

# BULLY

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dures," she said. "I have been called in after the policies have failed and something tragic has happened. Further, there needs to be programming in place to reinforce the policy."

Coloroso stressed that the chances of a child being either the bullied or the bully are far less likely than they are going to be a bystander. She has defined several roles they may take, including a defender, a follower, a supporter, disengaged onlooker — but they will be involved.

"It is a tragedy, but what we need to do is teach children how to change the script," she said. "The school building needs to be safe harbor for every child walking through the doors. I tell kids when I talk to them, 'You don't have to like every student in the building, because you won't.

Some of them are weird, dorky or odd. But you must honor their humanity."

She stressed that if a child learns to recognize that every person is unique with their own gifts, it will go along way to eliminate the hate that creates a bully.

"I want every student to know they can stand up and walk away (from a bully) even if they are in a classroom," Coloroso said. "They need to get out of the abusive situation — draw a line to protect themselves. Additionally, they need to know that we are there to help them; they don't have to handle it alone. To do that, we need to give them tools."

An example Coloroso used during the teacher training was how to handle a bully in a classroom setting. She said the first step is identifying bullying when it is happening.

"(Once I identify bullying), I stop in my tracks, walk over to the child and say 'No. Not here. Not ever. This is safe harbor for every student that

walks through those doors. That was mean. That was cruel.' Then I go back to teaching," she said. "A few minutes later, I call on that student, so he is not ostracized either. At the end of class, I will tell the class what the assignment is and I will say, 'Oh, by the way, Johnny, we are not done yet. We need to talk.'"

From there, she will work with the student and have them go through the steps of restorative justice: restitution, resolution and reconciliation.

"I will tell him that I want to see the plan by noon and to not dare target the victim," she added. "I have said without saying a word to the target that I am here for you. Later in the day, I will go up to the target and say, 'What he said to you was terrible it had to hurt.' Many times the person will say, 'Oh, that is nothing unusual. I get it all the time. What can I do?'"

From there, she said, kids must be given the tools to protect themselves.

"We need to help our children learn the difference between telling and tattling, reporting and ratting, recognizing the difference between taunting and teasing; we don't handle the two the same way," she said. "If I have utter contempt for you as a human being, we are in trouble. There is no resolving that, because I have attacked you."

Based on her experiences around the world, Coloroso said that it is a short walk from hate crimes to genocide because, once you hate, there is no humanity left.

"Bullying is not a concept. Flirting and sexual bullying are not the same," she said. "Taunting is one-sided. It is to get everyone to laugh at you. It is sinister and it continues when you are hurt. Teasing is innocent in motive. If everyone is laughing and one kid is crying, you are taunting, not teasing. It is not as fine a line between the two as you think."

Coloroso said that once school districts, parents and stu-

dents are all on the same page and are all using the same verbiage and language when talking about bullying, misconceptions will go away.

"There is unwanted teasing and unwanted flirting, but you are not going to sue for sexual harassment for unwanted teasing," she said. "Things that horrify you — snapping a bra, unwanted touches — never started as teasing. They were always unwanted sexual taunts."

"When I have been to school shootings — and I have been to far too many — the kids will say he was a loser, he was weird, we teased him a lot. I will say, 'No, no, no, you taunted him.' We need to use the right language. Teasing keeps marriages together. We need to be able to tease, taunting is not acceptable."

Coloroso said that parents can go online to get the information she gave the teachers as guidelines at [www.kidsareworthit.com](http://www.kidsareworthit.com).

## Tropical Storm Danielle Forms In The Atlantic

MIAMI (AP) — Tropical Storm Danielle has formed in the Atlantic, but the system is still far from land.

Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center in Miami said Sunday that Danielle had maximum sustained winds of 40 mph (65 kph) and the storm is expected to strengthen over the next couple of days.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Frank developed in the Pacific off Mexico, and storm warnings have been issued for parts of the coast.

Forecasters said the storm had maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kph). It was about 130 miles (205 km) south-southeast of Puerto Angel, Mexico. It was moving west at 8 mph (13 kph).

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