

Mary Johnston PS

Safe Caring and Inclusive Schools

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week
November 17 - 21, 2014



Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week Events

- ◆ “Unlearn Bullying” daily activities for the students
- ◆ Parents welcome to see “unlearn” posters and student work in A Hall anytime during the week
- ◆ Parent “unlearn” activities 6:30 pm November 19 - all welcome; babysitting provided

Bullying Prevention - How Parents Help

Bullying *prevention* is relevant to all of us. It begins with the early steps where children are supported in the process of conflict resolution. Your child is feeling left out at recess, hurt by a friend’s behaviour at lunch, concerned that another child was pushed off the slide... what can you do to help?

- listen to your child and hear what is bothering him
- ask her if she has told anyone at school
- find out if this was a one-time situation or has occurred a number of times
- validate how your child is feeling about what took place
- problem solve with your child about what she could do if faced with a similar situation in the future
- decide (with your child) if further “action” is required - by you or by your child
- remember that you can *always* contact your child’s teacher if you feel concerned and want to learn more about what is occurring or believe that your child needs support to solve a problem.

Bullying Awareness - More Serious in Nature

Sometimes what you hear from your child sounds more serious and you feel action is required right away. Do not hesitate, call your child’s teacher, send a note in the planner or send an email if you typically communicate that way. If the matter feels urgent, call the school and speak with the principal. Communication is key to bringing everyone together to resolve an issue, and you are welcome at any time to make that first contact. Teachers will make all efforts to communicate with parents regarding the issue raised, subject to any limits relating to privacy. From time to time teachers will neglect to follow up with parents to inform that an issue was resolved or to find out if the issue was resolved from the parent/child’s perspective. Please do not hesitate to follow-up where you feel that more communication is needed.

Bullying - The Rules for Schools

When a school staff member is made aware that *bullying* may have taken place, there are specific school board policies and procedures in place to guide the steps that school staff and administration must follow. In general, staff must report in writing to the principal, the principal must investigate, and, where it is found that bullying has taken place, supports are to be provided to the bystanders as well as the child who engaged in bullying behaviour and the child targeted.

Mary Johnston's Safe,
Caring Inclusive Schools
Team

Helmut Tinnes, Principal
Eugenia Schatz, Teacher
Leslie Shields, Para-
professional,
Christa O'Connor,
Community Member,
Esther and Josh, Students
Karen MacLeod and Jill
Magazine, Parents

We are always interested
in hearing from you!



Communication with Parents about Bullying

The school board's policies and procedures about bullying are based upon the Education Act which is the law that directs the actions of schools and school boards (section 300.3 is what applies here).

The Education Act tells us that the principal must notify the parent of the child he believes was harmed as a result of bullying (or other serious behaviour) and the parent of the child who engaged in the harmful behaviour to share:

- what took place that resulted in harm and the nature of the harm
- any disciplinary measures taken in response
- the steps taken to protect the child who was harmed (this information is only to go to the parents of the child who was harmed).

The principal must not provide the name or other indentifying information about one child to the other child's parents unless he needs to in order to give the information listed above. In addition, the principal must invite the parents to have a discussion with him about the supports that will be provided to their own child.

Raising Concerns with your School

The school board has an Administrative Procedure for parents to follow when they have concerns with their child's school. This could be a bullying situation, but also could be any situation where the parent wishes to communicate a concern regarding the school. It is critical to follow each step and for all parties to make an effort to resolve these concerns at each step. If you have concerns:

1. Communicate concern to teacher,
2. If the issue is not resolved, meet with the principal or designate,
3. If the parent remains unsatisfied, go to the school superintendent (a list of the superintendents for each school is available on the school board website, or by calling the school or school board),
4. If a need for further resolution exists, the parent may contact the Director of Education, and
5. If the matter remains unresolved for the parent, she or he can register for a private delegation with the trustees by contacting the Manager of Corporate Services and Records at the school board.

While it is important to follow the proper sequence, parents should not feel intimidated about using this process, and will not face repercussions for using the process. The Administrative Procedure also addresses the option for parents to have a representative to support them throughout the process of attempting to resolve the issue.



We're on the Web!
Please see all of our
links to policies,
procedures and more!
[http://mjp.wrdsb.ca/
scis-safe-caring-and-
inclusive-schools/](http://mjp.wrdsb.ca/scis-safe-caring-and-inclusive-schools/)