

# SMCS Survey Results

Dr. Debra Pepler and Dr. Stephanie Craig  
York University

# Overview of Surveys

- Surveys for current students, alumni, current and past teachers, parents of current students
- Definitions of bullying and types of bullying were provided
- Definition of hazing was provided
- Opportunity to provide written comments, as well.

# Students' Survey Overview

- 1010 students completed the survey
- Overall rates of bullying are consistent with boys across Canada
- Most boys at SMCS do not experience being bullied
- However, most boys who are bullied or hazed, as well as those who witness bullying, are struggling

# Students' Experiences of Being Bullied

- 22% of boys at SMCS reported having been bullied
- 1/3 of these boys reported that the bullying has been going on for more than a year
- There was no change in the rates of being bullied when comparing the fall and spring terms
- 5% of boys reported being hazed
- 57% of boys reported witnessing bullying

# Distress Associated with Being Bullied

- The majority of boys who *experienced* and/or *witnessed* being bullied reported being **scared, angry, hopeless,** and had **trouble with school work**
- Distress was strongly associated with being sexually or racially/religiously bullied
- Of the boys who reported being non-white and being bullied, **72%** reported being bullied because of their race/religion

# Alumni Survey Overview

- 753 Alumni completed the survey
- 40% reported they had been bullied at least once while attending St. Mike's
- Of these, 28% reported having been bullied for longer than 1 year
- Alumni reported that being bullied had a negative emotional, social, and academic impact

# Teacher Survey Overview

- 57 completed surveys
- Majority of teachers thought that bullying was less problematic at St. Mike's compared to other schools
- Teachers indicated that they are now taking bullying more seriously
- Most teachers noted that more professional development around bullying would be beneficial

*“I think that due to everyone being more aware and possibly more vigilant that if bullying occurs it may be taking place in the more silent areas”*

# Parent Survey Overview

- 294 parents completed surveys
- 26% of parents indicated their son had been bullied at St. Mike's
- However, compared to student reports, parents underestimated the prevalence of bullying in the spring term
- 77% of parents whose sons had been bullied indicated that it had been going on for more than a year

*“Doing this survey made me realize I know very little of what goes on. I have no idea if my son is bullied or if he bullies others. If he was being bullied I am not confident that he would tell me.”*

## Two sides of the St. Mike's experience

*“From my experience at the school, I have never seen, been a victim of, or perpetrated bullying in anyway. What I do believe is that the school is a welcoming environment for all and everyone has a place.”*

*“It [bullying] has not changed because people still do it and get away with it and no body (sic) wants to try to stop it.”*

# Thank you

- We want to express our gratitude to those who completed the surveys.
- By taking time to share perspectives, you have enabled us to begin to build a comprehensive picture of life as a student at St. Mike's and to understand the two realities at the school.
- Your contributions will inform the Committee's recommendations.

## DEFINITIONS FROM SURVEYS FOR ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SCHOOL

**Bullying** can happen in many different ways. A person who bullies harms someone else repeatedly and unfairly and has some advantage over the person who is being bullied. For example, the person who bullies may be older, bigger, smarter, or stronger. Sometimes a group of children or youth will bully another person.

**Hazing** is a type of bullying that involves humiliating and sometimes dangerous initiation rituals. Hazing is most often done by a group as a rite of admission into a group, club, or team, however, it can also be done by individuals.

Bullying and hazing can involve any of the following forms:

### **Physical bullying**

- when someone hits, shoves, kicks, spits at, or beats up on others

### **Verbal bullying**

- name-calling, mocking, hurtful teasing
- humiliating or threatening someone
- making people do things they don't want to

### **Social bullying** - excluding others from the group

- gossiping or spreading rumours about others
- setting others up to look foolish
- making sure others don't associate with the person

### **Electronic bullying**

Using a computer or phone text messages, or pictures to:

- threaten or hurt someone's feelings
- single out, embarrass, or make someone look bad
- spread rumours or reveal secrets about someone

### **Racial or Religious bullying**

- treating people badly because of their racial, ethnic, or religious background
- saying negative things about a cultural or religious background
- calling someone racist names
- telling racist or inappropriate religious jokes

### **Sexual bullying**

- unwanted and unwelcome behaviour about sex or gender that interferes with someone's life and makes them feel uncomfortable

- touching, pinching or grabbing someone in a sexual way
- making crude comments about someone's sexual behaviour
- spreading a sexual rumour about someone
- calling someone "gay", a "fag", or something similar

### **Disability bullying**

- leaving someone out or treating them badly because of a disability (e.g., learning, physical, speech)
- making someone feel uncomfortable because of a disability
- making comments or jokes to hurt someone with a disability