1. **THOUGHTFULLY NOTATE THIS ARTICLE TO SHOW EVIDENCE OF YOUR THINKING THROUGHOUT YOUR READING (text-to-self, text-to-text, text-to-world, and vocab strategies)**
2. **RESPOND TO THE “Food For Thought” SECTION BELOW THE ARTICLE.**

**'Boobie' bracelets spark controversy**

[**CBC News**](http://www.cbc.ca/news/credit.html) **Posted: Sep 8, 2011 4:12 PM ET**



These breast cancer awareness bracelets have caused some concern for Quispamsis Elementary School.

A bracelet advocating awareness about breast cancer has sparked controversy in the Kennebecasis Valley, just outside Saint John.

The bracelets read "I heart boobies" and are part of a prevention and early detection campaign by the international non-profit group, Keep A Breast Foundation.

Administrators at Quispamsis Elementary School are asking parents to not send their children to school with the bracelets, because they say the language is distracting for students.

Meaghan McIllwraith, the mother of a Grade 2 student, is against that decision. She said the popular bracelets are helping to get the attention of young people.

"It’s a shock factor," said McIllwraith. "It's getting the kids talking and it's, I guess, a controversy.

"It’s a positive message … I don't think it's anything to be ashamed of, or it's wrong. I teach (my seven-year-old daughter) it's a part of her body and that's what it is,” she said.

Quispamsis Elementary principal Janet Miller said while students are paying attention to the bracelets, many don't understand their reference to breast cancer awareness.

Miller contends the slang type message doesn't completely explain the bracelet's intent for breast cancer awareness.

She said the pink ribbon rubber bracelets are just as effective in displaying support for the cause, without distracting students from classroom learning.

The principal said there was never a ban on the bracelets, but the school sent notices asking for parents' co-operation.

Miller said if a student shows up next week with one of the bracelets, teachers will ask students to put it away, like they would with any distracting clothing or accessory.

Meanwhile, McIllwraith hopes the decision will be overturned.

She said she has connection to the cause — relatives and close friends have had the disease and some of them have died as a result.

McIllwraith thinks the younger generation should learn more about breast cancer, so whatever message reaches them is a good one.

**Here are some of the online comments about this article from readers of www.cbc.ca/news:**

***OLD CANUCK*** *– All of you that are offended that some elementary school kid might All of you that are offended that some elementary school kid might see the word "boobie" should ask a school cleaning staff member what kind of graffiti they see in the kid's washrooms!All of you that are offended that some elementary school kid might see the word "boobie" should ask a school cleaning staff member what kind of graffiti they see in the kid's washrooms!So pathetic...we keep sinking as a species into total stupidity.So pathetic...we keep sinking as a species into total stupidity.So pathetic...we keep sinking as a species into total stupidity.see the word “boobie” should ask a school cleaning staff member what kind of graffiti they see in the kids’ washrooms!*

***SKIPATROLGUY*** *– Hmmm...I think we have this thingy called, what is it now? Oh yes, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It’s a public school. You do the math.*

***MIKDEEPS*** *– They are still a distraction in class.*

***BUKE LACTAVOSE*** *– The whole “breast cancer awareness” campaign is getting ridiculous. The other day I was shopping in a large well known Canadian Drugstore chain and I saw pink toilet paper for sale for Breast Cancer awareness.*

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

You have read, provided thoughtful notation, and enjoyed some of the comments provided by readers of this online news source. NOW, you are asked to use the space below to provide the response YOU would give to cbc.ca about your views on what you read. Remember to keep your language G-rated, and provide support for your opinion.