

# **April E-News 2011**



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THIS ISSUE CONTAINS:

What's new in the Access Area? The Karma Army Cyber bullying Lateral Thinking Puzzles



## WHAT'S NEW IN THE ACCESS AREA!

This month in the Access Area, we have a fantastic new addition:



#### TEXTURE POSTERS

For those teachers who like to use the terminology unison, octaves, monophonic, homophonic, polyphonic, heterophonic and imitative, these posters are for you. They come with graphics, printed music and an explanation.



### The Karma Army—True Story

This is a true story about a man called Danny Wallace who one day decided to see if he could get people to join him, even if they didn't know what they were joining. He started with a small advert in a London newspaper which asked people to send him a passport style photograph. At first only one person responded but gradually through human curiosity and helped by the power of the internet, he received more than 4,000 passport photos – and all these people STILL didn't know what they were joining!

Danny then realised that there had to be some reason for the existence of the group he had formed, so he decided that all its members would have to do an act of kindness for a complete stranger every Friday and send him photographic proof of what they had done. Again to his surprise, thousands of people took up his idea and he has had so many ideas that he has put them into a book called Random acts of Kindness – 365 ways to make the world a nicer place. Try this with your class and see what happens.



# LATERAL THINKING PUZZLES **ONE FOR EACH WEEK**

#### PUZZLE NO 1:

You are driving down the road in your car on a wild, stormy night, when you pass a bus stop and see three people waiting for the bus:

- 1. an old lady who looks as if she is about to die
- 2. An old friend who once saved your life
- 3. The perfect partner you have been dreaming about

Knowing that there can only be one passenger in your car, whom would you choose and why?

#### ANSWER:

The old lady of course! After helping the old lady into the car, you can give your keys to your friend, and wait with your perfect partner for the bus.

#### **PUZZLE NO 2:**

Acting on an anonymous phone call, the police raid a house to arrest a suspected murderer. They don't know what he looks like but they know his name is John and that he is inside the house. The police bust in on a carpenter, a lorry driver, a mechanic and a fireman all playing poker. Without hesitation or communication of any kind, they immediately arrest the fireman. How do they know they've got their man?

#### ANSWER:

The fireman is the only man in the room. The rest of the poker players are women.

#### **PUZZLE NO 3:**

A man and his son are in a car crash. The father is killed and the child is taken to hospital gravely injured. When he gets there, the surgeon says, 'I can't operate on this boy - for he is my son!!!' How can this possibly be?

#### ANSWER:

The surgeon can not operate on her own son; she is his mother.

#### PUZZLE NO 4:

There are six eggs in the basket. Six people each take one of the eggs. How can it be that one egg is left in the basket?

#### ANSWER:

The last person took the basket with the last egg still inside.













## R U Cybersafe? A lesson series of discussions for classes

#### R U cybersafe?

Cybersafety is about surfing the internet safely. You wouldn't cross the road without looking, so why do people continue to the surf the internet without taking any safety precautions? Do you know how to keep cybersafe?

We're going to look at cyberbullying and what you can do to keep safe.

Firstly, have a think about your own computer usage and where your computer is located in your home. Is it in a room where your parents can see what you are doing? Do you use a laptop away from where your parents can monitor what you are doing? What kind of problems might this bring up for you and your parent/carers.

What is Bullying? Bullying is the act of intentionally causing harm to others, through verbal harassment, physical assault, or other more subtle methods, i.e. exclusion from a group or spreading rumours, etc.

What is Cyber Bullying? Cyberbullying is bullying using technology. This means things like prank calling, sending nasty text messages and posting on hate sites as well as forwarding hurtful emails, sending round humiliating videos

**TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:** Explore the fact that the internet is so much a part of young peoples lives, that many cannot imagine their lives without the internet. Young people use the internet to make new friend-ship groups and are more trustworthy of potential strangers than they normally would be. Explore why this is. Bullying is sadly a very common part of many young peoples lives. Cyberbullying has affected almost a third of 11-16 year olds (DirectGov) and is the **number one** issue for young people today according to research. It might be useful by show of hands to see how many of the pupils have witnessed acts of bullying. It is not advisable to ascertain whether any pupils have been victims of bullying in this sort of forum as it could make students a potential target and could single them out.

Stress that it is very important that if anybody experiences bullying they MUST TELL SOMEONE! Another good talking point is the role of the bystander. Point out that they are often as seen to be as guilty as the bullies if they do nothing about it. So for example, if they pass round something nasty on their mobile phones, they're seen as guilty as the person that sends it in the first place.

#### Methods of Cyber Bullying.

EMAIL—Sending threatening emails or intimidating someone, Social Networking Sites, Posting hurtful comments on someone's profile, faking profiles

CHAT—Saying nasty things in chat and instant messaging

GAMING—Ganging up on another player or excluding them

PHONES—Making prank calls, nasty texts and photo messages

WEBCAMS-Making people do things on webcams that upset them

FORUMS and Message Boards-Ganging up on someone, excluding someone, making hurtful comments

#### TEACHER INSTRUCTONS:

**Cyberbullying** is different to bullying because it can follow you wherever you are. Explain that ANYONE can be cyberbullied ANYWHERE. i.e. school holidays, abroad and at home etc. Cyberbullying can affect people of all ages and not just young people. Explore the simplicity of the action and the fact that the potential audience is larger. It could also be useful to explore the fact that some young people feel very unhappy indeed if they are cyberbullied and that this can lead to self-harm and suicidal feelings (obviously decide on whether this is ap-

propriate). Victims often feel like there is no escape.

Some young people may have experienced cyberbullying via gaming on forums such as PS3 or XBOX LIVE.



## HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL? Try to get the students to imagine how it would make you feel, even if they haven't experienced it themselves. Brainstorm feelings.

It is important for the students to empathise with how someone might feel if they are being bullied. This is quite powerful in regards to enabling the students to build an understanding of the seriousness of the issue.

It's important to add that although cyberbullying can't physically hurt you, the effects of it can often leave the victims feeling depressed, vulnerable and paranoid as they often don't know who is targeting them. This can leave them feeling uneasy and withdrawn. They may also feel too scared to tell anybody what is going on and often suffer in silence. It can affect their attendance at school which tends to lead to other problems.

#### TOP TRICKS AND TIPS—Below are some ideas to discuss

Being cybersafe is something that needs to be learned and practiced.

Try to emphasise (without scaring them!) that once information is posted online, anyone can get their hands on it. Talk about language and tone – how easy it is to misunderstand another person online because you can't take visual cues from someone's face. Lots of cyberbullying starts from silly little misunderstandings and then gets out of hand, so language, tone and respect is key. Also important is learning to talk things through calmly if there has been a misunderstanding.

- Don't post stuff that is very personal keep information general
- Think carefully about posting pictures online once it's there, anyone can see it or use it
- Don't share your passwords keep your personal information private!
- It's not a good idea to meet up with anyone you meet online you don't really know who they are!
- Try to think carefully before you write things online people can get the wrong end of the stick
- Respect other people's views just because you don't agree with them, it doesn't mean you have to be rude or abusive

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO (if you are being cyber bullied or you think someone else is)?

- Tell someone you trust
- Report any cyberbullying, even if it's not happening to you
- Never respond/retaliate as it could make matters worse
- Block the cyberbullies from contacting you
- Save and print any bullying messages, posts, pictures or videos that you receive
- Make a note of the dates and times they are received
- Keep your passwords private
- Don't post any personal information or pictures online
- Have fun...but surf the internet safely!

Encourage the young people to tell a trusted adult so that they can get immediate support. The main focus should be on 'telling someone'. This is the most important message. They should not allow the situation to fester and this applies if they witness an act of bullying too!

The list above also contains some other things that you should do, as well as, but not instead of, telling someone.

ONLINE SUPPORT: http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au This is the Australian Government's online initiative and website dedicated to the National Day of

Action against bullying, which of course was March 18. I am sure you aware of this site.

FOR MORE FREE TEACHING RESOURCES AND PAST COPIES OF THE E-NEWS, GO TO www.kerrilacey.com.au/kcm

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