-2008 school year wraps up we thought we would give you a little update on what we have been up to.

We have been asked to speak on average twice a month and would like to thank the following for allowing us to provide support and advocacy to the parents in our community:

- London Public Library
- Community Safety Week
- Childreach
- Ontario Early Years
- London Children's Connection
- London Muslim Mosque
- Madame Vanier Children's Services
- Daisy May Publishing - Westmount Mall Spring Break Event

For many of the above engagements we are proud to have partnered with Constable Christine Weston of the London Police Department.

We have also made several presentations to students within the valley and would like to acknowledge the schools who invited us in:

- London Central Secondary
- Westmount Public School
- St. Marguerite d'Youville
- John Paul II

Mr. Bill Tucker, Director of the TVDSB has offered the LABC a seat on the Safe Schools Committee and we are pleased to announce that Michelle Murphy-Bukala will be representing the parent's voice on behalf of the LABC.

The LABC is participating in a sub-committee which is planning events for Bully Free Week, November 17-21, 2008.



The LABC was pleased to partner with the North London Parents Team, the TVDSB and London Children's Connection in bringing Barbara Coloroso to town for a speaking engagement. It was a full day of workshops as Barbara spoke to teachers, students and parents all in the same day. Congratulations to all of the participants for hosting such a successful event. As always, Barbara's message was powerfully delivered.

"Bullying is a life or death issue that we ignore at our children's peril. It can no longer be minimized and trivialized by adults, taken lightly, brushed off or denied. Thousands of children go to school everyday filled with fear and trepidation; others feign illness to avoid being taunted or attacked on the way to school or in the school yard, hallways and bathrooms; still others manage to make themselves sick at school so as to avoid harassment in the locker room. Children who are bullied spend a lot of time thinking up ways to avoid the trauma and have little energy left for learning"

**Barbara Coloroso,
"The Bully, The Bullied and The Bystander"**

The New Parent Resource Guide and School Age Resource Guide all-in-one directory for busy parents has asked the LABC to answer bullying related questions on their parent resource website. Please access this website for useful information. <http://parentguide.ca>

We are currently scheduling meetings with the London Coalition of Adoptive Families and the LHSC - Pediatric Trauma Unit both who report bullying as a major cause for concern.

A cross-ministerial project out of Alberta has come to our attention and we encourage you to check out their website b-free.ca.

We have engaged in ongoing communication with the Ministry of Education re: Bill 212. Our critique can be accessed on our website under Stories of Interest. We continue to represent the voice of the parents and are privileged to do so. Please keep the information flowing both ways and let us know your thoughts and concerns.

TO PONDER:

Homes and schools are not democracies. Children should have a voice, but not a vote, on decisions which are adult decisions to make.