

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

The Ministry of Education and the District School Board of Niagara strive to provide a positive school environment in all of our schools. To ensure this, schools actively promote and support positive behaviours that reflect our character development traits.

Characteristics of a positive school climate include:

- Students and staff feel safe, comfortable and accepted;
- Healthy and inclusive relationships are promoted;
- Students are encouraged to be leaders in their school – speak up about issues such as bullying;
- Parents and community members are actively engaged;
- Positive behavior is reinforced through messages and program addressing discrimination based on such factors as age, race, sexual orientation, gender, faith, disability, ethnicity and socio-economic disadvantage;
- Improvement of learning outcomes for all students is emphasized.

It is important that schools seek feedback from their students to get an accurate representation of the school environment. During the month of November, students in grades 4-8 will be completing a “School Climate Survey” online with their class. The topics of the survey include questions about Equity and Inclusive Education (e.g. how you feel being at school, how diverse groups are included, etc), and Bullying and Harassment (e.g., how safe you feel at school, have you ever been bullied at school, etc.). Students enter a school password and their responses remain anonymous. Upon completion of the survey, the school principal will analyze the data to identify strengths and areas for growth in the school year.

If you would like to see the survey, it is available online at the web address below: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/climate.html> If you would like a copy of the survey, please contact the school and one will be provided for you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Respectfully,

Ms. Roberto & Sheridan Park Staff