

Safe and Caring School Team & TTFM

1) Overview:

- The focus of the team is to help promote a safe, positive and welcoming school environment
- the team includes representation from the community(SRO), parents and staff

2) Tell Them From Me Survey

- to help guide us in our mandate we use both qualitative and quantitative data
- one such source of information is the Tell Them From Me Survey
- this survey is geared at measuring perceptions about school climate and is completed voluntarily by students in Grade 4 to 12 throughout Ontario
- Westwind PS. now has 2 years of data, 2014 and (2013). We are being asked to do the survey again this school year
- last year it not only included students but also parents
- we had 81(67) gr. 4s, 66(70) gr. 5s, 68(53) grade 6's and 43 parents participate
- the OCDSB hopes to include staff eventually as well
- The results for our school were positive in both years
- Overall our students feel Westwind is a safe and caring school where student feel a high sense of belonging (85% vs. 83% last year)
- Our students are healthy and engaged in a variety of activities both in and out of school and feel connected to the staff (7.4 out of 10 vs. 7.3 last year)
- students also reported strong, positive relationships with their peers (85% vs. 83% last year)
- with regards to being subject to bullying, 21% of students reported being subjected to physical, social, verbal or cyber bullying which is a reduction of 7% from last year

- overall students scored 6.3 out of 10 in relation to their feeling that they have someone at home or in their community who consistently provides encouragement and can be turned to for advice, up from 6.2 last year

-this year was the first time parents were invited to take a parent survey

- Only a very small percentage of parents took the survey, 43 parents in total. We hope to get a larger response this year.

-overall parents felt welcome at Westwind 7.5 on a scale out of 10

-they indicated that Westwind supports learning with a score of 7.8

-these parents indicated that Westwind supports positive behaviour with a score of 7.5

-Safety at Westwind received a score of 7.9 out of 10 and inclusion 6.9

-The TTFM data will guide our efforts to improve school climate so that our students, parents, staff and community continues to have a strong sense of belonging at Westwind

-Our efforts to improve school climate to date include such initiatives as:

A) Playground Leader and Mentor Program

-here junior students in Grade 4-6 will have the opportunity to lead games and activities during recess while modeling positive problem solving strategies

-this is a wonderful leadership opportunity for our junior students who are willing to share their time to support younger students on the yard.

B) Bullying Awareness

-this is an ongoing conversation integrated into all areas of the curriculum.

-the role and perspective of the bully, victim and bystander are discussed and explored

-Students will learn to differentiate bullying behaviour from the person and learn to better understand and express themselves regarding uncomfortable situations they find themselves in

C) Improve to Improv

- during the last two years we invited Jennifer Laale to do her “Confidence and Communication workshop” to help train students in anti-bullying strategies
- she focused on “Letting go of Fear, Building Trust and Active Listening”
- this year she has offered to act as our resource to continue building capacity

D)Anti-Bullying Presentation

- Last year we organized a presentation by the 4 Life Foundation on anti-bullying
- speaker Jamie Allison, a ten year NHL veteran devoted to building bridges within local communities, focused on physical, verbal, relational and cyber bullying
- this year Mr. Caron is in the process of coordinating a presentation by Stunt Man Stu whose focus will be bully prevention

E) WITS and LEADS

- last year we also implemented a successful program created in Victoria BC. Called WITS
- Beatrice Ocquaye who is also a member of our Safe School team spear headed thisschool wide initiative
- WITS stands for Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out, Seek Help
- Its focus is preventing peer victimization by explicitly teaching and modeling appropriate healthy strategies when dealing with peer conflict
- the program fosters a partnership between school, home, and the community to create responsive environments that help children deal with bullying and peer victimization
- to find out more about WITS, go to <http://www.witsprogram.ca>.
- for tips on how to support WITS at home go to <http://www.witsprogram.ca/families/>

-our implementation plan for WITS is to entrench the strategies into all areas of communication and interaction so it becomes an automatic response in the academic and social fabric of our school.

-last year staff have familiarized themselves with the principles and philosophy of the program and completed the on-line WITs certification.

-students have participated in presentations, in-class activities (teachable moments, read-alouds, music, and drama), and assemblies with a focus on developing positive relationships and effective communication skills

-this year WITs will be extended to include LEADS , a program offered through WITS that provides strategies and resources that are developmentally appropriate for older elementary aged students so that they can become WITS Leaders. LEADS stands for Look and Listen, Explore points of view, Act, Did it work? And Seek Help