

Porter Creek Secondary

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Re: Yukon Threat Assessment Program

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The safety of our children is a top priority for everyone. The tragedies that have occurred where students commit violent acts against other students and educators in Canada and in the United States have caused government officials, educators, parents, students and other community members to assess how we make our schools and communities safe for our children and students.

Public Schools Branch staff members have been involved in an intensive safety training program with our community partners, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Yukon Department of Health and Social Services, and Yukon Department of Justice. From what we have learned in this training we know that student acts of violence are not random; individuals do not suddenly snap and commit serious acts of violence. In cases where serious acts of violence have occurred there have been many indicators and escalating signs that these individuals are on a path to commit serious harm to themselves or others. The training has helped our professionals to recognize these signs, assess them, and put in place interventions to support and reduce the level of risk. Together with our community partners, Public Schools Branch has developed a plan to respond to situations in which students may be demonstrating behaviours that pose a risk to themselves or others.

We wish to advise parents that we have adopted a policy which requires schools to undertake a Threat Assessment in all cases of students making threats to harm themselves or others. These threats may be physical, verbal or written; they may be gestures or messages posted on the Internet. The purpose of the Yukon Threat Assessment Program is to determine how best to support students considered at risk so that their behaviour does not become hurtful or destructive to themselves or others.

Parents can play an active role in keeping our schools safe by advising the school of any information communicated to them from their children concerning threatening behaviours that their children may have been subjected to, in or out of school, and continuously monitoring their children's use of the Internet and Internet chat lines.

This letter is intended to provide you with fair notice that all Yukon schools will respond to all threats in a professional manner that provides for safe, healthy, and caring learning environments. Any threats or threat making behaviours will be taken seriously and assessed accordingly. Parents will be informed if their child is part of a threat assessment.

We are pleased to be able to provide this level of support to our school communities and appreciate having the ongoing support of our community partners.



"Pride, Passion, Purpose"