



Waterdown District High School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Dear Grade 9/10 WDHS parent/guardian/caregiver:

We hope that you and your family are staying well at this time, and that your child/student has had a great start to the school year. We certainly feel the positive energy in the school building.

At WDHS, we continue to learn together more about sexual violence prevention and how to have healthy and respectful relationships. We are pleased to share with families our continued partnership with the SACHA (Sexual Assault Centre – Hamilton and Area) to provide learning sessions for our students. The SACHA is a feminist, non-profit, community-based organization that provides supports to people who have experienced sexualized violence at any point in their lives. They work to end violence and oppression through education, advocacy, outreach, coalition building, community partnerships, and activism.

Last year we provided presentations on healthy relationships and consent to all of our students, as well as learning related to supporting students, to staff. Based on positive feedback, this year we would like to offer the same presentations to our Grade 9 students, and a new presentation about online safety to current Grade 10 students.

These sessions will occur in person, two classes at a time, as we recognize that learning is usually more meaningful when it is in person and in smaller groups. Classroom teachers will attend with their classes, as well as one of our Guidance Counsellors. The sessions are about 30 minutes and students will attend once with their class (Grade 9s Period 1 and Grade 10s Period 2) either on November 15 or 18. The presentations are conducted by SACHA Public Education Coordinator, Miranda Jurilj.

We recognize that these topics are serious and may be challenging for some individuals. If a student does not want to participate with their class, we ask that they let their teacher know in advance and/or a parent/guardian/caregiver call the school. At the time of the presentation, the teacher will confidentially support the student getting to a safe and supervised alternate space for the duration.

We invite you to partner with us and support us in the education of our youth by having conversations at home. Please do not hesitate to call the school at 905.689.6692 and ask to speak to any of us if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Greg Clark
Principal

Jonathan Schinkel
Vice-Principal

Jennifer McGilchrist
Vice-Principal