



Frank Panabaker Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Principal: Caitlin Evans
Vice-Principal: Gord Cook
www.hwdsb.on.ca/frankpanabaker

May 4, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is to inform you that your child will begin a unit on Human Development and Sexual Health beginning May 19, 2021.

The following expectations of the Ontario Curriculum will be covered in the Grade 6 program. By the end of Grade 6, students will:

- demonstrate an understanding of the impacts of viewing sexually explicit media, including pornography (e.g., leads to a limited or distorted understanding of relationships; reinforces harmful gender norms; promotes an unrealistic or idealized body image)
- describe how they can build confidence and lay a foundation for healthy relationships by acquiring a clearer understanding of the physical, social, and emotional changes that occur during adolescence (e.g., physical: voice changes, skin changes, body growth; social: changing social relationships, increasing influence of peers; emotional: increased intensity of feelings, new interest in relationships, confusion and questions about changes)
- make informed decisions that demonstrate respect for themselves and others and an understanding of the concept of consent to help build healthier relationships, using a variety of social-emotional learning skills (e.g., self-awareness and identity skills; emotion management skills; critical and creative thinking skills; skills based on First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultural teachings, such as medicine wheel teachings connected to the life cycle, the seven-grandfather teachings, or other cultural teachings)
- assess the effects of stereotypes and assumptions regarding gender roles and expectations, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, culture, mental health, and abilities on an individual's self-concept, social inclusion, and relationships with others, and propose appropriate ways of responding to and changing harmful assumptions and stereotypes that can lead to destructive social attitudes including homophobia and racism

The following resources will be used to assist in the delivery of this unit:

- **Always Changing 5 & 6** is a resource for teaching pre-teens in Grades 5 and 6 about the transition between childhood and adolescence and the beginning stages of puberty. Directly linked to the Healthy Living strand of the H&PE Curriculum, Always Changing addresses issues surrounding adolescent growth and development, and personal hygiene.
- **How to Set and Spot Boundaries** <https://phecanada.ca/programs/phe-learning-centre/healthy-bodies-education-activities>
- **Making Healthy Choices in Relationships** <https://teachingtools.ophea.net/>
- **AMAZE.org**. Amaze videos harness the power of digital media to provide young adolescents around the globe with medically accurate, age-appropriate, affirming, and honest health education.

As the Ontario Curriculum indicates, "Parents are the primary educators of their children with respect to learning about values, appropriate behaviour, and ethnocultural, spiritual, and



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personal beliefs and traditions, and they are their children's first role models. It is therefore important for schools and parents to work together to ensure that home and school provide a mutually supportive framework for young people's education" (page 14). This unit offers you, as the most significant influence of your child's values and behaviours, the chance to discuss the classroom lessons and consider them in light of your own family beliefs.

Parents and Guardians were invited to attend an information session held on April 21, 2021. You can view this presentation and obtain more information here:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/elementary-learning-human-development-sexual-health/>

If Parent/Guardians would like their child(ren) exempted from all expectations, they will need to complete an exemption form in the Parent Portal. [Paper copies](#) and/or phone calls will also be accepted.

Please feel free to contact the school (905-648-4439 – South Campus) if you have questions or concerns regarding this upcoming unit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. Evans", written over a horizontal line.

Mrs. C. Evans (Principal)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Fairley", written over a horizontal line.

Mrs. J. Fairley (Teacher)