

Presentations by Bill Belsey

Bio: <http://is.gd/J8iSSa> Photo: <http://is.gd/ckfSE0>

"My Classroom is Wired, NOW What?" (90 minutes approx.)

(Celebrating the best of what can be done with technology in classrooms)

Billions of dollars have been spent putting computers in classrooms and connecting them to the Internet with much hyperbole as to how this would transform teaching and learning. In many cases, the reality has not lived up to the hype. This presentation, public educator and ICT pioneer Bill Belsey, will tackle this question head-on by offering many practical and exciting examples as to what a truly connected classroom looks like. This unforgettable presentation will share a wealth of classroom-based project ideas, free world-class learning resources and a broad and inspiring vision as to how the innovative use of information technologies CAN support and enhance teaching and learning in ways that were previously unimaginable. This presentation will draw heavily upon the work of Mr. Belsey's own class, see www.coolclass.ca or you can Google "Canada's Coolest Class and then click on "I'm Feeling Lucky!"

"An Introduction to iEARN or Change the World 101" (90 minutes approx.)

In this session, noted educator and former Executive Director of iEARN-Canada, Bill Belsey will introduce participants to iEARN, the International Education and Resource Network, (www.learns.org). iEARN is the world largest and longest-running k-12 global learning network of over one million teachers and students in over 125 countries who share a common vision of 'Connecting Youth and Making a Difference' and the wonderful learning opportunities that this global family of learners offers Canadian teachers and students. Our educational systems have spent billions of dollars putting computers, Internet access and other various information and communication technologies (ICTs) into our schools. Now many people are beginning to ask critical questions about how ICTs should best be used to support teaching and learning. iEARN is a world-class example of how to best answer the question, "Our Schools are Wired, now what?" Make a difference through iEARN, that's what!

"From Banned to Planned or PDA's, iPods and phones -Oh My!" (120 minutes approx.)

This presentation will examine the current attitude that many schools and school divisions have towards cell phones, iPods and PDAs. The presentation will also look at the various issues and challenges that come into play as educators wrestle with the pros and cons of various handheld computing devices. Mr. Belsey will also explore the potential of these MLTs (Mobile Learning Technologies -Mr. Belsey's term) in supporting teaching and learning through classroom-based examples from around the world. Related Websites in development by Mr. Belsey:

<http://www.m-learning.ca> and <http://digitaldance.edublogs.org>

"21st Century Learning: Hype or Hope?" (90 minutes approx.)

This presentation will look beyond the hype of "21st Century learning" and examine how information and communication technologies can be best utilized to support teaching and learning through the creation of authentic learning experiences

“Neitzenship: Getting Real in a Virtual Age” (90 minutes approx.)

This presentation will raise issues like cyberbullying, sexting etc. It will strive to dispel some of the myths about these issues, discourage fear-mongering about youth and the Internet that often appears in media. I will present factual research and make suggestions about what parents and educators can do to address these issues in positive, proactive and concrete ways based upon many years as a parent and classroom teacher who has been an early adopter of technology for over thirty years.

“Cyberparenting 101” (120 minutes approx.)

Today’s parents are now faced with many new and serious challenges that were not experienced by previous generations.

This very engaging and eye-opening multimedia presentation by Bill Belsey, a Cochrane parent, educator and President of Bullying.org, will explore emerging issues facing today’s youth and their parents such as cyberbullying, sexting, digital identities and more.

Mr. Belsey will help parents understand what it is like to grow up as part of the “Always-on Generation” today. He will explore some of the more serious issues they face and he will offer suggestions as to how parents might begin to more effectively help their children learn to not only be safe, but thrive in an increasingly digital, networked world.

“It’s Cool to Care” for elementary age children (kindergarten–grade 3) 30 - 45 minutes approx.

This engaging multimedia presentation helps younger children understand the nature and causes of bullying behaviours by addressing the questions most-asked about bullying such as, What is Bullying? Why do people bully? What did I do wrong (What did I do to deserve being bullied)? What can I do if I am being bullied? What should I do if I am bullying others? What should I do if I see others being bullied? Why should I care about bullying? What can I/we do to help? This presentation helps children develop empathy and understanding about the issue of bullying and its affects through the sharing of age-appropriate personal stories, poetry, drawings, music and video from children around the world. The presentation asks students and teachers to take the Bullying.org and Family Channel anti-bullying pledge.

“BE the Change” for middle school students grades 4- 9, 90 minutes approx.

This dynamic multimedia presentation challenges students to “BE the change” and play a part in changing attitudes and actions towards bullying by changing the culture in their schools. The presentation explores this issue as seen by contemporary pop/rock stars who share their own personal stories and feelings about how bullying has negatively affected their lives and others. The presentation will share facts about the nature, extent and effects of bullying on individuals and groups based upon current world-class research. The presentation explores the consequences of the actions (or lack of action) on the part of bullies, victims, bystanders and school-community adult leaders. The presentation will share examples of how others across Canada and around the world are “Being the Change” in their own schools and communities.

This presentation helps young people develop empathy and understanding about the issue of bullying and its affects through the sharing of age-appropriate personal stories, poetry, drawings, music and video from their peers around the world.

“Cyberbullying, An Emerging Threat to the ‘Always On’ Generation” (120 minutes –approx.)

“Cyberbullying is a rapidly emerging form of immoral, antisocial behaviour that presents new and sometimes frightening challenges to parents, teachers, and others committed to the education and wellbeing of our children and youth. Bill Belsey's www.cyberbullying.ca project brings the nature and scope of this behaviour into sharp focus. I will use this site as the primary cyberbullying reference site for my work with teachers. It is a much needed child of its widely used parent site, www.bullying.org,” said Dr. William Egnatoff, Professor, Computers in Education, at the Faculty of Education of Queen’s University.

The project, initiated by noted Canadian educator Bill Belsey, was created because he observed that cyberbullying has become a huge problem in other parts of the world, where mobile phones and other telecommunications tools are more deeply embedded in youth culture. www.cyberbullying.ca is the very first Web site in the world to address the issue of cyberbullying specifically. “I think that we have a window of opportunity to try and be more proactive and raise awareness about this issue through education. Unfortunately, cyberbullying is already becoming a larger issue in the lives of young people every day”, observes Belsey.

This multimedia presentation offers a formal definition of cyberbullying, information about how cyberbullying might be prevented, strategies and resources for those who are currently dealing with cyberbullying in their lives, facts and related news about today’s “Always On” society. It also offers an introduction to what Belsey calls “cyberslang”. “This ‘Always On’ generation has something akin to their own language that they use to communicate with each other. This includes the use of many acronyms, abbreviations and emoticons. Adults who see such messages on a child’s cell phone, might not even know that they are being cyberbullied”, advises Belsey.

“Virtual World – Real Consequences” –by Bill Belsey (90 Minutes –approx.)

Young people today are growing up in a time when they have always had access to the Internet, computers, mobile phones and other information and communication technologies (ICTs). American writer and researcher Marc Prensky calls them “Digital Natives”. Mr. Belsey refers to them as the “Always-on Generation”.

While the “Always-on Generation” may understand how to use these new ICTs with strong technical ability in cyberspace, they are often quite unaware of the real world consequences that their online behaviours and actions may have for others and for their own lives in the real world.

This presentation will use real-life stories and examples to help young people understand that their actions and behaviours online DO have real impacts on others and “What you say on the Internet, you can’t take back.”

The presentation will address issues such as privacy, personal safety identity theft, and cyberbullying and more, in an effort to have young people think before they post. This deeply engaging and at times emotional multimedia presentation will give youth, and those who care for them, much food for thought and topics for discussion and subsequent follow-up action to help them learn to think about the consequences of online behaviours.

“Bullying.org, A Learning Journey” –one version of this presentation is for educators and another is intended for parents and community groups, each 90 minutes approx.

This gripping 90-minute multimedia presentation by www.bullying.org's creator, Bill Belsey, will share a personal and professional learning journey about bullying that has led to the creation of www.bullying.org, the multiple award-winning, number one bullying-related Website in the world. Peter Mansbridge, anchor of the CBC National News, referred to www.bullying.org as “One of the best Web sites in the world for children.”

This presentation will challenge traditional attitudes about bullying held by many adults as Mr. Belsey shares his own personal and professional experiences and mistakes in dealing with bullying. He will share some of the world's best research about the issue of bullying and will discuss the implications that this research has upon the creation of anti-bullying policies and the implementation of effective anti-bullying programs.

Mr. Belsey will also offer concrete suggestions as to how schools and communities can work together to address bullying as a community issue that is based upon the work he has initiated in his home town of Cochrane, Alberta, the world's first community to officially proclaim itself “Striving to be bully-free.”

“Striving to Be Bully-free”

This important 90-minute multimedia presentation by www.bullying.org's creator, Bill Belsey, will share the story of one community who was featured nationally by CBC's “The National” as it became the first in Canada to formally proclaim itself as “Striving to be Bully-free’.

Mr. Belsey will share the success, and challenges that Cochrane, Alberta experienced as it “Strives to be Bully-free.”

This presentation will challenge traditional attitudes about bullying held by many adults as Mr. Belsey shares his own personal and professional experiences and mistakes in dealing with bullying. He will share some of the world's best research about the issue of bullying and will discuss the implications that this research has upon the addressing bullying as a community issue and not simply defining bully as a “school problem” as we have often done in the past.

Mr. Belsey will also offer concrete suggestions as to how communities can work together to address bullying as a community issue that is based upon the work he has initiated in his home town of Cochrane, Alberta, the world's first community to officially proclaim itself “Striving to be bully-free.”