

Timbercrest Junior High School

Cyberbullying and Harassment

Presented by Master Police

Officer Jeffrey Flohr



A Growing Problem for Schools



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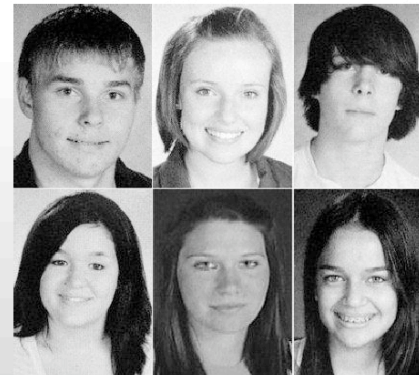
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What can happen?

Phoebe Prince

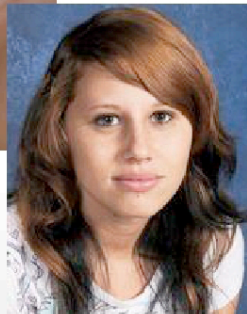
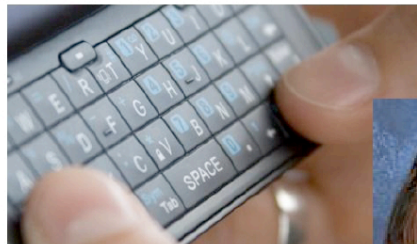
After repeated insults at school and on Facebook, Prince committed suicide



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Josie Lou Ratley



After texting insults to a boy, the 13-year-old was beaten to the point of brain damage on her school's campus.



How is communication technology being used by young people?*

- **77%** regularly send or receive text messages from a friend
- **76%** regularly use a social networking site (e.g. Facebook; MySpace)
- **56%** regularly send and/or receive instant messages from a friend

*statistics taken from the MTV-Associated Press Poll Digital Survey conducted



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- **41%** have thought only a little or have never thought about the fact that it is easier for computer and cell phone messages to be transmitted to others without their knowledge
- **47%** have thought only a little or have never thought about the fact that things they post on Facebook or MySpace could hurt them later
- **43%** have thought only a little or have never thought about the fact that when pictures are shared on the Internet or a cell phone, it's hard to know where those pictures might wind up



- **74%** have thought only a little or have never thought about the fact that postings on Facebook or MySpace could get them in trouble with the police
- **70%** of those in school have thought only a little or have never thought about the fact that postings on Facebook or MySpace could get them in trouble with their school



What is cyberbullying?



Cyberbullying

- **AKA-** “electronic bullying” or “online cruelty”
- **Definition-** “Bullying through email, instant messaging (IM), in a chat room, on a web site, or through digital messages or images sent to a cellular phone.” (Kowalski, et. al, *Cyber Bullying* (2008))



Types of Cyberbullying*

- **Flaming**

- A heated, short-lived argument that occurs between two or more protagonists
- Usually includes vulgar language, insults, and sometimes threats
- Ex.- An online argument where two people exchange repeated insults on a public message board

**Willard, Cyberbullying and Cyberthreats, responding to the challenge of online social aggression, threats, and distress (2007)*



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Types (cont.)

- **Harassment**

- Repeated, ongoing sending of offensive messages to an individual target
- Usually through personal communication channels, including email, instant messaging, and text messaging
- Harassment, unlike flaming, is one-sided
- Ex.- One person gets all of his friends to send hundreds of threatening text messages to one person



Types (cont.)

- **Denigration**

- Speech about a target that is harmful, untrue, or cruel
- The purpose of denigration is to interfere with relationships and friendships or damage the reputation of the target
- Ex.- Placing the face of someone on a sexually-explicit image and posting on a public website



Types (cont.)

- **Impersonation**

- Occurs when a cyberbully gains ability to impersonate the target and posts material that reflects poorly on the target and interferes with the target's friendships
- Ex.- Gaining access to a person's social networking page and changing their profile to reflect characteristics that are not true
- Note: Fake profiles of school personnel



Types (cont.)

- **Exclusion**

- Designation of someone as an “outcast” by a member of the “in-group”
- Ex.- A teen girl is trying really hard to fit in with a group of “popular” girls at school; she offends the leader of the group, who then instructs all the other girls in the group to remove her from their instant messenger buddy lists



Types (cont.)

- **Outing and Trickery**
 - Publicly posting, sending, or forwarding personal communications or images, especially communications or images that contain intimate personal information or are potentially embarrassing
 - Ex.- A teen boy gets a girl to pose in a sexually provocative manner in front of her webcam; she thinks its just him watching, but really it's he and all of his friends



Where does it happen?



What does the law say?

- Cyberstalking
- RCW 9.61.260

A person is guilty of cyberstalking if he or she, with the intent to harass, intimidate, torment, or embarrass any other person, and under circumstances not constituting telephone harassment, makes an electronic communication to such other person or a third party:



Cyberstalking Cont.

- (a) Using any Lewd, lascivious, indecent, or obscene words, images, or language, or suggesting the commission of any lewd or lascivious act;
- (b) Anonymously or repeatedly whether or not conversation occurs; or
- (c) Threatening to inflict injury on the person or property of the person called or any member of his or her family or household
- **(Misdemeanor)**



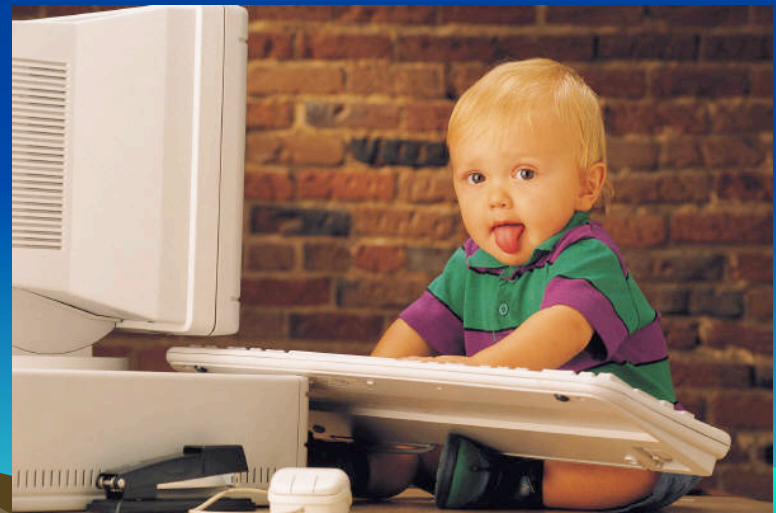
Police response?

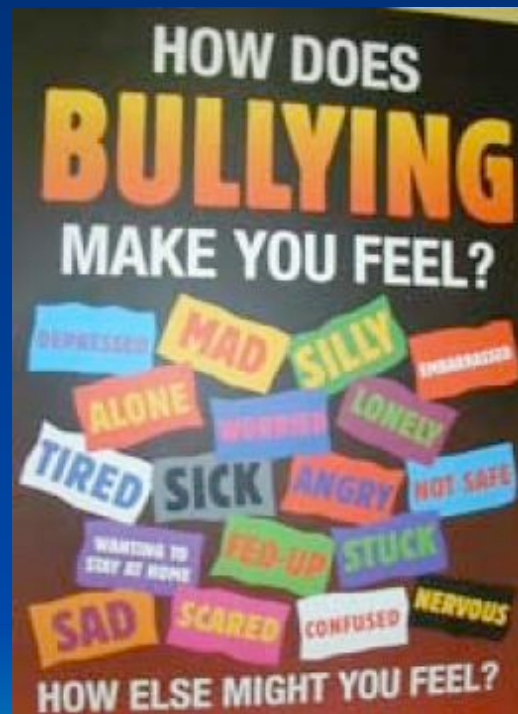
- Nature of harassment?
- Is there a crime?
- Venue for the harassment?
- Who is doing it (age)?
- Are the parents and or school involved?
- Other avenues besides arrest/prosecution?



What can parents do?

- Talk to your kids about online behavior.
- Ask you kids questions about what they do online.
- Monitor their online and texting traffic.
- Report problems to the authorities/school.





Resources

- KCSO does not endorse any one company:
- www.internetsafety.com
- www.software4parents.com
- www.atg.wa.gov
- www.kingcounty.gov/safety/sheriff



Cyberbullying Research Center

- www.cyberbullying.us



Questions?

