

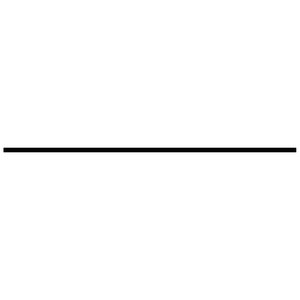
1 Apple Lane

Pine View MO, 14528

(437) 946-8770

Principal: Mrs.. Katherine Hunter

Asst. Principal: Mr. Anthony Carver



January 12, 2006

Parent(s) and/or Guardians;

In recent times, a new trend of bullying has been growing. Cyber-bullying "involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others” according to cyberbullying.org. In October, a young girl named Megan Meier committed suicide after being hoaxed on her MySpace page. A page was created to look like a young boy around her age, with pictures and all. His identity was never clarified to Megan, but after she committed suicide, her parents found out who it was. It was their very own neighbor, a fellow *parent* of a girl Megan’s same age. Children who are cyber bullied often seem depressed, alone, hurt. Their grades may drop, and their interactions with peers, and adults may suffer severely. Here at Pine View High School, we strive for successful, blissful young adults, and we know that cyber-bullying can hold a heavy weight on a person.

There have been cases of cyber-bullying brought to my attention, which will not be tolerated at this school. With all of the new technology and social networks out on the Internet, it is our jobs as educators to be aware and alert parents of their child’s safety. As parents, be aware of your child’s usage of the computer, and if they are on any social networks, such as AIM, Facebook or MySpace. Do not allow your child to post pictures or comments that they would not want anyone else to see. As a parent, you should be knowledgeable of your child’s username, password, and how many times he or she goes on their site. It is important to be involved in your child’s life, and we really stress the matter of being well informed.

Please take time to talk about the effects of cyber-bullying with your child. For more information about this new trend, feel free to call the counseling center at (437) 946-8770 ext. 9551, or visit www.stopcyberbullying.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Katherine Hunter

Principal

(437) 946-8770 ext. 9520