



ST. BASIL

Catholic Elementary School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

RE: Revisions to the Health and Physical Education Curriculum

As Catholics, we understand that parents and guardians are the primary educators of their children. Your role in the teaching of family life issues is pivotal and vital. As a Catholic school system, we work with our parents and our parishes to provide for our students an education that is founded in the Gospel of Jesus, and reflects a Catholic world view.

We want to reassure you that while we have a responsibility to teach the curriculum set out by the Ministry of Education in education policy, we will continue to do so in a manner that conveys, respects and models our Catholic values to our students. The vast majority of the revised Health and Physical Education curriculum is already covered within our existing *Fully Alive* program. Although some of the content has been reassigned, with the expectation that it be delivered in earlier grades, we are confident that we will be able to deliver the revised curriculum within the context of our Family Life program, in a way that is consistent with Church teachings and our faith tradition.

Now that the revised curriculum has been released, the Catholic education community of Ontario will work together to produce resources that support our Catholic teachers and ensure that the curriculum delivered in our classrooms is consistent with our Catholic teachings and appropriate within the context of a Catholic classroom.

As with our existing *Fully Alive* program practice, we will provide parents/guardians with a clear understanding of all content that is covered in relation to human sexuality prior to it being introduced in our classrooms. Our process for parental acknowledgement and consent for sexual health topics will not change and we will continue to work closely with our parents to educate the whole child. The *Fully Alive* program complements the efforts of families and supports what our parents are doing at home.

For more information about the *Fully Alive* program, please visit: <http://acbo.on.ca/englishweb/fullyalive.htm>

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

John McDerimid
Principal