

I have been meaning to email you regarding our sessions with grade 7s and 8s here is what I learned:

boys are never able to talk so openly as they did with us, they said they are either seen as accused persons, or they talk about the whole stranger thing but not about sexual abuse done to them

we had a boy thank us for coming on behalf of his class, they all gave us a round of applause, the teacher thought we should be in every year

one boy thought that rape was when you have sex and then kill a woman, other myths we encountered were that boys did not realize that they could physiologically be aroused although they were being assaulted

Theo Flurry was a big topic of conversation and brought it "home" to the boys that it can happen to anyone

they were often surprised about the stats 1 in 6

even in quiet groups the boys took it all in, as they told us what they learned at the end of the session

boys had a lot of questions for us, because they said they never get the opportunity to talk without the girls there and about these type of topics

I really think this 3rd day of splitting the girls and boys up is a fantastic idea especially at the age of 13/14 because this is really the last chance for them to talk about all of the things that can happen to them before they enter high school. They learned a lot of facts and things about themselves that they had never heard before. They also taught us because they were coming at our information from a different point of view. It is an important piece of the puzzle that is missing for males in our society and this is why they are so afraid to come forward when something does happen to them, they have no reference point so they don't even know what to do, or what should or could be done.

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