

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 School Council Chair,

We know that there are great things 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.

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

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.

Planning a healthy project or activity for your school is a great way for parents to get involved with the school community. I encourage you to work with students, school staff and local organizations to develop activities.

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 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 principals and student councils to encourage their involvement. I hope your school will commit to becoming healthier by participating in the Healthy Schools Recognition Program for 2010/11.

Sincerely,

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

Leona Dombrowsky
Minister of Education