Oehrlein, Sandro shine at national meet

Georgetown's Ryan Oehrlein (left) earned five medals—including two of the gold variety—at the recent Canadian Gymnastics Championships in Ottawa. The 14-year-old member of the Milton-based Gold Medal Gymnastics club placed first on the rings and parallel bars in the HP Tyro Men category and finished third in the vault and horizontal bar to pick up an overall bronze

medal result. Oehrlein collected four medals at last year's nationals in Saskatoon. Gold Medal teammate David Sandro (right), also of Georgetown, was sixth overall in the HP Argo Men division, finishing second on the vault and in a tie for third on rings.

Photos by Bob Oehrlein



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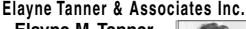


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Our community has again lost a child to suicide as a result of bullying Do you have any insights on this topic?

As defined by the NASW, bullying is the intentional and repeated use of A actions and words designed to intimidate or hurt another person. Bullying can be verbal, physical, or nonverbal/nonphysical. Examples of verbal bullying include teasing, taunting, name-calling, and spreading rumors. Hitting, kicking, shoving, and destroying property are types of physical bullying. Threatening or obscene gestures are non-verbal/non-physical types of bullying. Now with technology, bullying often occurs online or through use of personal mobile phones to text, email, or send an instant messages.

Bullying is an imbalance of power and characterized by intentionally aggressive behavior. While bullying happens at all ages it has become even more prevalent in teens using technology to taunt others, frequently on issues related to sexual behaviours. Furthermore, we now see the term used to identify unacceptable behaviours in the workplace as well as in situations of domestic

Bullying is often defended as "just teasing". Whereas teasing is done to irritate or provoke another with persistent distractions or other annoyances, bullying is intentionally hurtful and demeaning. If your child is being bullied make sure that you and the school staff understand the difference between teasing and bullying. If it is bullying, advocate immediately and resolutely on behalf of your child. Ensure that the school policies are clear to all and that the rules are enforced. Do not accept any minimization of the behaviour as an excuse

Ensure that you have open communication with your child so that if they or another child are being bullied, they can tell you about it. Listen in a nonjudgmental way and do not blame the victim by asking how they caused it. Make sure that your child knows that the behaviour is wrong and unacceptable. Encourage the school to talk to the person who is doing the bulling to make sure he or she knows what behavior is wrong, why it's wrong, and what the consequences are for engaging in the behavior. Lead by example. Do not allow bullying behaviour to exist within your home between spouses or (step) siblings. Home and school should be a safe place for everyone

Do not tolerate oppressive behaviours. Wherever you see it, whether at home, school, or in the workplace, speak out against harassment and bullying. We must all encourage an environment that is free of intimidation, discrimination and bias

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Gum, or periodontal, disease is a serious business. It's made even more dangerous by the fact that it is often painless. It is caused by plaque. This sticky film produces toxins which can damage the gums. As a parent, you should make it a point to check your children's teeth periodically for the signs of gum disease. Look for redness, tenderness and swelling at the gumline. Diseased gums bleed easily and may lead to persistent bad breath and loose teeth.

Encourage your child to brush at least twice daily. Flavoured children's toothpaste can help encourage this habit. Teach your children to floss regularly, it's possible even at young ages. Model a good diet by balancing it with a broad variety of foods and placing limits on sweets and between meal

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