

**Family Newsletter**

September 2015



Karen Ann Hoffman

**Join us for the 10th Annual UNITED Conference, September 20-24, 2015**

UNITED, uniting neighbors in the experience of diversity, is celebrating its 10th anniversary. All presentations and events are free and open to the public. Here are a few of the keynote speakers. Most events are being held in the Don H. Bottum University Center at NMU. For a full and final listing of dates and times please visit [www.nmu.edu/united](http://www.nmu.edu/united)

**Ginny Hawker and Tracy Schwartz**

Appalachian music

**Sook Wilkinson**

Stories of the people featured in her book, *Asian Americans in Michigan*

**Harry Bradshaw Matthews**

Development of the African American Identity during the Pre-Civil War Years and Its Affect Upon the Building of Common Ground Reference Points for the Discussion of Race and Greater Diversity in America

**Chris Mosier**

The first transgender man inducted into the National Gay and Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame

**David Williams**

He will share what he’s learned about conflict resolution since his NMU student protest days

**Holly Barcus**

She will share her research on ethnic minority migration and rural livelihood sustainability

**Cathy Bao Bean**

A humorous presentation on the “chopsticks-fork principle”

**Terry Rodenberg**

Desegregation of baseball and the history of Negro leagues

**Vasu Primlani**

Lesbian standup comedian from India

**Alexandra Fuller**

A discussion of growing up white in Zimbabwe

**Karen Ann Hoffman**

Iroquois raised beadwork discussion. Her work will be displayed in the Student Art Gallery

**Charles Wallace**

A Fulbright Experience in Chile

**Allison Hobgood**

She will discuss the role of disability studies in higher education

**Word Power**

Here are 12 of the words that you and your students should know by the time they graduate. These are from the list of 100 words every high school graduate should know by the editors of the *American Heritage Dictionary*.

1. *Abrogate*-(verb) a) annul, b) tear up, c) set on fire
2. *Chicanery*—(noun) a) place where Cheerios are made b) of Mexican heritage c) trickery or deception
3. *Enervate*—(verb) a) to bite b) to weaken c) to drown
4. *Fatuous*—(adjective) a) unintelligent b) hairy c) over weight
5. *Irony*—(noun) a) humor based on opposites b) a pod of whales c) sturdy
6. *Lugubrious*—(adverb) a) heavy b) gloomy c) full of water
7. *Notarize*—(verb) a) paint white b)certify legally c) famous
8. *Plagiarize*—(verb) a) copy something from other person’s work b) color outside the lines

c) worship a flag

1. *Respiration—*(noun) a) giving CPR b) breathing c) hanging clothes outside on the line
2. *Subjugate*—(verb) a) spank b) underground parking lot c) force into submission
3. *Winnow*—(verb) a) remove chaff from grain b) sew together c) baby cradle
4. *Xenophobe*—(noun)a) person afraid of the dark b) person afraid of Zombies c) person afraid of what is foreign, especially foreign people

Answers on page 4.

**Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver information**

You can use your Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver (MITW) at Northern Michigan University. Generally, you must be enrolled in a degree seeking program. However, NMU has taken the stance of allowing people to use the waiver without enrolling in a degree. This means that you can sign up for just one class, if you want to, and you do not need to declare a specific area of study. So, if you are interested in taking a class in fly fishing, photography, Anishinaabe language, yoga, or biology, you can use your waiver to cover the cost of tuition. You are still responsible for any fees, lab costs, and books. The waiver only covers the cost of tuition.

It’s very easy to apply for your waiver. To be eligible for the MITW:

* You must be enrolled at one of Michigan’s public colleges or universities **AND**
* You must be ¼ or more Native American blood quantum as certified by your Tribal Enrollment Department **AND**
* You must be an enrolled member of a U.S. Federally-recognized Tribe as certified by your Tribal Enrollment Department **AND**
* You must be a legal resident of the state of Michigan for no less than 12 consecutive months.

The form is available at: <http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcr/MITWAPPLICATION-CR-602-revised_7-14-10_328137_7.pdf>

**Signs that your child might be a bully**

If your child exhibits these signs, he/she might be a bully:

* Positive views towards violence
* Often aggressive towards parents, teachers, and other adults
* A need to control and dominate others and situations
* Boy bullies tend to be physically stronger than their peers
* Girl bullies want to win at all costs, tend to be more dramatic, and have a “mean girl” streak
* Hot tempered, impulsive and easily frustrates
* Often tests limits and boundaries and breaks rules
* Good at talking their way out of difficult and tense situations
* Show little sympathy toward others who are bullied

If the school or another parent calls you to tell you your child has been bullying others, LISTEN. Although it is natural for students to be assertive at times, it is another thing when someone else feels intimidated or threatened because of your child’s behavior. Listen to what the other adults are telling you and talk to your child. There are always at least two sides to every story.

You do need to make it clear to your child that he/she will be punished and that this type of behavior will not be tolerated by you. They need to learn that name-calling, teasing, hitting, pushing, or starting rumors are wrong. Also let them know that you will help them to work on changing their behaviors. It might be helpful to have a follow-up conversation with your child’s teacher or the other adult who contacted you.

Work with your child to help him/her understand how the other person feels, to understand that words as well as physical actions can hurt. Ask them how they would feel/react if someone were bullying their younger sibling. Perhaps you would want to try a positive role play activity to help them to understand.

Additionally, your child might need counseling to learn how to behave properly, accept responsibility for their actions and learn how to form cohesive relationships with others. Counseling may help them to understand why they are behaving the way that they are and often times will help them sort out what the real underlying issue is. What is the source of your child’s anger? Is there something happening at school (or after school)? At home? Is he/she experiencing impulse control issues or anger issues?

Don’t automatically assume that you are a bad parent because of how your child behaved. When your child goes to school, they may behave totally different than they do at home. Make sure that you are being good role models at home. Treat other family members with respect. Remember, the closer your student gets to adulthood, the more they will be held accountable for their actions.

Sources: [www.care.com/a/gulp-what-to-do-when-your-child-is-the-bully-1108170408](http://www.care.com/a/gulp-what-to-do-when-your-child-is-the-bully-1108170408)

[www.stompoutbullying.org/index.php/information-and-resources/parents-page/tips](http://www.stompoutbullying.org/index.php/information-and-resources/parents-page/tips)



**WORD POWER ANSWER KEY**

**1 A 7 B**

**2 C 8 A**

**3 B 9 B**

**4 A 10 C**

**5 A 11 A**

**6 B 12 C**

Some students try to impersonate other students. They may post erotic or suggestive messages in a chatroom or give out your child’s address and phone number. Creative students invent a screen name that is very similar to another kid’s name, but adds or removes an extra vowel, and use this account to spread rumors or lies while posing as that person.

A cyberbully may gang up on a victim in a text war or text attack where they send hundreds of texts to the victim’s cell phone, resulting in a large cell phone bill and very angry parents. Other cyberbullies can send a virus to someone else’s computer which will allow it to take over the hard drive via remote control. Some cyberbullies will steal passwords and change your child’s profile or write racist, sexist, homophobic remarks and make it look like your child sent the message.

There used to be a time when, if a student were bullied at school, the bullying would stop when they got home. Now, through technology, that bullying could take place around the clock. The best defense you have as a parent is to maintain an open line of communication with your student to keep them safe.

Source: [www.stompputbullying.org/index.php/information-and-resources/parents-page/tip-sheet-how-understand-and-handle-cyberbullying](http://www.stompputbullying.org/index.php/information-and-resources/parents-page/tip-sheet-how-understand-and-handle-cyberbullying)

**Understanding and Addressing Cyberbullying**

When a kid of any age up to 18 is threatened, humiliated, harassed, or humiliated via use of technology—that is cyberbullying. It can take place via e-mail, cell phones, instant messaging, Instagram, Twitter, Snap Chat, web sites or on-line video games. Recent studies have shown that 36% of 12-17 year olds reported that someone said threatening or embarrassing things about them through email, instant message, web sites, chatrooms or text messages.

Things that parents can do to prevent cyberbullying include:

* Learn the internet yourself.
* Remind your child that if they wouldn’t say something to someone’s face, that they shouldn’t say it on-line either.
* You may want to install parental control filtering software on your computer to monitor your child. However, they can also have access through a phone with a data plan.

Talk with your student about the types of information they are sharing and sending via the internet. Remind them that once something is on the internet, it never really goes away.

You might want to ask your child to show you the messages they are receiving or the YouTube videos they are watching. Kids have been known to send other kids death threats or other hateful and threatening messages. Watch out for sexting (sex and texting) where they share nude photos of themselves or others. This is against the law and could result in arrest in some states.

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