

# The Kids are All Right – Or Are They?

The Grassroots Forum Series for 2010-2011 will focus its attention on the lives of young adults and their families in our community. Drawing on research and the experience of teenagers themselves, the series will explore the varied dimensions of young adult culture, including social media and books.



**BULLYING & TEASING**  
What can parents and teachers do?  
Paul Casper, well-known therapist, will lead this FREE workshop:  
• Saturday, Jan. 22  
• 9:30 - 1:30 pm  
• Plymouth Congregational (SO) Fellowship Hall  
113 Monroe St. Dodgeville

Kids today live in an increasingly troubled world, where harmless teasing can move into aggressive bullying, occasionally with alarming results. Paul Casper leads interactive workshops throughout the U.S., providing practical and easy strategies you can put to work immediately. Light lunch included.  
Pre-registration recommended at:  
[www.grassrootswi.org](http://www.grassrootswi.org) (click on "Forum")  
or  
Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin on Facebook

***Want to continue the conversation on Bullying and Teasing: What Can You Do as a Parent to Help Your Child or Teen? If so, share your comments on our discussion topic on Facebook***

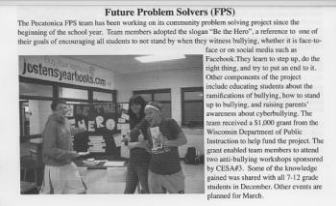
OR . . . Simply post you thoughts or interesting articles and links on our "[Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin](#)" Facebook page

#####

***President Obama to bullying victims: I know what it's like . . .***

Read the article from the Associated Press by [clicking here](#) and check out the <http://www.stopbullying.gov/> website.

#####



**Future Problem Solvers (FPS)**

The Pecatonica FPS team has been working on an community problem solving project since the beginning of the school year. Team members adopted the slogan "Be the Hero" a reference to one of their goals of encouraging all students to not stand by when they witness bullying, whether it is face to face or on social media such as Facebook. They learn to step up, do the right thing, and try to put an end to it. Other components of the project include educating students about the ramifications of bullying, how to stand up to bullying, and raising parent awareness about cyberbullying. The team received a \$1,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to help fund the project. The grant enabled team members to attend two anti-bullying workshops sponsored by CSDE. Some of the knowledge gained was shared with all 7-12 grade students in December. Other events are planned for March.

***Pecatonica Future Problem Solvers' community project is "Be a Hero"*** of which one of their goals is to encourage all students to not just stand by when they witness bullying, but instead learn how to step up, do the right thing, and try to put an end to it. [Click here to learn more about what they are doing.](#)

#####

See what the Dodgeville Chronicle had to say about the Workshop, just [click here!](#)

## Interesting Articles about Bullying

### ***Legislature Spotlights Bullying in Schools***

By MORGAN SMITH

The scariest part of the school day for one student in the Austin Independent School District is before classes begin. For the female-to-male transgender 16-year-old, the "nerve-racking" minutes he spends trying to find his friends at school each morning is when bullies are most likely to strike. "People don't mess with groups of people," he said. "But they see someone walking by themselves, and there's no fear there." [Click here to read the full NYTimes article . . .](#)

### ***What happens when mean girls grow up?***

By Laura Sessions Stepp

Monika Shreves, a college senior with a petite frame and long, black hair, remembers the first mean girl she met. The girl lived in Shreves's Northern Virginia neighborhood and had the blondest hair and eyelashes Shreves had ever seen. The two arrived together at Girl Scout camp, and the girl assumed command of the cabin they were to sleep in. [Click here to read more from the Washington Post . . .](#)

## ***Web of Popularity, Achieved by Bullying***

By TARA PARKER-POPE

For many teenagers navigating the social challenges of high school, the ultimate goal is to become part of the “popular” crowd. But new research suggests that the road to high school popularity can be treacherous, and that students near the top of the social hierarchy are often both perpetrators and victims of aggressive behavior involving their peers. [Click here to read the full article from the NY Times](#)

## ***Five myths about bullying***

By Susan M. Swearer

From schoolyards to workplaces and now to cyberspace as well, it seems that bullies are everywhere. New efforts to stop them and to help victims cope - such as the "It Gets Better" campaign - are gaining attention and popularity, but are they the best ways to protect kids and others from the worst forms of bullying? For them to have a fighting chance, let's first dispense with a few popular fallacies about getting picked on in America. [Click here to read the full article from the Washington Post](#)

## ***No easy fix found for bullying***

By Sarah Schweitzer

With Massachusetts schools facing a deadline to address problem, remedies prove elusive, but awareness, resolve may offer promise. [Click here to read one in a series of articles from boston.com](#)

## ***CBS Sunday Morning features story on Bullying***

Jan. 9, 2011

Life Lessons: Addressing School Bullying - A Bully Intervention Program Combats Behavior That Makes Attending Middle School Agonizing for Some Students [\(Click here for the full story\)](#)

## ***As Bullies Go Digital, Parents Play Catch-Up***

By Jan Hoffman

Ninth grade was supposed to be a fresh start for Marie's son: new school, new children. Yet by last October, he had become withdrawn. Marie prodded. And prodded again, finally, he told her. "The kids say I'm saying all these nasty things about them on Facebook," he said. "They don't believe me when I tell them I'm not on Facebook." But apparently, he was. [Click here to read the full article from the NY Times](#)

## **Past Youth Forums**

**What's with Kids Today?** This is a remarkable opportunity to learn what 5,700 local teens think about sex, parents, drugs, social networking, suicide and other hot topics. Every few years UW-Extension surveys all area youth, but never before has this survey become the basis for a highly interactive community “talk” where we'll all be “wired”, just like on an interactive TV show. We'll literally “see” what adults think kids are thinking and what the kids are actually thinking. This event is co-sponsored by Grassroots and UW Extension. Educators, parents, teens, citizens, pastors, teachers, social workers and everyone else in the community are invited to this ground-breaking. While new survey results are being pulled together now, click here are some past survey results for [Iowa County](#) and [Southwestern Wisconsin](#). **Date: Sunday, October 3, 2010 3PM** in Dodgeville at the Iowa County Court House, in the County Board Room (2nd Floor).

[Books You Never Read, but Your Kids Did](#) – Teen Librarians, Regina Pauly and Karina Zidon introduce some of the most popular books teens are reading today. **Date: October 19, 2010 7PM** at the [Dodgeville Public Library](#). This is during [Teen Read Week](#) (October 17-23, 2010) the [2009 Top 10 List](#) can be found on their website as well as the [nominees for 2010](#).

### [Bullying and Teasing: What Can You Do As a Parent to Help Your Child or Teen?](#)

Kids today live in an increasingly troubled social environment, where harmless teasing has moved into aggressive and painful bullying, occasionally with alarming results. In fact, the Kickapoo Free Press in Viroqua reported recently that as many as four deaths in southwest Wisconsin can be directly laid at the door of teenage bullying. Parents may feel that no matter what they say or do, they are powerless to help.

In a timely and much-needed workshop, entitled “Bullying and Teasing – What Can you Do as a Parent to Help your Child or Teen?”, family therapist Paul Gasser will provide practical and easy strategies for the next time you face this type of challenge. This mid-winter workshop, for parents, kids, counselors and others who work with young people, will give you the confidence to know what to say, and how to say it.

This free event is scheduled for **Saturday, January 22, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational (UCC) Church, 115 Merrimac Street in Dodgeville** (across the street from the Iowa County Courthouse parking lot.) Registration and reception will begin at 9:30 a.m.. Gasser will present at 10 a.m., followed by a noon discussion over a light lunch. The seminar will be complimentary but attendance is limited, so early registration will be important. [Click here to pre-register by sending us an email](#) or find “[Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin](#)” on Facebook and [RSVP](#) to this event.

Paul Gasser is a Marriage and Family Therapist for the Mile Bluff Medical Center and instructor for the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and the Love and Logic Institute of Golden, CO. His experience with children and their families comes as a result of working over 30 years as a therapist and educator both in the United States and Russia. He currently teaches a variety of workshops and courses throughout the United States on the topic of children and behavioral issues.

His workshops are lighthearted and filled with practical ideas. His information, skills and strategies will help parents to feel more in control immediately. Gasser is also a former principal and classroom teacher. He and his wife are the parents of four children.

This event was the third and final event in the Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin 2010-11 Forum Series that focuses attention on the lives of young adults and their families in our community. Grassroots is a network of engaged people in southwest Wisconsin who through constructive dialogue and education foster informed, positive change in our communities. For further information contact: Kent Mayfield, Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin at [secondwindarabians@gmail.com](mailto:secondwindarabians@gmail.com) or 935-3540.