



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, November 16, 2012

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE IN ONTARIO BULLYING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

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The third week of November is Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week in Ontario. During this time, students, parents and staff across the province are encouraged to learn more about bullying and its effect on student learning and well-being.

“Our Student Support Service Team provides on-going, proactive programming through a number of bullying prevention strategies in our schools,” says Deb Crawford, Superintendent of Education.

“These programs help students to develop positive characteristics of resilience, self-esteem, self-respect and empowerment, which help build conflict resolution, problem-solving and empathy-building skills,” says Mrs. Crawford.

Among the many programs deployed by schools across the district are:

- PBS – Positive Behaviour Supports, which helps build a school-wide culture in which social and academic success is more likely. It helps to create an effective learning environment for all students.
- Kelso’s Choice – a program for primary and junior divisions. The program breaks down complex concepts into simpler ideas, where learning about character development and conflict management become fun and effective.
- Diversity Kit – a program to help students develop empathy and compassion for each other. It teaches them to recognize each other’s strengths and to understand that we are all different and unique in special ways. It reinforces that we should “Live Like Jesus.”

During Ontario Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week schools across the district have planned a number of activities, to support their on-going work to build healthy, positive school communities.

The activities of some schools are listed below. Members of the media are invited to contact principals for interviews and photo opportunities with students in support of Ontario Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week.



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Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week 2012

November 18 to 24

Sample of Activities at Some Schools

School	School Principal	Activity
Good Shepherd Catholic School	Phil Bedard 519-692-3644	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friday, Nov. 16th at 12:30 p.m. – Good Shepherd will be hosting a dynamic school assembly – <i>The Bully and the Purple Pants</i> is a dynamic, inter-active program for elementary school children. Through the use of songs, stories and role-playing, Parents' Choice award-winning singer and educator Paul Behnke teaches children strategies for dealing with bullies. Physical, emotional and verbal bullying are addressed during the presentation.
Gregory A. Hogan Catholic School	Elena Pagotto 519-542-8190	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All classes will be engaged in activities which promote an anti-bullying message. Monday, Nov. 19 – A presentation, <i>The Bully and the Purple Plants</i>, will provide students with effective strategies for dealing with verbal and physical bullying. Wednesday, Nov. 21 – students will be wearing pink to show solidarity against bullying.
Holy Trinity Catholic School	Scott Johnson 519-344-2110	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students will participate in an anti-bullying poster contest. The posters will be displayed throughout the school. Wednesday, November 21 – Spirit Day. All students will be dressed in blue. Wednesday, November 21 – School Family or Tiger Den activity day. The theme for the sessions will have an anti-bullying message. There will be announcements each day which focus on the theme, including statistics, strategies for bullying prevention and key facts.
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School	Tom Baker 519-351-4040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivational speaker, singer and songwriter Sara Westbrook is bringing her UPower concert to the school on Thursday, November 22. She shares a powerful, effective, choice-making formula that helps students discover how to make great choices that impact their lives and those around them in a positive way. It is a tremendous message for Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week.
Sacred Heart Catholic School – Sarnia	Anita Cairns 519-344-1601	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nov. 22 is designated as <i>Anti-Bullying Day</i> – students wearing blue all day.
St. Anne Catholic School – Blenheim	Americo Todino 519-676-7352	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During Bullying Prevention Week teachers will be reviewing with students the steps they can take to help stop bullying: 1) tell the bully to stop; 2) walk away; 3) tell a trusted adult. Students will be creating a "Choice Bank" to help teach them they are in control of their own choices.

St. Matthew Catholic School	Kevin Cannon 519-332-4300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, November 20 at 9:15 a.m. – Big Kids' Entertainment Play – <i>Snow White</i>, which has an anti-bullying message. • Student council members will be reading books with an anti-bullying theme to primary/junior classes throughout the week.
St. Peter Canisius Catholic School	Mona McKeown 519-876-3018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every morning – announcements about myths and facts regarding bullying. • Each day – there will be classroom activities, such as students writing stories and poems about how bullying affects them. • Wed., Nov. 21 – Grade 8 students will paint a school mural, reflecting an anti-bullying message.
St. Joseph Catholic School, Chatham	Kelly Van Boxtel 519-354-4642	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All week there will be announcements each morning with an anti-bullying message. • All week teachers will be reading storybooks and novels with an anti-bullying message. • Students have created anti-bullying posters and they are on display in the school.
St. Joseph Catholic School, Tilbury	Julie Faubert 519-682-2790	<p>Student Council is leading activities all week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week kicks off with a student led liturgy, focusing on peace and respect. • Student Council will create posters and banners with an anti-bullying message, which will be displayed throughout the school. • A "Caught You" team will hand out tickets to students who display acts of kindness and respect. The tickets will be put into a draw for pizza. • Door decorating contest in which each class is required to send a positive message about friendship, inclusion and peace. • A special day will be held in which all students will be asked to wear white shirts to signify peace.
St. Philip Catholic School	Mark Renaud 519-882-1520	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Philip students will create posters with an anti-bullying message that will be displayed throughout the school. • Senior students will perform skits demonstrating the importance of always reporting bullying. • Classes will investigate websites included in a <i>Be Part of the Solution – Help Stop Bullying</i> brochure that has been sent home. • The school's Child and Youth Workers will visit classrooms to help focus students on empathy for the victim in a bullying situation, as well as the important role of the bystander.
St. Ursula Catholic School	Kerry Matthyssen 519-352-3620	<p>Several activities have been coordinated through the St. Ursula Safe School Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kickoff event on Monday – 20 minute session in the gym with classes being introduced to an anti-bullying pledge and viewing a <i>Do The Right Thing</i> skit. • The <i>Do The Right Thing Team</i> will highlight the role of the bystander in a bullying situation, with follow-up activities throughout the week.

<p>St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School</p>	<p>Brendan Deery 519-541-1811</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media Studies students have produced public service announcements, which will run on St. Christopher TV all week. • Communications Technology classes have produced posters with an anti-bullying message, which will be displayed throughout the building. • Student Council has planned anti-bullying activities for the lunch periods on Tuesday, Nov. 20. • The Social Justice Group has planned activities for the lunch periods on Wednesday, Nov. 21. • Thursday, Nov. 22 is designated as "Pink Spirit/Jean Day". • The school has ordered 200 t-shirts to promote anti-bullying awareness.
<p>St. Patrick's Catholic High School</p>	<p>Robert Cicchelli 519-332-3976</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each day at 2:00 p.m. – Bullying Stories – real stories read over the PA system by students who volunteer to tell them. • Monday morning – Student led reflection to introduce Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week and the goals for St. Patrick's students. • Wed., Nov. 21 – Homeroom activity – helping students to "Stand Up". Teachers will lead a short activity, which teaches students what to do when they are the bystander, to "Stand Up" to the bully. • Wednesday, Nov., 21 – during lunch – pink bake sale and Stand-Up t-shirt sales – Proceeds to Rebound. • Thurs., Nov. 22 during lunch – students will be asked to sign the Stand Up Banner as a pledge to help stop bullying.
<p>Ursuline College Chatham Catholic Secondary School</p>	<p>Gerri Brown 519-351-2987</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wed., Nov. 21 at 9:40 a.m. in the Theatre – Grade 9 students will attend <i>Dating Shouldn't Hurt</i>, a joint presentation by the Chatham-Kent Women's Centre and Chatham-Kent Police Services. The focus is on building positive relationships, recognizing the warning signs of unhealthy relationships and where to find assistance and seek help if needed. • Thurs., Nov. 22 at 11:45 a.m. and 1:10 p.m. in the Theatre – Grade 10 to 12 students will attend a workshop called <i>iEngage</i>, a bullying prevention program that empowers students and staff to create a safe, positive and inclusive climate in schools. Performed by Anthony McLean, a CBC Television host, who inspires students to be a positive influence in their school.