



## Influential Insight

### The Impact of COVID-19 on Cyberbullying

Many organizations have raised important points as to how the pandemic could play a role in increased cyberbullying. A large number of schools implemented remote learning around mid-March; many children have been socially distanced from their peers for a number of months now. Given that devices are now being used for both school/work and entertainment, screen time has likely spiked to a record number of hours for many children and adults alike. These are unprecedented times - parents are trying to keep their children learning and entertained while navigating the unique mental and emotional strain that accompanies these circumstances - an increased possibility for cyberbullying may simply not be on their radar.

Cyberbias and hate is also a concern. Recent increased attention to systemic racism, as well as the protests ignited after the murder of George Floyd, can create backlash. Students may find that they are confronted with racism and bias online. In addition, as Stomp Out Bullying points out (April 6, 2020), an issue that parents and families should also address is the mistreatment and harassment of Asian American children in association with the virus. Labeling the virus "The Chinese Virus," "The Asian Virus," or "The Wuhan Virus" is racist, with the potential to have long-term effects on the identity development and psychological health of Asian and Asian American children.

We strongly encourage you to discuss these issues with the children in your lives, whether they are potential targets, bystanders or may be engaging in or imitating the behavior they see online.

For other recent posts on bullying and COVID-19, please visit <https://www.stompoutbullying.org/blog/cyberbullying-during-covid-19/>

For resources on discussing race and bias with children, please visit: <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/teaching-about-racism-violence-inequity-and-the-criminal>  
<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/helping-students-make-sense-of-news-stories-about-bias-and>

## Bettering Communities

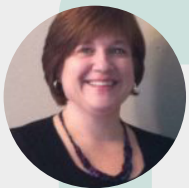
Humans of New York  
April 9 · 🌐

"Owen's had heart surgery three times, so he's been in and out of hospitals his entire life. So many of his milestones have happened in a medical setting: his first bite of solid food, his first time standing up, his first time meeting Santa. But even with everything he's been through, what's amazing about Owen is that he's always thinking of other people. Before his last surgery, his main concern was bringing coloring books for the other kids. Most people would be feeling scared and hiding away—but not Owen. He was thinking about helping others. He loves his friends. He loves his teachers. He loves everyone. He's always been like that. He first learned to read by reading for residents at a local nursing home. And when he was six years old, he saved up all his money to buy a donut, but then gave it to a street musician on the way to the store. Recently he held a toy drive for the Ronald McDonald House—which is his favorite place. The last time we stayed there, he noticed they didn't have any Legos in the magic room. And he wanted to fix that. I was hesitant at first, because Legos are expensive, but Owen was determined. He organized everything himself. He asked everyone he knew: his friends, his family, his teachers. Even the lunch lady left a package of Legos on our porch. When everything was finished, Owen had collected over fifty different sets. And we know that made a lot of kids very happy."

#quarantinestories



## Personal Reflection



### IBPA thanks Lynn: 8-year Executive Director of IBPA

The International Bullying Prevention Association was founded in 2003. While the board was filled with novel ideas and an unmatched energy to combine their expertise and create something impactful, they needed someone with the skills to grow IBPA's reach and following - that, is where Lynn Lonsway stepped in.

When Nicolette Granata, IBPA's Communications Coordinator, joined the team in 2018, she recalls being "baffled" by "how many hats Lynn was able to wear on a daily basis"...genuinely surprised that someone with such an extensive background in event planning and non-profit functions could also be so engaged in each and every article, every webinar, that IBPA produced, shared, or published.

"Lynn was an inspiring example of someone who always went so far beyond their job description", says Granata. "The level of care she demonstrated for IBPA's values, mission, and team always matched, if not surpassed, the drive she put into the logistics of the IBPA we know and love today."

If you take a look around IBPA's website (<https://ibpaworld.org>), you'll see the fruits of Lynn's labor on every page. From expansive newsletters to inspiring webinar series, the sheer number of quality resources available to communities today through IBPA wouldn't be possible without Lynn's willingness and excitement to work with the IBPA board/team - to never stop growing and changing for the better.

"Over the past eight years, our conferences grew tremendously - becoming more professionally run and far-reaching while still maintaining that personal touch that Lynn did best", says Beth Yohe, President of the IBPA Board. "From increasing parent and educator resources to establishing long-lasting, ground-breaking international partnerships, IBPA would simply not be what it is today without the leadership of Lynn Lonsway."

We know many of you have been touched by Lynn's leadership and friendship over the past eight years, as well. Thank you, Lynn, and the best of luck in your next chapter.

## Announcements

### Webinar Series

IPBA is thrilled to announce our upcoming webinar series, sponsored by Microsoft. All webinars are free to register for and will take place using Zoom software. Join some of the most inspiring professionals in the anti-bullying field and gain insight into new, pressing issues. The topics and dates are as follows:

1. **Compassion in a Crisis: How can we help students build SEL skills while serving others during COVID-19?** June 30
2. **Digital Tips** July 29
3. **School Culture + School Climate = Safer Schools** August 21
4. **Bystanders: That's ME!** September 23
5. **It's Imperative! Headline to homework - sustainable ways to keep current events in the classroom** October 20

For descriptions of the webinars, times, and registration links, please visit <https://www.ibpaworld.org/webinars-upcoming>

### No 2020 fall conference

Due to current events, there will be NO annual in-person conference this year. In addition to our webinar series, please stay tuned for information on additional online programming.

International Bullying Prevention Association

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