

Morning announcements at Delphi Community Elementary School include a listing of the clubs of the day: “Star Wars” club, singing club, shoe-tying club or cheerleading club. | Every day is different, Principal Ana Ave said. But unlike most clubs — formed to be exclusive — these clubs are open to everyone. | “All children are invited to play,” Ave tells students during announcements. She announces the club leader and says find that student “if you don’t have anything to do” or just want to join. | Before she ends announcements, Ave reminds students of a slogan they’ve often seen on posters in classrooms and on doors leading to the playground. | “At DCES, you can’t say you can’t play.” | While bullying has gained much media attention in recent years, an insidious form of bullying known as ostracism — the act of excluding someone from a group — is coming out of the closet. | While less obvious than physical bullying and emotional beat-downs on social media, ostracism can be just as harmful, ending in physical pain for the person ostracized and sometimes in violent outbursts directed at society at large, experts say. | Locally, a couple of developments are focusing public attention on ostracism. One is a documentary featured this week at the Heartland Film Festival in Indianapolis. “Reject” includes interviews with a Purdue University researcher who has studied the effects of ostracism for the past 20 years. | Kipling Williams, a Purdue professor of psychological sciences, said the act of purposefully excluding another person from social activity can

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**rejected.
cast out.
shunned.
unwanted.
ignored.
ditched.
scorned.
snubbed.
dodged.
ostracized.
alone.**

Film, community forums target bullying by rejection

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