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OMC Celebrates National Bullying Prevention Month

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan...With 16.8% of students indicating that they had been bullied 2-3 times a month or more often in the last couple of months there is no doubt that bullying in our schools is an epidemic. Kenzi Bisbing, Youth Services Manager at OMC, says that "It is critical that people understand the difference between teasing, fighting, and bullying." She adds that "when we don't understand the differences in these behaviors we may choose interventions that are more harmful than helpful."

PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center has designated October as Bullying Prevention Month. In recognition of this event, Oakland Mediation Center is educating the community on the difference between teasing, fighting, and bullying. This education is being done through an article titled "[Teasing, Fighting, Bullying...What's the difference?](#)" The article, which can be found at www.mediation-omc.org, defines bullying behavior and how people can differentiate bullying from teasing and fighting. The article also outlines what types of responses are appropriate depending on the behavior.

"We believe that the greatest impact OMC can have on our community is by preparing our youth for the future," said Bonnie Hanes, OMC Executive Director. "This is why we are committed to working with the community, families, and schools to address all aggressive behavior, including bullying."

Oakland Mediation Center is a private non-profit organization that has served the community since 1989 by providing mediation services for individuals, businesses, courts, schools and agencies; 40-hour Civil, Domestic and Advanced Mediator training as well as conflict resolution, peer mediation, bullying prevention/intervention, and restorative practices in schools. Visit OMC's web site at www.mediation-omc.org.

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