

Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Telephone 416 325-2600
Facsimile 416 325-2608

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Téléphone 416 325-2600
Télécopieur 416 325-2608



January 14, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

We know great things are happening in Ontario's schools to promote health and well-being. 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.

Public Health Units are uniquely positioned to support the Healthy Schools Recognition Program. The program is not intended to duplicate local efforts but rather to build on them by profiling schools across the province that are taking action to create healthier learning environments.

Participation is easy. If schools have taken part before, they can expand on previous years' activities, or choose to develop new ones.

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.

As you know, planning a healthy project or activity for the school is a great way for parents and students to get involved with the school and community.

I hope that you will encourage schools participating in your programs to apply for provincial recognition through the Healthy Schools Recognition Program. Schools are asked to submit their pledge by April 8, 2011. You can find more information at www.ontario.ca/healthyschools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leona Dombrowsky".

Leona Dombrowsky
Minister of Education