



# Ray Lewis Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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May 16, 2022

Dear Ray Lewis Families,

This letter is to inform you that our school was vandalized with graffiti that contained racist and homophobic language. We are saddened to see this vandalism on our school property and disturbed that these actions were intended to cause harm against Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+, Black and racialized communities.

Students were directed into the building this morning to avoid seeing the reference and to reduce harm. A report was made to the police who are investigating the situation. The graffiti has since been removed by a third-party service provider coordinated by HWDSB's Facilities Management staff.

We take these acts of discrimination and hate very seriously. Our priority is that students and staff feel safe, accepted, and included. This situation may cause feelings of unsafety and anxiety for students and staff. At any time, a student can contact a caring adult for support or report information about an incident to the school office. Social Work Services staff will also be available.

Students may also reach out for anonymous support and reporting through *HWDSB Helps*:

- **Text 905-963-0066.** Standard rates apply.
- **Download the HWDSB Helps app** for iOS and Android.
- **Access the anonymous Web chat** (<https://hwdsb.info/webchat-help>)

Thank you for your support as we strive to create a welcoming environment where everyone belongs. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the school.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Burleigh  
Principal