

Spring 2011

Dear Parent,

As Catholic educators, we believe that parents have the primary role to teach their children about the gift of sexuality and human reproduction. Schools provide assistance and support, but do not replace the parental role in the fulfilment of this delicate responsibility.

The Hamilton Sexual Health Network, of which the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board and the Diocesan Office of Ministry, Family and Religious Education are members, has produced booklets entitled, **Talking with your Tween/Teen about Growth and Development**. These are meant for parents of grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 students, to help them disseminate knowledge to their children around issues of sexuality. The Board of Trustees has approved these booklets for distribution.

The ultimate goal of these booklets is to encourage parents to talk and continue talking with their children about Theme Three of the **Fully Alive** program, *Created Sexual: Male and Female*, as well as the Growth and Development sections of the Ontario Curriculum for Health and Physical Education. This conversation, between parents and children, must take place in the context of the parents' cultural background and family and religious values. It is our hope that the communication about the sensitive issues of sexuality will help guide the behaviour and attitudes of adolescents as they grow and start to make decisions about relationships and sexuality.

Yours sincerely,



P. Beaudette

Program Leader:
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G. Hubbard

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