

For immediate release

Middle years presentations support RETSD's commitment to bullying prevention

(Nov. 10, 2015) As part of the division's ongoing commitment to bullying prevention, River East Transcona School Division (RETSD) has partnered with Hateless, a Winnipeg-based volunteer-run organization, to deliver interactive and engaging anti-bullying presentations to our 11 middle years schools.

Beginning November 16, the kick-off to Bullying Awareness Week, RETSD students in Grade 6 through 9 will attend these 60- to 90-minute presentations to hear young speakers share messages about anti-bullying and tolerance.

"RETSD is committed to building and sustaining safe schools," says Superintendent/CEO Kelly Barkman. "Within this priority is the need to prevent and address the issue of bullying. The division already has several activities underway to prevent bullying and to promote respect among students and staff. We welcome the opportunity to build on what we're doing."

RETSD's anti-bullying initiatives include the Positive Behavioural Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework – which rewards and reinforces positive, socially acceptable behaviours – and online staff training in bullying prevention and respect for human diversity.

Currently, RETSD is the only division in Manitoba with dedicated PBIS supports in every school, and all RETSD staff have completed the online training modules Respect in School and/or Respect in the Workplace.

"We are very pleased to welcome Hateless to our schools and include their meaningful and positive work in our ongoing list of initiatives to address the issue of bullying," says Superintendent Barkman.

Dates for presentations:

Nov. 17, 10 a.m. – Arthur Day Middle School, 43 Whitehall Blvd.
Nov. 18, 1:25 p.m. – Robert Andrews School, 3230 Manlius St., East St. Paul
Nov. 19, 1:30 p.m. – Bernie Wolfe Community School, 95 Bournais Dr.
Nov. 20, 9:30 a.m. – École Regent Park, 422 Moroz St.
Nov. 23, 1:30 p.m. – Valley Gardens Middle School, 220 Antrim Rd.
Nov. 24, 1:30 p.m. – Salisbury Morse Place School, 795 Prince Rupert Ave.
Nov. 26, 10 a.m. – John W. Gunn Middle School, 351 Harold Ave. W.
Nov. 26, 1 and 2:15 p.m. – John Henderson Junior High School, 930 Brazier
Nov. 27, 2 p.m. – Munroe Junior High School, 405 Munroe

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If you wish to attend one of these presentations, please contact Wanda McConnell, RETSD senior communications co-ordinator at wmccconnell@retsd.mb.ca or 204-667-7130, ext. 2249.