



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Rainy River District School Board recognizes Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week**

The Rainy River District School Board is committed to providing a safe and positive learning environment for all of its students. The School Board recognizes that Ontario Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week – November 18 to 24, 2018 – highlights an issue of critical importance, and as such, students and school staff will be engaged in various activities throughout the week to learn more about bullying and its effect on student learning and well-being. According to statistics, most students in Canada have been bullied at one time in their lives. In some cases, bullying is an ongoing issue that can seriously affect the lives of both those being bullied and the bully.

A number of Rainy River District School Board initiatives, programs and strategies are in place to create a learning environment where everyone feels welcome and respected. Rainy River District School Board schools promote a culture of high expectations for all students and differentiate instruction and assessment to meet the individual learning needs of students. Students are encouraged and given support to be positive leaders and role models in their school community – for example, by speaking up about issues such as bullying. In addition, equity and inclusive education strategies are practiced by students and staff. The learning environment, instructional materials, and teaching and assessment strategies reflect the diversity of all learners.

When a positive school climate exists students, staff members and parents feel – and are – safe, included and accepted. Building an inclusive school means all members of the school community demonstrate respect, fairness and kindness in their interactions, and build healthy relationships that are free from discrimination.

Despite best efforts, incidents of bullying do occur and to assist schools in responding to such incidents, the Rainy River District School Board's Code of Conduct sets out clear standards of behaviour for everyone involved in the school system. Bullying incidents can also be reported online through the school website. All information that is submitted on the online reporting form is forwarded to the appropriate Principal and Vice-Principal(s) and appropriate action will be taken.

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#### **Media Contact:**

Andrew Harris, Superintendent of Education, Rainy River District School Board (807) 274-9855

#### **Reference:**

Heather Latter, Community Outreach Officer, Rainy River District School Board (807) 274-9855 ext. 4989

Mission: *"Together, we empower all students to believe in themselves, to achieve, and to dream."*

Vision: *"The Rainy River District School Board is an innovative community, nurturing hearts and minds, to build a foundation for tomorrow, today."*

*This publication is available in accessible formats upon request.*