



ÉCOLE ÉLÉMENTAIRE ALFRED B. DIXON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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“Working Together, Learning Together, Growing Together”

Mr. S. Harrington
Principal/Directeur

Mrs. M. Wong
Vice Principal/Directrice adjointe

Body Science Workshops

Parent Information Meeting

Wednesday, January 29th, 6:00-7:30 pm



Dear Parents/Guardians of all Dixon Students,

Each year, students in all elementary grades throughout BC receive instruction in health education. This information is included in the Health and Career Education curriculum mandated for all BC students by the Ministry for Education. From time to time, our school has also brought in experts in the field to address this topic with our school community. We are excited to inform you that this year, thanks to our very supportive Dixon P.A.C., a **Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educator** will be visiting our school to work with parents and students Kindergarten through Grade Seven. We had this program in our school two years ago. As the information changes as students get older, we will be providing it again this year.

Why Do We Need to Education Our Children About Sexual Health?

Based on her education and experience as a sexual health educator, Saleema identifies three reasons why providing this information starting at kindergarten is crucial:

1. Most importantly, studies from all over the world consistently show that **children who are educated about healthy bodies, healthy boundaries and healthy sexuality are protected from child sexual abuse**. Even if children are not asking questions yet (some never will) we need to give them information about their bodies and help them to develop strong personal boundaries. Sexual offenders (85% of which are known to the victim) prey on children who aren't educated about their bodies and therefore lack the skills to differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate touching. These children find it hard to say “no”, especially to an adult, and may not report abuse for fear of getting in trouble.
2. **Young children are easiest to teach. They are excited to be body scientists, and accept the information very matter-of-factly**. Older children and teens, however, often find it difficult to talk about sexual health openly, especially with their parents! This means we have to surmount the embarrassment barrier before they can accept the information they need. The good news is that young children only absorb information they are ready for...everything else just goes above their head. More good news, studies show that children who learn about healthy bodies at an early age from reliable adults in their life delay sexual intercourse.
3. **Unfortunately, children today are exposed at earlier and earlier ages to all things involving sex**. We, as responsible adults, need to stay one step ahead of this by arming our children with accurate information about sexual health before they get their questions answered on the playground, by older friends or on the internet. We need to teach them to think critically about what they hear, and this allows parents need to establish themselves early as their child's number one source of sexual health information throughout their development.

Please join us for this informative **Presentation for Parents**. This session will give an overview of student presentations.

Student sessions will take place during the school day on Thursday, January 30th.

The content of these sessions is supported by current research as being age appropriate and we believe that it contributes to healthy child development. Some of the topics Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators cover in their workshops extend beyond the learning outcomes of the BC Physical and Health Education curriculum. For this reason, participation of students is not required. Attendance at the parent presentation is strongly encouraged, but not required.

Please inform Mr. Harrington or Mrs. Wong if you do not wish your child to participate in these workshops. If this is the case, we would still strongly encourage you to attend the parent evening for further information.

These workshops are ones that are booked by many of our schools in the Lower Mainland, as they are very popular programs. This year, we were able to reserve these workshops through funding from our Dixon Parent Advisory Committee so we thank them for supporting this program for our students!

Our ultimate goal is to help our students be educated about their bodies so that they can understand how their bodies work, and how to keep themselves safe and healthy. Having the correct information presented to them at both home and school is one of the best ways we can educate our children about this important topic.

Sincerely,

Mr. S. Harrington
Principal

Mrs. M. Wong
Vice-Principal



You can find a great deal of additional information that you may find helpful on Saleema Noon's website:

<http://www.saleemanoon.com>