

**NEWTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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Office of Information Technology
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Dear Parents,

“Circle of Respect: Are You In?” is a week-long series of events, from March 15-20, 2010, developed by the Newton Partnership. It is designed to touch all members of the Newton community and focuses on the issues of Cyberbullying and Internet Safety. Cyberbullying is defined as when a person, particularly a child, is threatened, tormented, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed, or otherwise targeted by another child, pre-teen, or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, or mobile phones. According to the American Crime Center, over 40% of teens using the Internet reported being bullied while online last year. Less physical than traditional bullying, Cyberbullying can have more devastating and longer lasting effects.

In support of this initiative and in collaboration with the Newton Partnership, the elementary library teachers have developed a lesson on this topic for Grades 3, 4, 5 to be taught during the Circle of Respect Week. As always we strive to teach our students to be ethical and responsible users of the Internet.

The lessons to be taught are:

- **Grade 3:** Students will engage in a pre-viewing quiz on bullying, and brainstorm what they know about the topic of bullying. After viewing the BrainPop Jr. video *Bullying*, students will revisit the brainstorming chart and add what they have learned about cyberbullying, and define the important things to remember if they, or someone they know, is cyberbullied. Students will take home a crossword puzzle to complete with their parents. This activity includes the important words and phrases to remember about the topic and can be used to initiate discussion with parents.
- **For Parents:** Visit brainpopjr.com and search for *Bullying*. The short video clip is free and no login is needed. We suggest that you view the video with your child. After viewing, please go to the quiz section in the activity section. As you and your child take the quiz, discuss what is safe and what is not safe to do online, and ways in which children should respond if they are bullied or see bullying occur.
- **Grade 4/5:** After viewing the BrainPop video clip *Cyberbullying*, students will use a Venn Diagram to record what they know about bullying by making comparisons as to how cyberbullying and bullying are alike, and what actions they can take.
- **For Parents:** Visit brainpop.com and search for *Cyberbullying*. The short video clip is free and no login is needed. View the brainpop.com *Cyberbullying* video clip with your child. After viewing, go to the activity section and complete it together. When responding to each situation, I recommend you ask your child to explain his/her choice and point out what is the best response and why.

Students in grades 4 and 5 will create their own “Ask Me About” checklist to share with you at home, so be sure to ask them about it! In addition to the suggested activities above, each video clip has quizzes, activities, and Q and A’s to extend your home discussions of Cyberbullying and Internet Safety. For more information, visit the NPS Library Website. We have organized a number of resources to support you as you discuss this important and timely topic in your home.

http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Technology/library_media/cybersafety/index.html

Please feel free to contact the school library teacher if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Shelley B. Chamberlain