

**Ministry of Education**

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January 14, 2011

Dear Principal,

We know great things are happening in Ontario's schools to promote health and wellbeing. You have told us.

Over the last four years, more than 2,200 schools have pledged to undertake more than 8,800 healthy activities through the Healthy Schools Recognition Program. Participating schools received a certificate and pennant as recognition of their commitment.

Once again, we want to recognize that work. The recognition program encourages school councils, students, school staff and community partners to engage in healthy activities.

If you have participated before, we encourage you to maintain the tradition. You can expand on previous years' activities, or you can choose to develop a new one. The important thing is to do something healthy. To receive recognition you, your school council chair and a student representative (where applicable) must work together to complete the acceptance form.

Remember, there are many ways to promote a healthy learning environment and receive recognition. There is a range of healthy activities your school can do. Visit [www.ontario.ca/healthyschools](http://www.ontario.ca/healthyschools) to:

- Find tips and ideas to help your school community be healthier
- Use the search tool to learn what other schools have done
- Read success stories from other schools – and share your own to inspire others
- Learn more about the Healthy Schools Recognition Program application process

Schools are asked to submit their pledge by April 8, 2011.

I am also writing to student councils and school councils to encourage their involvement and invite you to use the attached newsletter article to promote the program within your school.

Research shows that a healthy school environment enhances learning and success in school, and provides academic, social, emotional and physical benefits. The recognition program engages students by helping them take their health into their own hands and providing them with the tools they need to lead active, healthy lives in the future.

I hope your school will commit to becoming healthier by participating in the Healthy Schools Recognition Program for 2010/11.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Ontario's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leona Dombrowsky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'L' and 'D'.

Leona Dombrowsky  
Minister of Education