



Imagine Newsletter

A School Climate Approach to Bullying Prevention

Information for School Staff

Issue 5

Bullying Awareness Week

Each year a week in November is designated as National Bullying Awareness Week.

Visit www.bullyingawarenessweek.org for more info and downloadable resources.

Access the Imagine Manual via www.region.waterloo.on.ca/bullying

Welcome Back to a New Year!

Getting back to school is a busy time, but we hope your School Climate Committee (SCC) has had a chance to meet and start planning the year ahead. One event to keep in mind is Bullying Awareness Week.

Revitalize your SCC! They can:

- Orientate all new staff members to your *Imagine* initiative
- Make sure all staff have a copy of the "Teacher's Handbook" [the last section of *Imagine* manual] and grade appropriate lesson plans
- Invite additional members to sit on your SCC. They may want help out with a special activity or sub-committee. [*Imagine* manual pg. 36-42]
- Highlight bullying awareness activities in your school newsletter and website
- Arrange a staff meeting to:
 - review resources [look up resources in your *Imagine* manual pg 487-534]
 - share tips from facilitating classroom meetings
 - review your school response plan to bullying behaviour [*Imagine* manual pg. 78-83, 85-94, 104-116 and 132-170]

Classroom teachers are key! Encourage all to:

- Start or reintroduce Classroom meetings [*Imagine* manual pg. 85-94]
- Teach *Imagine* lesson plans [*Imagine* manual pg. 171-486]
- Be a positive role model

Don't forget to involve students and parents! Invite them to:

- A parent info night [ask your Public health nurse for help]
- Join the School Climate Committee
- Help plan events for Bullying Awareness Week
- Participate in Bullying Awareness activities
- Create a welcome banner to promote inclusion [translated in a variety of languages]

Bullying prevention is an issue your whole school-wide community can rally around! Here are some additional ideas:

- Include your student & parent council in planning
- Have a contest to create a school logo or motto
- Highlight resources in your school library for students, staff and families
- Host a bullying prevention assembly
- Organize training for co-operative games on the playground
- Recognize positive behaviours (e.g. "Gotchas")



For more information, contact Region of Waterloo Public Health 519-883-2003 ext. 5356

www.region.waterloo.on.ca/bullying