

MSLA Anti-Bullying Summit

Monday, March 14, 2011

Cushing Academy
Dining Commons
39 School Street
Ashburnham, MA 01430



- 8:30 AM** **Registration and Coffee**
- 9:00 AM** **Mary Sullivan**
Director, Community Information and Education Division
Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General
Implementation of the Bullying Prevention Law
- 10:00 AM** **Gail Okerman and Sharon Greenholt**
Massachusetts School Guidance Counselors Association
Beyond Bullying
- 11:00 AM** **Michael Tempesta**
Principal Milford High School, MassCUE
De-Mystifying and Humanizing Bullying
- 12:00 Noon** **Lunch**
- 12:30 PM** **Dr. Mitchell Chester, Commissioner of Education**
Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
- 1:15 PM** **Dr. Lori DiGisi and Delores Krasner**
Massachusetts Reading Association
*Read-Alouds that Promote Understanding
& Discussions about Bullying*
- 2:15 PM** **MSLA Summit Roundtable Discussion** *Facilitated by MSLA Executive Board*
Topics: Facilitated by MSLA Executive Board Members
- Technology, internet and cyberbullying
 - Gender and LGBT Issues
 - Best Practices in Bullying Prevention and Intervention
 - Student Engagement and Empowerment
 - Collaborations
 - Professional Development
- 3:15 PM** **Closing reception and tour of Cushing's Fisher-Watkins Library**

WHO'S WHO at the MSLA Anti-Bullying Summit

Mary Sullivan is the Director of the Community Information and Education Division in the office of Attorney General Martha Coakley. She works with students, parents, educators, law enforcement, employers, community and local government groups to provide education and training and to develop new partnerships and programs in the areas of health and wellness, substance abuse prevention, violence prevention, and school and workplace safety.

Gail Okerman is the owner of Five Points Counseling and Consultation. She has counseled children, adolescents and adults in public and private institutions and agencies over a thirty-year period. Ms. Okerman is an Assistant Professor at Fitchburg State University and has offered numerous courses and workshops through the Behavioral Science Department, as well as the Center for Professional Studies. Ms. Okerman is a member of the Massachusetts School Counselors Association and serves as a member of the Advocacy Committee. Ms. Okerman is involved at the state and local levels with the implementation of the bullying prevention plan and has been presenting courses and workshops entitled "Beyond Bullying" in many districts throughout the Commonwealth. Ms. Okerman will share effective resources and best practices specific to developmental guidance and bullying prevention.

Sharon Greenholt is a Guidance Counselor at Natick High School. Prior to making this career change, Sharon worked for over 12 years in Human Resource Management, including 5 years with Reuters, the news and financial information agency. Having lived and worked in the United Kingdom, Toronto, Ontario, New York, Orlando and Boston, Sharon has a wealth of cultural knowledge to share in regard to Bullying Prevention activities. Sharon serves on the School Bullying Task Force established by the Natick Public Schools. She is working with the High School Administration and Guidance Department to implement the first High School Leadership Team, to be trained and prepared in order to interrupt the cycle of bullying among young adults.

Michael Tempesta is co-chair of the MassCUE Development and Outreach Committee. Mr. Tempesta has been a high school administrator for twelve years and has experience dealing with bullying and cyber-bullying issues at Sharon High School, Ashland High School and now at Milford High School. Mr. Tempesta and his staff have been working on creating positive, character-building programs that minimize student bullying by promoting and celebrating differences among students at Milford High School. Mr. Tempesta and his team will present examples of bullying, bullying interventions and mentor programs at MHS and Milford Public Schools.

Dr. Lori DiGisi is the President of the Massachusetts Reading Association and the Middle School Literacy Specialist in the Framingham Public Schools. She served as the advisor for the Fuller Middle School Newspaper, where students reviewed results from a school survey on bullying and wrote an article from the sixth grade perspective. She has been a teacher and researcher in adolescent literacy for over twenty-five years. She served on the Massachusetts review panel for the Common Core and currently serves on the State Literacy Team. She has published articles in journals such as Educational Leadership, Voices in the Middle, The Journal of Literacy Research, Teaching Exceptional Children and the National Journal for Research in Science Teaching.

Dolores Krasner retired in 2007 after 32 years of teaching. Currently, she has returned to the profession to fill a half time literacy specialist position at Fuller Middle School in Framingham, Massachusetts. Mrs. Krasner holds a B.S. in special education and a MEd with a concentration in linguistics and reading. As a classroom teacher, she has expertise in teaching reading, literature and the writing process to middle school students. In her role as literacy specialist, she has mentored teachers and developed professional development workshops. Mrs. Krasner is an active member of the Massachusetts Reading Association and serves on its board and is the MRA's liaison to the MSLA. "Read-Alouds that Promote Understanding and Discussions about Bullying" will highlight books and book excerpts that teachers can use to illustrate: the forms of bullying; why bullies do what they do; and what students and adults can do to stop bullying and support victims. The presenters will illustrate how analysis of texts can help students identify the characteristics of bullying, recognize motivating factors, build empathy, and develop communication skills to prevent and deal with situations where youth are being harassed or intimidated by a bully. The presentation will connect the Common Core Standards in Reading, Language, and Speaking and Listening that support this analysis. Participants will engage in an interactive activity and be given resources.

