

# TANGLED BALL

PULLING OUT ONE STRAND, ONE PROBLEM AND ONE PERSPECTIVE AT A TIME...

## TANGLED BALL AWARDS! TO HONOR BULLYING PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

Featuring 31 Great Experts Untangling the Complicated Issue of Bullying Abuse One String At A Time

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

### First Tangled Ball Award Ever Goes To...Stan Davis!



Stan Davis deserves an award just for the title of his first book alone: *Schools Where Everyone Belongs*. Isn't that a beautiful concept? As a resource for schools, this book, co-authored with his daughter Julia, does not disappoint. It's hopeful and compassionate at the same time realistic and thoughtful. It gets to the heart of how kids really feel and not just how adults assume they feel.

Stan is a teacher, therapist, presenter/entertainer, researcher, activist and father.

Although soft spoken, his *International Bullying Prevention Association (IBPA)* workshops are standing room only. His presentation is built on real research, experience in the classroom and a genuine respect for teachers and kids. (And, yes, there really is an international conference where everyone gets together to try and figure this darn thing out!)

His second book, [Empowering Bystanders in Bullying Prevention](#), is awesome, too. Everyone's a bystander in one way or another. If everyone was taught to step in, a lot less kids would feel alone in their pain.

And one more thing to check out: [Youth Voice Project](#). Stan, along with another well-respected researcher, Dr. Charisse Nixon, had the brilliant idea of throwing out preconceived notions of what works and doesn't work in bullying prevention by asking kids themselves -- over 13,000 of them. Brilliant!! Check it out because the results are surprising.

In preparation for this post, Stan was kind enough to answer two questions:

### **What inspired you to devote your time and talents to bullying prevention?**

My time in the Civil Rights movement taught me two things: positive change is possible, and it comes when people work together. If everyone is doing positive things, no one person has to do it all. Gandhi said "Everything you do will seem unimportant. But it is very important that you do it." I just retired from counseling children after 41 years; during that time I learned over and over that small acts of kindness make a big difference, especially when a school is a place where those acts of kindness come from many adults and peers.

### **What has been the most satisfying aspect of your work?**

Seeing the Bean School where I worked for the last 18 years become a place where every student and every adult could count on support. Building a network of colleagues in this work who inspire and teach each other, including [Denise Koebcke](#), school librarian in Indiana who involved a majority of her middle school students in helping others, Wayne Sakamoto, the School safety officer in southern California who gets members of different High School cliques and gangs talking with each other, Dee Lindenberger in Michigan and Michelle MacPherson in New Brunswick, Canada, who empower youth to help each other, Chuck Saufler in Maine who integrates bullying prevention and

restorative justice, Stuart Green in New Jersey who organized a powerful statewide coalition for change, Celia Arriaga who has brought bullying prevention interventions to Latin America, and..... The list goes on.

I would also add the work Dr. Charisse Nixon and I are doing in surveying more than 13000 teens to bring their voices into this discussion.

Then I think of the abused child at my school who made all my and our work worthwhile by her summary of how she has become a strong, positive, kind person despite years of abuse and neglect. She said:"I bring the way school is home with me." I feel blessed to have been part of the work educators do in making schools places of healing, safety, and growth for all.

Standing ovations are hard to pull off online but you deserve one, Stan. Although, having met you several times, it's doubtful that you would consider that important.

*Who's tomorrow's winner?*

*Hint: One thing that Stan and tomorrow's featured expert have in common: they're both fathers.*

POSTED BY SRAISCH AT 7:30 AM

LABELS: BULLYING, BULLYING PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH, ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, HIGH SCHOOLS, MIDDLE SCHOOLS, PARENTING, STAN DAVIS, YOUTH VOICE PROJECT

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Tangled Ball has the experts covered but you can nominate someone who you think is making a difference in their own way. It can be kids, parents, teachers, coaches, aunts, uncles...you get the drift.

Go ahead. Give them a pat on the back -- by blog. Email your nominations to [thetangledball@gmail.com](mailto:thetangledball@gmail.com) or just scroll down the current post and click on "comments." Type away. You'll make their day in October.

## AN UPSTANDER IS...

## BLOG ARCHIVE

- ▼ 2010 (80)
  - ► October (2)
    - [The Bully Project](#)
    - [John Halligan: Telling Ryan's Story to Save Kids f...](#)
  - ▼ September (11)
    - [First Tangled Ball Award Ever Goes To...Stan Davis...](#)
    - [Who's Making A Difference...and Why?](#)
    - [Raising Champions](#)
    - [Parent Teacher Partnerships are Key to Bullying Pr...](#)
    - [When Parents Are Pushed to Protect Their Bullied Y...](#)
    - [Emotional Weight of Bullying on Overweight Kids](#)
    - [ONE and ZERO: A Perfect 10 in Bullying Prevention](#)
    - [Bullying: Why Kids Don't Tell an Adult](#)
    - [The Bully Project: Alex](#)
    - [National "Get Involved in Your Child's School" Day...](#)
    - [National Be Nice to the New Kid Day](#)
  - ► August (6)
    - [Bullying: Not Good For Grades](#)
    - [Bullying and the Secret Weapon: Parents](#)
    - [Bullying: Parents Need to Help Their Little Cupca...](#)

- Bullying: Demi Lovato is an UPSTANDER!
- Bullying Prevention: I Can See Every Single Kind o...
- Bullying: 86,400 Seconds In A Day To Do Something...
- ► July (16)
  - The Bully Project
  - ONE Day
  - Preparing for the 2010-2011 School Year
  - Jessi Slaughter: So Many Things Wrong With This Pi...
  - The Emotional Gymnastics of Bullying: Sometimes I...
  - More About Phoebe Prince
  - Dear Mr. President, Please Make Susie Stop Calling...
  - Top Ten Reasons Why Contracts Work
  - Parents Who Admit Their Kids Are Bullies Are Heroe...
  - Michael Angelakos of Passion Pit is an Upstander
  - Alex from The Bully Project: "Some Kids Get Enjoy...
  - Bullying: "Upstanders" are the Heroes
  - "What We All Want In Life Is A Shot": Bullying and...
  - The Bully Project: Alex
  - Kids with Asperger's More Likely to Be Bullied
  - How Did Your Parent Turn Your Worst Day Into Your ...
- ► June (6)
  - Bullying: If You Could Be Honest With Other Paren...
  - Bullying: My Name is Alex...
  - It's a Good Time to Talk to your School About Next...
  - Basic Lessons from Phoebe Prince Case and other Bu...
  - Jessica Alba Gives Hope to Kids Who are Bullied
  - Bullying: A Survey and Video For Everyone
- ► May (7)
  - Confidence Lesson from Jessica
  - Bullying: Emotional Gymnastics
  - Can Bullying Survive In the Presence of Empathy an...
  - Too Busy To Bully. Too Busy Singing.
  - Moms Who Care About Other People's Children, Too
  - Parents and Bystanders Seem To Be The Key
  - Bullying Dissection
- ► April (5)

- What Happens When You Turn Away?
  - Preventing Bullying on a Budget
- ▶ March (8)
- ▶ February (9)
- ▶ January (10)
  
- ▶ 2009 (33)
  - ▶ December (7)
  - ▶ November (3)
  - ▶ October (4)
  - ▶ September (2)
  - ▶ August (1)
  - ▶ July (5)
  - ▶ June (5)
  - ▶ May (2)
  - ▶ April (4)

## ABOUT ME

### SRAISCH

Susan S. Raisch is a marketing and public affairs consultant for companies, organizations, foundations and experts who address the issues of bullying and online safety, as well as other issues affecting the home and schools. Susan has played a key role in the successful launch and rollout of many television and publishing public service programs and campaigns for companies such as Sesame Street, ABC, Court TV, and Scholastic, among many others. © 2010 Tangled Ball

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