WALL BREAKERS

“SHATTERING STEREOTYPES BY SHARING STORIES”

Issue 2, Fall 2011

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What Is Wall Breakers? Why Do We Use Stories?

Wall Breakers is a project designed to help break down stereotypes through sharing personal stories.

We gather stories from people who have been bullied, been bystanders, or even a few times, bullied others.

We know bullying often has serious emotional effects on victims, and we believe that when people share their stories, they can help others get through their own difficult times.

The students involved with Wall Breakers are also trying to change the passive actions of bystanders. Some of our stories present situations that listeners have never experienced, which we hope will help bystanders take action such as standing up to bullies or telling someone about what they have seen.

We hope to reduce the ignorance and negative stereotypes based on gender, age, race, religion and other qualities. We hope these stories will create more awareness so that we can begin to break the cycle of putdowns, labeling, and bullying at Lincoln.

Come and Join Us! Everyone Has a Story to Tell...

We are always accepting new stories. Last year, we reached our first-year goal of 75 stories and are headed toward over 100; we usually add about five every week.

If you want to get involved, talk to anyone in a tolerance class, Mr. Hansen, Mrs. Wu, or just send us an email. We have an editing team that specializes in helping you craft a story.

The First-Trimester editing team, Lillian and Hao-Xian, were amazing. Our editors will help you make your story very powerful. If you don’t want your picture on the website, it’s okay; we’ll use the Wall Breakers logo. If you feel like you don’t have a story, talk to one of us. GET INVOLVED! You get a cool wrist band too :)
Favorite Stories

These interviews have two questions, one of which is optional. The questions are:
1. What’s your favorite story and why? How did it have an impact on you?
2. (optional) Has the problem in the story ever happened to you or have you seen it?

All of these stories can be found on our website too!
Check them out and see which one of our 89+ you identify with.

Christina
1. “Trouble with Speech Delay”, I felt bad because he got picked on constantly and even his friends laughed at him.
2. Yes, I also had speech delay so I understand what he was going through.

Owen
1. My favorite is “Ignorance About Me and My Religion” because he was made fun of because of his religious beliefs and appearance. People also had no idea about his true religion. It made me aware of religious comments.

Edgar
1. Stupid... Maybe to You” I don’t think it was right for those people to judge her because her sister is smart. Some people try to joke and say that I’m stupid, but I just laugh it off.

Brian
1. My favorite story is “Challenges of Being an Immigrant” because she had good grades in China, but her grades got worse here. I felt bad that she couldn’t understand much, and it wasn’t her fault.

Elinor
1. My favorite story is “The Outside World.” I found it surprising, but I could relate to the person in the story. It made me realize there is more racism in Alameda than I thought.

Lisa
1. I liked the story of “A Leprechaun’s Life” because I get remarks about my height a lot, and I know how it feels to be different.

Tyona
1. My favorite Wall Breakers story is “The Pain Behind the Cut” because I used to know people who cut, and most people don’t realize how serious this is.
2. I haven’t seen people cut before, but I know that it happens at our school and the last thing these people