

Principal hopes to halt high school 'fight club'



Students stand outside Hants East Rural High School in Nova Scotia on Friday, April 11, 2008. Several of them have been fighting each other as a way to fight boredom.



An image taken from amateur video posted on YouTube shows two of the students fighting.

CTV.ca News Staff

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Students at a rural Nova Scotia high school are fighting boredom by fighting each other -- creating their own fight club with bouts staged during the lunch hour at a nearby pizza parlour.

"I don't think for the first few fights it was for anything other than pure anger," student Andrew Smith tells CTV Atlantic.

But the frequency of the fights has increased and videos of the bare-knuckle brawls have appeared on YouTube, prompting police and school administrators to step-up attempts to halt the scraps.

Pat Benedict was one of the Hants East Rural High School students who took part in a fight that appeared on the Internet.

"He wanted to talk tough, so I shut him up," Benedict said outside the school in Milford, N.S.

That's not an acceptable explanation to police, who have increased patrols over the noon hour, nor to principal Mike Smith, who says he is also taking action.

Several students have already been suspended for the maximum five day term, but Smith plans to take disciplinary measures even further if the so-called fight club continues.

"The consequences will be as severe as a recommendation by me that the students be suspended for the rest of the year," Smith said.

Some students have suggested the school's lack of an intramural sports program has contributed to the fighting.

Smith said staff is working on setting one up, but some students feel that won't have the desired effect.

"I don't think it would really change the fact that people are fighting because the people who are doing the fighting aren't going to be doing intramurals," said student Jacob Connor.

Student council co-president Colton MacAdam said he and many of his friends are against the fights because they give their school a bad reputation.

Benedict disagrees.

"I think it gives us a good reputation," he said.

"We're tough," pipes in one of his friends.

"Yeah, like he said," Benedict adds. "We're tough."