

Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office
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Allenby Public School
391 St. Clements Ave.,
Toronto, M5N 1M2

Dear Parents:

This year at Allenby, our Caring and Safe Schools Team have been working with members of the Equity Department, including the Gender based Violence Prevention Team, and the Public Health Department, on some proactive initiatives to support an inclusive, caring and safe school environment.

While we have had anti bullying initiatives and classroom sessions on an ongoing basis over the years, we have observed an increase in gender based teasing and bullying which actually starts very early on. For this reason, we want to be supportive and proactive in helping our students develop strategies and language to respond to these kinds of situations. Our initiatives have included staff sessions, classroom lessons and discussions, and a new student led playground program for early Primary students.

Our children are exposed these days to a huge variety of influences from the popular culture, through television, internet, social media, movies and music. They are challenged in determining how to determine “appropriateness” and how to set limits for themselves, for their social groups and for the school environment.

As part of our plan, we have arranged for parent sessions that will address specific age groups.

Accordingly, we are excited to invite parents of **Grade 3 & 4** students to an important parent information session hosted by the TDSB’s Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office on **Tuesday April 9th** at 7 p.m. in the School Library.

The Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office is comprised of an interdisciplinary team. They support students, staff, and parent development on issues relating to healthy relationships and healthy sexuality and the relevant policies in the TDSB. They also work with central TDSB staff and community supports to promote violence prevention activities that are in line with TDSB policies and procedures.

The goal for this session is to provide you with a background understanding of gender-based violence (which can include issues of harassment, bullying and homophobia) and how it may impact our students. We hope that you walk away with a relevant understanding of TDSB policies and procedures, and some support and strategies that are being implemented in our school.

We look forward to seeing you on February 13th and encourage you to bring your questions. Please RSVP, whether you are able to attend or not, by signing and returning the bottom of this form before **Friday April 5th** so that we will know how many people are coming and can plan accordingly. **Please indicate if you will need babysitting that evening.**

Sincerely,

Jennie Ucar
Principal

Elizabeth Lau
Vice Principal

I/we will attend the information session on Tuesday, April 9th. _____
We will need babysitting for ___ children. Age(s) _____

I/we are unable to attend the information session on April 9th _____

Signed: _____

Child’s name: _____ Room _____