

## Student Voice

### High School *Helping Helpers* Program ...

#### About the program ...

*Helping Helpers* at Fort Frances High School trains the natural network of students who help others in the school to be even better helpers through the formation of a school-wide support group. The program began with a school-wide survey that asked over 500 students to identify the two students they would go to if they needed help. The survey identified twenty one students who then attended a team-building retreat to bring them together as a cohesive group to build upon the skills and qualities that they already possessed. The helpers network with one another at monthly meetings where they further develop their peer support skills and learn about “red flag issues.” The *Helping Helpers* students, both individually and collectively, are having a positive impact on school culture.



#### Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Students have become better listeners and are more active helpers within their groups around the school.
- This natural network of helpers has made classrooms and the school a place where students feel safer and more welcome, resulting in improvements in both attendance and achievement.
- Student networking across school groups and cliques is having a positive effect on overall school culture as barriers between groups are broken down. Students talk across groups as they learn about their similarities and shared experiences.
- Parent feedback has been excellent, with parents indicating that they see *Helping Helpers* as an outstanding opportunity that benefits all students.

#### Helping Helpers Quotations ...

“When people come to us for help now, we know what we can do to help. Instead of giving someone bad advice, we can refer them to someone else, and, overall, when people come to us for help we know how to help.”

“We learned how to be better listeners and now we know what we can do to help if we come against our limits.”

#### To find out more, contact ...

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