Bullying & Cyberbullying: A Community Concern

Remember these names? They all have something in common.
Do you know what it is?

Jade Prest, age 16, became a prisoner in her own home, even contemplated suicide in 2006

Jaheem Herrera, 11 years old, committed suicide after repeated bullying in 2009

Megan Meier committed suicide after she was victimized by an Internet Hoax in 2006

Michael Johnson, age 13 and Andrew Golden, age 11 who in 1998 reacted by bringing guns to school and shot classmates and teachers

These are all youth who experienced acute and chronic ostracism, bullying and cyberbullying, feeling rejection, depression and fear. All of them interacted with people just like us – like you and me – who missed the signs of impending disaster.

The AAUW Napa County Cyberbullying Taskforce seeks to educate and empower administrators, teachers and parents through **FREE** presentations and workshops on bullying and cyberbullying. A **coalition** between the AAUW Napa County Branch and Napa Valley School District has been forged to work on these critical issues.

Training Goals:

- Raise **awareness** about and address prevailing attitudes toward **bullying** with emphasis on the more recent phenomenon of **cyberbullying**.
- Provide information, training, and resources to the community including administrators, teachers, and parents regarding **recognition** of bullying and cyberbullying effects on students.
- Provide administrators, teachers, parents and students with **coping strategies** in order to decrease the occurrences and combat the harmful **impact** of cyberbullying.

We know the program will be successful if the results of the Napa County California Healthy Kids Survey of Fall 2014 regarding harassment/mean rumors and sexual comments mirror the Fall 2008 Survey, Feeling Safe at School category.

The task force is available to come to your school or organization in order to present this critical information. If interested please contact Sallyann Berendsen at 256-3894 or sallyannber@yahoo.com. Refer to our website under "Projects" at www.aauwnapa.org.