

SAFE SCHOOL ACTION PLAN

School: **T.A. Blakelock H.S.**

Date: January 2012

Statement of Purpose: T.A. Blakelock High School is dedicated to creating a positive school climate through an **ABC** strategy that focuses on **A**wareness, **B**ehaviour and **C**ommunity. We are committed to educating the staff and students about bullying, and the 40 Developmental Assets, and provide them with the strategies and skills to recognize bullying, intervene, problem-solve and report. We are committed to take a stand to prevent bullying. We will strive to create a school culture of accountability as well as a culture that celebrates inclusion and diversity. Our strategy is manifested in our training initiative to help students as bystanders stand up to bullying and events that support relationships and sustain a more positive learning

Definition of Bullying: Bullying is typically a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem, or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance. (From HDSB Policy: Bullying Prevention and Intervention, October 1, 2010)

Examples of Bullying: Social, Emotional, Physical, Cyberbullying via Facebook, Form Spring, etc. (sexting, texting, etc). Bullying takes on many forms and includes exclusion and harassment. Individuals may be bullied on the basis of physical and intellectual differences, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnic background, and socio-economic status. Bullying can, and does, take place virtually anywhere, at any time.

Safe Schools Action Team Members: Joyce Donatelli (teacher), Carole Mackay (Library Tech), Greg Douglas (teacher), Jan Boileau (teacher), Caroline Clarke (SST), Sunny Skakic (teacher), Tracy Jarvis (Social Worker), Lynne Collaton (parent), (Marie Jakubowski (PHN community), Cst. Mark Vegso (Police Liaison Officer), Evan Friend (student), Young Bin Lee (student), Chris Casale (student), Justin Oh (student), Stephanie Wallace (Bullying Social Worker), Rita Othman (Spec Ed Head), Heather Stewart (Admin).

School Monitoring and Review Process: Review School Effectiveness survey (TTFM) of students feeling safe and sense of belonging. Informal feedback from students in SSAT committee regarding their observations of bullying. Survey via focus groups (with help of Student Council), Survey Monkey. Review monthly progress via SSAT meetings.

Training Strategies for Members of the School Community: A special assembly will kick off the Anti-Bullying Strategy for the year. At staff meetings throughout the year, we will focus on understanding the 40 Developmental Assets that help students be successful in life. The Tiger Crew will continue to find ways to link with Grade 9 students and be a positive support through any difficulties, including incidences of bullying. The team will work with our Anti-Bullying Social Worker to develop training for teams of students and some staff to become safe schools ambassadors. Students will learn intervention strategies from the position of bystander. The team will participate in Board anti-bullying workshops in November and February.

Parents/Community Communication and Outreach Strategies: Bullying Prevention education, Drug awareness, and information regarding building resilient students through increasing developmental assets via *The Informed Parent Series* (TIPS).

The Informed Parent Series (TIPS) for Parents continued its work this fall and plans further sessions through Parent Council and working with Parent Council Chair, Public Health Nurse, Social Worker and various community partners. My son or daughter is stressed out!" and Your Disrespectful Teen- what to do?" The plan is to offer one per month based on parent feedback.

School Bullying Prevention Goal(s):

1. To reduce incidents of bullying throughout the school. The TTFM survey will provide a baseline and we will resurvey after we have launched our Safe Schools Ambassador Program. Our goal is to increase by 5% the number of students who respond 'I feel safe at school' on the TTFM survey. We hope to reduce the number of office interventions/suspensions because of bullying behaviour by 10%. School Team will record anecdotal comments of the feedback on the effectiveness of the interventions for the bullied.
2. To develop a school climate that celebrates diversity and inclusion and works toward the building of developmental assets for all students.

ABC strategy.

Awareness- The SSAT kicked off with an assembly during the November 2011 Bullying Prevention Week. Goal for 2011/2012 year is to educate students and staff on a regular basis regarding skills to use when come across bullying behaviour. The use of (Tiger) Link Crew for mentoring with grade 9 students. Use of the ASK ME buttons for first 3-4 weeks of school to encourage relationship building amongst staff and students. Breakfast Club to help with informal survey and to create an environment where students feeling connected to the school. SSAT will connect with Student Council and other student leadership groups to join efforts in building strong and caring relationships and in creating a positive school climate.

Behaviour- Goal for 2011/2012 year is to establish a School Ambassador Program in which students will be trained to develop skills to be a positive and effective bystander in addressing bullying in helpful ways. We will look to some current leadership groups (student mentors, Tiger Crew, student council, athletic council, leadership class, World Council etc.), to get started with this initiative.

Community- We will continue to invite the Oakville Youth Network (OYN) for *Momentum* Thursdays. These volunteers will continue to be in our school every Thursday at lunch. The play cards, foosball, ping pong, Hackey sack and board games. Students continue to engage in a positive way with these youth volunteers. The volunteers now have a banner to advertise their presence, two dedicated rooms to use for space during the lunch hour as well as a gym. From the posters created in November, a calendar was produced. We provided every classroom at TAB with a calendar as well as every high school and elementary school in Halton District School Board. We also distributed it to our Trustee, community partners and some Board personnel. We believed it to be a great tool. We entered the calendar into the *Give Respect, Get Respect* contest sponsored by the HRP and won first prize. This generated even more exposure of the tool! In 2011/2012 we will continue to use the calendar, TIPS, Breakfast Club venue and OYN to support our efforts to fight bullying behaviour and encourage relationship building.

Bullying Prevention Responsibilities:

Staff: will provide opportunities, support, and consequences for students. Building anti-bullying strategies throughout the curriculum in daily teaching will be a priority. Staff will model respect, empathy, and inclusion for all students.

Students: will contribute positively to school climate and respect the safety, property, and rights of all members of the school community. They will provide support through (Tiger) Link Crew and student mentoring to work with other

students. As a result of the safe schools ambassador training, students will be better equipped to address bullying in an effective way throughout the school. They will work together with staff and other students to promote a positive school climate.

Parents: will communicate with the school regarding issues and concerns around bullying. They will continue to support the school's and board's Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy and assist the school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their student. Their sons/daughters will be encouraged to follow the rules of appropriate behaviour,

Intervention and Support Strategies: All staff respond in a timely, sensitive and supportive manner when responding to students who disclose or report bullying. Students are supported when reporting bullying incidents. Administration and staff take into account a range of factors and provide support to the victim, the bully, and to bystanders.

Responding to and Reporting Incidents of Bullying:

Refer to HDSB Bullying Prevention and Intervention Resource Guide, 2010 and Behaviour, Discipline, and School Safety Policy, 2010.