

## Bullying and Parenting

The School City of Hobart welcomes Susan Magestro, Magestro & Associates, to Hobart to enlighten parents, teachers, and students about “Who’s Running The House?” and “The Many Faces of Bullying.”

Susan Magestro is a criminologist with an education background. Ms. Magestro consults with parents, teachers, and students in the areas of high risk behaviors, victims of bullying, physical violence and anger, gang violence, minors, anger, reality visualization of consequences, and techniques parents can use with out-of-control teens.

Susan Magestro visited the School City of Hobart in January. Many of her clients have been bullies or victims of bullies. Her knowledge of bullying and juvenile crimes was shared with parents, teachers and students across the School City of Hobart.

### FOR STUDENTS:

Ms. Magestro met with the fourth and fifth grade students at Joan Martin and discussed bullying at the elementary school level. She explained the **difference between teasing and bullying**. A bully will often try to use the, “I was just teasing,” defense when confronted by an adult. However, Ms. Magestro explained that it is only teasing if both people think the behavior is funny. If only one thinks it is funny, then it is bullying.

She also explained the **“door of anger.”** She stated that each of us has a door that helps us keep our behaviors in check. However, some people have many problems at home and at school that cause them to become angry. Over time, as bad things happen, these angry feelings begin building up and then one day, with maybe one seemingly small incident, the “door of anger” bursts open and the person blows up.

Ms. Magestro explained that we sometimes unknowingly cause others to build up their “door of anger” and

challenged each student to be careful with their words and to be kind to each other.

This message was perfect for the Joan Martin students because our Team Lead students are now promoting Purple Put-Ups. Each student caught giving a put-up or helping out someone will be given purple ticket and be included in drawings for prizes.

### FOR PARENTS:

Ms. Magestro also spoke to parents in two workshops about **“Who’s Running The House”** and **“The Many Faces of Bullying.”** She emphasized how important it is for parents to stay in tune with our children and with what our children are doing. She gave all the parents the permission to invade our children’s privacy and make sure we know what they are doing. One of the key components of juvenile criminals is that no one knew what they were doing or intervened to stop their behaviors.

Ms. Magestro advocated for parents to spend quality time with their children. Some ideas to do together: eat dinner, watch T.V. and movies, play games, sit and talk, etc. Her point was that if we are involved in our child’s lives we will know when troubled things may be happening.

She also reminded parents that we pay for our child’s home and we must be in charge and set limits. If a child is not being respectful of our home and the people who live there, it is our responsibility to take away privileges and become even more involved. It is not the child’s home and we are in charge. She also reminded us that children actually want us to be involved in their lives and they want limits. Setting limits at home will help your child adapt to rules and limits at school and in the world.

### FOR SCHOOL STAFF:

Ms. Magestro focused on bullying behaviors and the realities of the domains in the life of a youth. The domains would include family, peers, school, media, community and religion. Ms. Magestro explained the realities of school shooters in each domain. For example, school shooters typically practice shooting guns using video games, not real guns. Also every school shooter told a friend about his/her plans.

Ms. Magestro helped the School City of Hobart staff think about bullying behaviors and the effect they can have on a community.