

Family Action Network (FAN), Carleton Washburne School, Central School (Glencoe), Character Counts! in Glenview, Highcrest Middle School, Joseph Sears School, Marie Murphy School, NTHS ECGC Parent Committee, New Trier High School D203, North Shore Academy, Sunset Ridge School, and Wilmette Junior High School present:

Emily Bazelon

Senior editor at *Slate*, contributing writer at *The New York Times Magazine*, and the Truman Capote Fellow at Yale Law School
Author, *Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy*

Wednesday, March 6, 2013 -- TWO EVENTS

4:00 PM (educators): "Let's Start Drama: Bullying and the Law"

7:00 PM (community): "Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying with Character and Empathy"

New Trier HS/Northfield Campus

Cornog Auditorium, 7 Happ Rd., Northfield

*Free and open to the public.
CPDUs available.
INFO: familyactionnetwork.net*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dee Fortson, FAN Communications Chair, jdfortson@sbcglobal.net

Wednesday, March 6, 2013, Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying with Character and Empathy, 7:00 PM, New Trier HS/Northfield, Cornog Auditorium, 7 Happ Rd., Northfield, 60093. In her just-released first book *Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy*, author and investigative reporter **Emily Bazelon** explores the shifting landscape of teenage cruelty and harassment and its sometimes devastating consequences. Bullying has changed in the Internet era: Social networking and texting have given kids new opportunities to be mean to each other—just as a series of teen suicides have been blamed on bullying. Parents who care deeply about understanding this milieu need to know what’s important to pay attention to, and what’s misleading hype. The latest research shows how the Internet does (and doesn’t) pose problems for kids, and offers clues about how adults can help. Other work offers important wisdom about teen suicide, both about the way cruelty from peers hurts vulnerable kids and about the danger of the oversimplified “bullying” narrative that often obscures important truth and complexity. Ms. Bazelon writes: “Character and empathy are the qualities I care most about instilling in my children. To me, the effort to prevent bullying isn’t primarily about punishment, and it’s definitely not about some kumbaya dream of the perfect childhood. It’s about learning how to make it through life’s rough patches, and how to help other people through them, too.”

Emily Bazelon is a senior editor at *Slate*, a contributing writer at *The New York Times Magazine*, a frequent guest on Comedy Central’s *The Colbert Report*, and the **Truman Capote Fellow for Creative Writing and Law** at **Yale Law School**. Before joining *Slate*, Ms. Bazelon was a Soros media fellow. She also worked as an editor and writer at *Legal Affairs* magazine and as a law clerk on the **U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit**. She is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School.

BONUS EVENT FOR EDUCATORS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS: Wednesday, March 6, 2013, Let’s Start Drama: Bullying and the Law, 4:00 PM, New Trier HS/Northfield, Cornog Auditorium, 7 Happ Rd., Northfield, 60093. Join **Emily Bazelon** as she brings her legal experience to bear on the issue of bullying in schools. Courts are splitting over whether schools have the authority to discipline students for what they post online, even if it’s cruel and directed toward another student, because it is off-campus speech. In this confusing landscape, what should schools and parents do? What about social network sites like Facebook—what kind of help in addressing online bullying should we ask of them? A second legal challenge for schools is protecting the rights of gay and gender-bending students from harassment. As issues of sexuality, masculinity, and femininity come into play, what are the best buffers for kids negotiating these boundaries? What expectations are the courts and government placing on schools? What can educators and parents do to help vulnerable students?

Sponsored by the **Family Action Network (FAN)**, Carleton Washburne School, Central School (Glencoe), Character Counts! in Glenview, Highcrest Middle School, Joseph Sears School, Marie Murphy School, NTHS ECGC Parent Committee, New Trier HS D203, North Shore Academy, Sunset Ridge School, and Wilmette Junior High School. **FAN is celebrating its 30th anniversary year**, and is grateful for its 2012-13 sponsors **Compass Health Center**, **North Shore Community Bank**, **The Book Stall at Chestnut Court**, **the Martin & Mary L. Boyer Foundation**, and **Tina & Byron Trott**. CPDUs available for education professionals at both events; no pre-registration required. This program is free and open to the public. Visit www.familyactionnetwork.net for more information.

