

Hi

**Leila** has sent the message below.

### **Comments**

Dear Whom it May Concern, My name is Leila and I am a thirteen year old student at Dalewood. I have heard that you might close Dalewood and am extremely mad. Here are my reasons why Dalewood should stay open... If you closed Dalewood many of the students would be stuck for a place to go. Since they won't have a gifted program at Dalewood all of the gifted intelligence students would be forced to move to schools extremely far away from their homes and they would lose most of their best friends. Dalewood also has an amazing French immersion program (which I am a part of). The French immersion classes are extremely well known for excelling in every subject from music to physical-education. On the other hand Prince Phillip doesn't have any of these exceptional classes. Dalewood is well known all across the board for its exceptional education program. My school deserves to stay in the HWDSB board because it is so unique. Dalewood has so many original qualities like winits. Winits are a way for students to show how many activities they are involved in. Winits are a fun and useful way to show off your achievements. Also Dalewood has advisor lessons. These lessons are held once per month and are taught by either the advisor teacher or a student leader. These lessons teach students about many character traits like integrity, honesty and respect. Because of these lessons Dalewood students will grow up to have a well rounded character and they will show all of these 10 characters attributes to their friends and family for the rest of their life. The third amazing unique activity at Dalewood School is OELC. OELC stands for Ontario Educational Leadership Center. Every year our teachers pick a few students who excel at either athletics or the arts and they send them to OELC leadership camp. These students have showed that they have been a great leader throughout grade 6 and 7 and for grade 8 they get to be even better leaders around our school. I don't think I have ever heard of a school that has more extra-curricular activities then Dalewood! In the music section we have a large selection of bands including Junior and Senior jazz, Junior and Senior band, Concert Choir and Stage choir. All of these groups have performed at various festivals and they all received no less than a silver medal. Whenever Dalewood performs somewhere the rest of the school cheers them on with all their might! For all the sports fans out there Dalewood has an enormous amount of winning sports teams. You could join the volleyball team, basketball team, 3 pitch baseball team, swim team, track and field, cross country, golf, orienteering or one of the other competitive teams. If you don't like competition we have so many intramural sports available to play during recess at Dalewood which is run by our OELC athletic students. Dalewood also has a latin dance club, drama club, yearbook team, I.T team and student council. Me to We is another important group at Dalewood. Me to We ( M 2 W ) works so hard to try and make the world a better place. As you can see Dalewood is a school abloom with life. You may think that I'm all out of reasons but you are wrong! During my first year of Dalewood I heard about a girl named Lauren Packer. Even though I never met Lauren Packer I have never heard anything mean said about her. She may seem normal but in October she died of cancer. Our whole school was devastated but we pulled through it and did an enormous fund raiser to help cancer research. Now in front of our school we have a bench dedicated to Lauren Packer this bench is right at the front of our school surrounded with flowers. If you tore down our school it would seem as if you were destroying our cherished memories of an amazing person. Even though if you got rid of Dalewood it wouldn't affect me it would affect my younger

brother. Ever since I left G.R Allan to go to Dalewood my brother has been so anxious too go to Dalewood. He can't wait to play an actual instrument other than the sticks and he is mega excited to play on ALL of Dalewood's sports teams. If they had to shut down Dalewood it would break my heart to see how sad he was. Prince Phillip sounds like an amazing school but it could never compare to Dalewood. In elementary schools students feel very young and they aren't very prepared for high school. Dalewood has a rotation very similar to high school and the entire atmosphere on a whole is very good at preparing students for high school. Without a middle school like Dalewood students would arrive at high school so unprepared and they would struggle with the many aspects of high school. According to my research Prince Phillip only has 181 students in their ENTIRE school. Dalewood has 418 students that means that Dalewood has almost three times the amount of students compared to Prince Phillip. If you closed Dalewood there would be far less people upset than if you closed Prince Phillip. There is always going to be people angry but you need to choose the best choice for the community. Closing Prince Phillip and renovating Dalewood was your first idea and that was the idea that the board originally liked but now a small group have complained I agree that it must be upsetting for some people but leaving Dalewood open is CLEARLY the best option. Dalewood is an important part of westdale and if you shut it down there would be a whole in all of the past present and future Dalewood students and their families. Thank you so much for spending your time reading this letter because I know you are a very busy person! If you would like to contact me please email me at Sincerely,  
Leila