

PARENTING

Family Events

● **SAT. AUG. 11** — Scottish games and Celtic festival: Long Branch Park, Liverpool; competitive events begin 9 a.m.; bagpipe bands, dancing and drumming competition, food, entertainment, ceilidh 6-9 p.m.; adults \$8, seniors \$6, ages 8-14 \$3, under 8 free; call Betsy Buchanan 315/252-5876, John MacNeill 607/749-6624, visit www.crissoke.com.

● **AUG. 11, 18, 25** — Nature walks with naturalist Bob Cooper; Cumming Nature Center, 6472 Gulick Rd., Naples, 11 a.m., 2 p.m.; adults \$4, seniors \$3, students K-12 \$1.50; 716/374-6160.

● **AUG. 11, 18, 25** — Walking tour of downtown Rochester, meet at City Hall, 30 Church St., Rochester; tour local and natural history sites; noon-12:50 p.m., 4:45-6 p.m.; \$5; Mariana Rhoades 716/271-7368.

● **TUE. AUG. 14** — Comedy: Ted Perkins and Jim Kerina "Boomerang Club"; Kate Gleason Auditorium, Bausch and Lomb Public Library Bldg., 115 South Ave., Rochester, 11 a.m.; free; 716/428-8150.

● **THU. AUG. 16** — Concert: "RPO Marmals Band"; Sagawa Park, Main St., Brockport, 7 p.m.; free; 716/637-9984.

● **FRI. AUG. 17** — *Dead Kids in the Park*: 19th Century Festival; Sagawa Park, Main St., Brockport, 7-8 p.m.; free; 716/637-9984.

● **SAT. AUG. 18** — *Dramas: A Circle of Friends: An Abolitionist's Tour of Mt. Hope Cemetery in 1860*; relive Rochester's Underground Railroad involvement during the tense days before the Civil War; North Gate House, Mt. Hope Cemetery, 791 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester, 10, 11:30 a.m.; \$10 adults, \$5 children 8-18; adults and children ages 8 and up, reservations recommended; 716/271-4552, ext. 342.

● **AUG. 20-24** — *Workshops: "Dance! Science! Flight!"*, experience motion and flight through dance and hands-on fun; ages 7-10 with an adult; Ballrooms, Esplanade Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center, 657 East Ave., Rochester, 10 a.m. noon; \$5/child with adult non-member; to register call 716/271-4552, ext. 342.

● **THRU AUG. 31** — *Summer Science: interactive science demos*; Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Ave., Rochester, Mon-Fri, 10, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., Sat, 11 a.m., 1, 2 p.m.; free with museum admission; 716/271-4552, ext. 342.

● **THRU SEP. 3** — *Film festival: "Ring of Fire"*; view the great circle of volcanoes and seismic activity that rings the Pacific Ocean; RMSC Strasenburgh Planetarium, 657 East Ave., Rochester, 2, 4 p.m. daily; 8:15 p.m. Tues-Sat; adults \$6; students/seniors \$4; 716/271-1880.

● **THRU SEP. 3** — *Kaleidoscope*; art studio on wheels; Strong Museum, One Manhattan Sq., Rochester, Mon-Thurs, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun, noon-5 p.m.; free; 716/263-2700.



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Crista Curry, 7, glues a block of wood onto her art project during St. Anne's Day Camp in Palmyra July 27.

Looking for a laugh



(Left) Zach Coyne, 7, tries to make Kevin Valade, 7, laugh during a game at the camp. Kevin would then have to move to the middle of the campers' circle.

Bullies should be taken seriously, says expert

By Jeanne Kidera
Editorial intern

Bullies and their victims make up only about 15 percent of any school population. Yet the frustrating question for many teachers and parents is how do you effectively deal with that 15 percent.

Rochester and Syracuse diocesan educators learned how to do just that through "No-Bullying Program" workshops sponsored by the Catholic School Office of the Diocese of Syracuse and led by Carol Marshall June 25 and 28 at a BOCES campus in East Syracuse.

The Diocese of Rochester schools were invited to take part and strongly encouraged staff to attend as part of the "Safe School" effort throughout the diocese and the state to examine and improve school safety levels, according to Sister of St. Joseph Stephanie Riley, principal of Rochester's Sacred Heart School, who attended the workshops with three members of her staff.

Participants were taught to implement the No-Bullying Program in their schools. Sacred Heart School, for example, plans to first train the teachers and acquaint them with the materials, Sister Riley said. Then parents will be made aware of what will be taught in the classroom.

The program is based on the bullying behavior research collected over the past 20 years by Dr. Dan Olweus of the University of Bergen, Norway, known as the "founding father" of programs on bullying and victimization. The program was developed by Dr. Beverly B. Tittle, a founder of Teaching Peace, a nonprofit agency which aims, in part, at "eliminating violence through school, parent, and community education."

Marshall, a State Education Department teacher trainer and program designer, said the "bullies will be bullies" mind-set has gone too far, and "if not addressed ... could lead to violent behavior."

Marshall said clear definitions are crucial in understanding bullying. She explained that bullying "inflicts or threatens to inflict physical or emotional injury or discomfort on another's body, feelings, possession or reputation." There is an "imbalance of power and strength be-

tween youth that is intentional and repeated over a long period of time."

Peer violence, however, is an "act of violence stemming from a disagreement, misunderstanding or conflict of desires among youth equally matched in strength and power" and happens quickly.

Marshall maintained that in bullying, even eye-rolling can progress to different degrees, such as name-calling, which aren't necessarily always seen as violent. But "if the bullies are tolerated at one level, they will go to the next," she said.

"They thrive on power and have very little compassion," she said. Someplace in their life they've seen this behavior or attitude, she added, and learned it.

Marshall explained how hard this can be on children being bullied, saying that some miss the bus or don't want to go to lunch because of the fear of being bullied.

Marshall said it is important to encourage the victim to report what happens. "If they know they are going to get punched because a bully wants their bookbag, I tell them to give the bully their bookbag and report it. If a bully wants a child to do their homework for them, they should do the bully's homework and report it."

She said the administration needs to know the difference between telling and tattling, or "ratting," which is done for attention and to gain power. The program warns not to be too quick to rescue a victim, but to get all the facts first and to take it seriously.

"The victim needs to vent and be given the skills to face the bully and deal with it," Marshall said. "Students need to be protected. They need strong administrative support."

Involve the youth in activities and ex-

periences that will offer "success and accomplishment" away from the bully. The adult should be there to support the youth and "advocate for a positive community/school zero tolerance response to bullying behavior."

However, zero tolerance does not involve abandoning the bully.

"You need to give the bully opportunities to feel powerful without harming others," Marshall said, adding that "the more related a youth is in community activities and extracurriculars, the less likely they are to be violent."

Advice for teachers, administrators, parents and caregivers included:

- Do not attempt peer mediation. "Peer mediation works for peer violence, but not bullying." Victims can benefit from an assertive communication program, as can the general school population.

- Do not suggest that the victim walk away from or ignore the bully. This "may be perceived as an insult or a put-down to the victim who has tried this attempt and failed. ... The victim cannot ignore the bully unless the whole system supports them ..."

- Do not encourage the victim to stand up and fight back. This could invite more trouble.

When asked if there is a difference between bullying today and in the past, Marshall said, "Children have learned violent behavior through media, and that's what's different. ... Different things are coming into the home and there's a different family structure."

"Bullying behavior has always been there," she said. "It's what's being done about it that's changed."

Wegmans DVD now available at select stores

Your home for family entertainment!
try the convenience of...

5* DAY RENTALS
on every movie or game in the store, including new releases!

*3 Day rentals on Popular Hit and Catalog only at Coming store

Do You Have School Age Children?
Would Your Child Benefit From a Full Day Kindergarten?
BATES-RICH BEGINNINGS CHILD CARE
Now offers Full Day Kindergarten for younger 5 year olds or children who are ready for a longer school day.
Smaller groups foster early development of Kindergarten skills!
In addition to our wrap program for grades 1 to 3, Bates-Rich has added a wrap program exclusively for older children in grades 3-5!
We also offer wrap care for children in kindergarten thru Grade 5.
Call 244-3650 for details or enrollment information!
Accredited Center, Registered NYS Dept. of Education.