



Cyberbully linked to Canadian teen's death

A distraught mother sits on the steps of her suburban home. She pauses every time a question is asked. "You knew it was happening, but didn't know it was so severe. What did you tell her?" referring to her 16-year old daughter, who took her life last April.

"I told her what many parents probably tell their kids. Ignore it. They want you to react, so don't give them what they want" she says as she shakes her head. "Any time we talked about

it – and we did – we talked often, she always said 'Thanks, mom'...that's always how those talks ended".

Her mother knew about the continuous insults her classmates were sending on so-

"I never knew just how terrible it was."

cial media and texts, but she confesses that her daughter hid it well. "I never knew just how terrible it was."

It was a regular evening. After school they had dinner, watched TV – it didn't seem

any different than a normal weekday. She told her mom about a new text she received while they were watching TV. Her mom told her to turn off the phone and ignore it. She turned off the phone and they continued to watch TV.

The next morning, she went into her daughter's room, wanting to get her moving before she missed the bus. That was when she found her. She had killed herself.

Local police are looking into social media posts and text messages, but have yet to

make a public statement.

When asked what she would tell other parents whose kids are being bullied online and offline, she says she can't say enough. "Tell them you love them, tell them they did the right thing by telling you" and go further she urges "Know that what you are hearing, what you are seeing is only what your child has chosen to bring to you. There may be more – like with my daughter. You want to help them, but sometimes you may only see the surface."

She isn't sure why her daughter was tormented by her peers – she was a normal kid. She loved music, the mall and was always posting pictures and videos online. The bullying, she said, seemed to start in middle school. "Maybe it wasn't so bad then. I think, as she got older, kids started doing this online. It got worse – it was during the day, at night. That's when it changed."

When they spoke only a few days before her suicide, she told her mom not to get involved. "She was worried it would make things worse – not to call other parents, not to call the school. And I listened to her – as a parent, you want to be able to support your kid. I don't know if that would have changed it...but I wish I tried. I can't imagine other parents living with this reality."