

**OPINION OF THE DAY:** “In a world where nude and semi-nude ‘role models’ are everywhere in the media and online, kids might ask, ‘What’s the big deal?’ How do we help our kids understand they are so much more than their body images; that they don’t need to exploit themselves to be accepted?” — **Donna Palomba, Woodbury**

READ THE FULL LETTER ON PAGE 6A

## **PARENTS MUST SPEAK WITH CHILDREN ABOUT PHOTO-POSTING**

The June 10 front-page headline “6 Teens Busted in Sexting Scandal” jumped out at me. Six middle- and high-school students between 13 and 15, in our community, were caught sharing nude pictures of themselves.

In a world where nude and semi-nude “role models” are everywhere in the media and online, kids might ask, “What’s the big deal?” How do we help our kids understand they are so much more than their body images; that they don’t need to exploit themselves to be accepted?

How do we tell them the simple act of sharing these images can have lasting, damaging and even criminal consequences? That these images, once shared, cannot be taken back? That these images can fall into the wrong hands?

We have crucial conversations with them.

We work to instill confidence in them and help them to build their self-esteem; we listen to what they are telling us, and we talk so they can hear us. We teach them to have dignity and respect for themselves and others.

Let’s do our part so these kids grow up to be confident leaders and true role models for others.

**Donna Palomba**  
Woodbury

*The writer is founder and president of Jane Doe No More Inc.*