



Algonquin Ridge Elementary School

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ALGONQUIN RIDGE MAY NEWS

MESSAGE FROM MR. MCKEOWN AND MR. VAN ARRAGON

With a wet May now underway we are counting down the weeks until the end of the year. You have likely noticed from the school's communication and the reports from your children just how busy this time of year can be at school—and there are no signs of slowing down. The numerous school initiatives combined with several indoor days due to rain and the general 'Spring Fever' we are all experiencing can easily lead to some poor decisions and student conflict. Peer conflict is a normal part of growing up and is to be expected when almost 600 children spend their days together in one building. When conflicts occur we recognize that all children will make mistakes and we treat each incident as an opportunity for reflection and learning. We stress the character traits of honesty, integrity and taking responsibility as we follow the school's progressive discipline procedures. The support of families in promoting these values is critical for the overall character development of students. We appreciate the time you take to listen to your children's reports, to suggest the strategies they can be using to resolve conflict peacefully and to ask questions to better understand the situation from all perspectives. We are also happy to hear your concerns when difficult situations arise as they may with cases of bullying.

It is important for students to understand the difference between bullying and conflict. The following excerpt is from the SCDSB's Bully Prevention Resource. It explains that "Bullying is a pattern of repeated, intentionally cruel behaviour. It differs from normal peer conflict in a number of ways.

- ◆ Power. Bullies are almost always more powerful than their victims – bigger, stronger, older, or just tougher. Adam was small for his age, Kevin husky. Donald and Rudy were equally matched – similar in both age and size.
- ◆ Support. Bullies choose victims in part for their relative isolation. Alone and exposed, Adam was an easy target, whereas Donald and Rudy both had staunch support groups.
- ◆ Vulnerability. Bullies look for potential victims among the weak. A child who is sensitive and seemingly without defense is seen as easy prey.
- ◆ Intensity and Duration. Bullying is rarely a one-time occurrence. Adam was subject to Kevin's barrage of bullying every time he showed up for P.E.
- ◆ Intent to harm. Bullies are sadistic. They gain release and satisfaction from hurting their victims. They enjoy watching the pain they cause."

School administration needs to be made aware of this type of behaviour and all children need to know that help will come when they inform you or us at school of the problem.

Conflict, on the other hand, is unfortunately a daily occurrence in school. All children, like adults, may at times be impatient, insensitive, unkind, unwilling to share, lack empathy, or fail to be inclusive. Most often, when conflict occurs, it is because children have not taken the time to consider how their actions may be perceived by others or how others' feelings may be hurt. Most children generally behave well and are good to each other, but most children also get into conflict from time to time, some more than others. We work hard to promote all the SCDSB character traits here at school and value your partnership in this common goal. Learning is at the heart of conflict resolution. Please take a moment in May to discuss this topic with your children. Ask them to share their thoughts on some of the details above and have them make connections to May's character trait of 'Respect'. At the end of this Newsletter you will find an additional piece taken from the Board's Bully Prevention Resource called "What Students Can Do About Bullying"

On a different note, at the time of the writing of this newsletter, we still seem to be "stuck" in April showers rather than May flowers!! Our playground set has been inspected and the sand tilled, but it is still much too wet to allow our students to use it. Hopefully next week will bring brighter, warmer, drier weather and the playground will be available for use again!

MAY CALENDAR

- May 1 - 5 Education Week
- May 1 - 5 Mental Health Awareness Week
- May 1 - Paint the Plow event
- May 1 - Groove Dance education for all students
- May 3 - Hydro One tree planting at ARES
- May 4 - Whole School 150th Photo (Canada's 150th B-day/150th day of school)
- May 4 - Gr. 7 Swim to Survive
- May 4 - Jump Rope for Heart demonstration team presentation
- May 8 - Groove Dance education for all students
- May 8 - Regional Rugby Tournament
- May 9 - School Council Meeting @6:30 pm in the Learning Commons
- May 9 - Gymnasium AV System Installation begins
- May 9 - Grade 8 trip to Stratford
- May 10 - Scholastic Book Fair
- May 10 - Canada 150 Art Gallery Night 6:00-7:30 pm
- May 11 - Grade 7 Swim to Survive
- May 11 - Scholastic Book Fair
- May 11 - Welcome to Kindergarten event 4:00-5:00 pm
- May 12 - ARES spirit day - Rainbow day
- May 12 - Scholastic Book Fair
- May 15 - Groove Dance education for all students
- May 17 - School Track & Field Event
- May 17 - Little Caesars Pizza Kit Pickup - 3:30 - 6:00pm
- May 18 - School Track & Field Rain date
- May 19 - P.A. Day - no school for students
- May 22 - Victoria Day - School Closed
- May 23 - 26 - EQAO provincial testing for grade 3
- May 24 - Neema Ugandan Children's choir presentation
- May 26 - Character Education assembly 11:40 AM
- May 29 - June 1 - EQAO provincial testing for grade 6
- May 30 - Grade 5 field trip to Ste. Marie among the Hurons



CANADA 150 ARTS NIGHT AT ARES - MAY 10

Come on out and join us at a Canadian themed arts night on Wednesday, May 10th from 6:00-7:30 pm at the school. This is a school wide arts night with all students participating. Our hallways will be transformed into an art gallery filled with Canada themed visual art. In addition, some of our students (individuals and groups) will be doing some dramatic or musical performances in the gym from 7:00-7:30 PM. We're looking forward to a full house that evening and instead of an admission fee we ask that families make donations **towards the Neema Children's Choir of Uganda** who will be visiting our school on May 24 and performing for our students. The children in this choir need basic essentials such as toiletries, socks and underwear. Anything you can bring as a donation will be greatly appreciated by these underprivileged African orphans.

CANADA 150 CELEBRATION

As part of Algonquin Ridge's Canada 150 Celebration, students were challenged to create a plan for how to spend \$150 to help our community. Thank you to all students who submitted their creative ideas! We are proud to announce that there will be two \$150 prizes awarded! Congratulations to **Cadence** in grade 2 for her plan to provide winter clothing for homeless people. She will use the \$150 to purchase warm socks, underwear and long underwear for 5 homeless people in Barrie. She will use social media to request donations for warm coats and winter boots. Stay tuned for more details about how you can help her reach her goal! Please also congratulate **Sarah and Ava** in grade 2 for their plan to donate books to children who are spending time in the hospital. They will use the money to purchase new books and deliver them to the children at RVH to cheer them up while they are sick or recovering from surgery.



ARES YEARBOOKS ARE COMING! LAST CHANCE TO ORDER

Again this year, students, parents, and teachers are teaming up to create a yearbook for the entire school to enjoy. We are creating a perfect binding, 100 page yearbook with double page classroom spreads, team and clubs pictures, graduating students, monthly school events, world events and several extra pages with school spirit and individual involvement. This will be a true memory keeper to look back on for years to come.

If you have any photos that might be appropriate for use in the yearbook we are more than happy to consider any you may have. Please feel free to submit them by emailing them to ARESbarrieyearbook@gmail.com; text them to Alison Currie at 705-715-1651 or use the app eShare (via Herff Jones). If you install and use this free app, your photos will come directly to the yearbook editor. The school code is `algonquinridge`. Any photos for consideration need to be forwarded by May 12th in order to complete the yearbook for printing on time. Thank you!



Forms and payment for yearbooks will be due by May 12, 2017. Once our order is placed there can be NO additional orders made so if you want one, please order it now. The cost is \$20/yearbook. A paper copy of the yearbook order form was sent home at the beginning of May. You can also access an electronic copy of the form at <http://alr.scdsb.on.ca/>

Yearbooks will be delivered during the last week of school.

We are certain that you will enjoy this keepsake.

ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE IN OUR SCHOOL YEAR BOOK

New this year: Sponsor a page in the yearbook. "Banners" are available for specific pages at a cost of \$75/page. Approximate sizing is 3/4" x 8" and *may* allow for small logos in jpeg form. Please contact Alison Currie at 705-715-1651 or ARESbarrieyearbook@gmail.com for more information.

Example:

This page is sponsored by ABC Group. Check us out at www.ABCGroup.com for all of your ABC needs or call us at 705-712-3456 (small logo may also be included space permitting).

EQAO PROVINCIAL STANDARDIZED TESTING FOR GRADE 3 & 6

Students in elementary and secondary schools across Ontario write provincial assessments in reading, writing and mathematics each year. The assessments are developed and scored by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). Each student that completes a provincial assessment receives an Individual Student Report (ISR) which describes the student's achievement. School and board achievement data is used to improve teaching practices and to support student learning.

This year's EQAO testing for Grade 3 and 6 students takes place from May 23 to June 1. Further information about the provincial assessments, including resources to help prepare your child for the test, can be found at www.eqao.com.

We are hoping to have all grade 3 & 6 students at school during this time so we would appreciate it if you try not to schedule any appointments for those days. Also, please ensure that your child has a good night's sleep and is well rested and fed so that they are able to do their best each day.

TRACK AND FIELD - WILL BE HERE IN A HOP, SKIP AND A JUMP!

Students in grades 4 to 8 are invited to start thinking about this year's track and field season. Our school meet is May 17th (rain date May 18th) at our school and the zone meet is June 6th (rain date June 7th.)

We will be having a food table available for students with hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, water and pop ranging in price from \$1-\$3. **If you are available and willing help with the lunch table please contact the office to express your interest.**

OUR WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION SESSION WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 11 FROM 4-5 PM.

This spring, we are hosting an orientation session to welcome new Kindergarten students and their parents to our school. Come experience what life is like in Kindergarten! Explore areas of the program, meet Kindergarten educators and have the chance to ask questions. Our school's session takes place on Thursday, May 11 at 4 PM. We look forward to welcoming you! For more information, visit www.scdsb.on.ca, click on 'Programs,' 'Kindergarten' and then 'Kindergarten Orientation.'

School start dates for September 2017 are as follows:

- Senior Kindergarten (Year 2) students will begin school on Tues. Sept. 5.
- Junior Kindergarten (Year 1) students will begin school on Thurs. Sept. 7.



IS YOUR CHILD TURNING FOUR THIS YEAR? IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN

Our school is now registering children for Kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year. Required registration documents include birth date documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for more information.

SUPPORT ARES WHEN YOU SHOP AT BRADFORD GREENHOUSES

Did you know a percentage of any purchases you make at Bradford Greenhouses is contributed back to the school? This is a year-round program so please support our school anytime you visit the Bradford Greenhouses on Dunlop Street west. When you take your products to cash out, before it is processed by the cashier, please mention that you support Algonquin Ridge and they will mark it down for us to receive a one per year gift card from the greenhouse. Thank you.





JUMP ROPE/HOOPS FOR HEART

Please help us to celebrate 35 years with the Heart and Stroke Foundation. As a Thank you from our Algonquin Ridge community, you can help achieve our goal by making a pledge and supporting our students during our Jump event in June! Please go to the following link: <http://support.heartandstroke.ca/goto/algonquinridge>

Use login: on7048 password: jump2017. There you can make a pledge for the Algonquin Ridge Jump Rope for Heart event. Our school's goal for this year is \$3000. A free skipping rope is provided with each first online donation in a student's name. You will receive an instant tax receipt when you make your donation online. Thank you for your support of the Canadian Heart and Stroke Society.



ME TO WE BAKE SALE AND DIAPER DRIVE A GREAT SUCCESS!

Congratulations to our Me to We student leadership team along with some staff members and parents who worked hard to bake approximately 700 items for our bake sale in April. We were able to raise \$775 for the Women's and Children's Shelter of Barrie. Along with these funds, we collected 2054 new diapers to donate to the shelter as well. Thank you to our ARES community for your support of this project.

BRING THE WORLD TO YOUR FRONT DOOR!

Would you like to become a host family for an international student? Learn more about another culture? Share yours? Make a new friend? Short-term, a semester or 10 months...it's up to you and your family. Hosts get 24/7 support and a generous allowance to offset expenses. For more information, visit whyihost.ca/simcoe, call 705-481-7571 ext. 2072 or email simcoeinfo@canadahomestaynetwork.ca.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR WORK?

The Simcoe County District School Board's Career Centre is ready to help at no cost to you.

The Career Centre has experienced, professional employment consultants available to help job searchers prepare for and find work. Visit the Career Centre for resources, including the use of computers, internet, printer, fax, information sessions, job board and online postings. No appointment necessary and the Centre is open Monday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information on the services available, visit barriecareercentre.com or call 705-725-8990. This Employment Ontario service is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER SCHOOL

A new selection of summer school credit courses is available this July through in-person classes and eLearning. New this year are full credit grade 9 and 10 courses at Bear Creek Secondary School in Barrie. The in-person courses at Bear Creek will run July 4 to 28 from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Limited school bus transportation is provided from all areas of Simcoe County. Details can be found on the Learning Centres website: www.thelearningcentres.com. Students can also get information from the school or from any of the SCDSB's Learning Centres. Online registration for current SCDSB students is available through the student portal. eLearning registration is supported through high school Guidance Offices. Non-SCDSB students can register using the forms on the website.



SUMMER CHILDCARE AVAILABLE AT SELECT SCDSB SCHOOLS

In partnership with community child care operators, we are pleased to support your childcare needs, offering full-day child care programs for children (aged JK to 12 years) in select schools across Simcoe County this summer. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to register. A fee subsidy may be available to families who qualify. For more information, please contact S.E.E.D.S. Childcare before and after school program Supervisor Kila Walster at 705 726-3770 or kwalster@seedschildcare.ca For the full listing of childcare centres in the SCDSB, visit www.scdsb.on.ca and click on 'Schools' and then 'Before & After School Care.'

SHINE GREEN FOR MENTAL HEALTH WEEK, MAY 1 TO 7

The Canadian Mental Health Association invites us to wear green during Mental Health Week. Be sure to share online with the hashtag #GETLOUD. Going green for mental health is a simple way for all of us to recognize that we must make mental health a priority. Visit www.greenformentalhealth.ca for more information.



LET'S WALK/ROLL/BIKE TO AND FROM SCHOOL ON MAY 18!

Our Green team wants to encourage everyone to walk or ride bikes to school on May 18 in an effort to participate and be active. Research tells us that children want to walk and bike to school! Children know that using active transportation to and from school is part of a healthy lifestyle, it's good for the environment and it makes them feel happier. A recent Ontario study indicated that a whopping 42% of children are driven to school, and 93% percent of children and youth are not meeting Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines. Did you know that distances up to 5km are travelled more quickly door-to-door by bicycle than by car?

Active school travel is the use of any form of travel that is self-propelled for the trip to and from school. Active & Safe Routes to School mobilizes children with initiatives such as Walking/Cycling School Buses, Walking/Wheeling on Wednesdays or Walk/Wheel Once a Week, and walking buddies. Using active transportation for the school journey is one of the easiest ways for students to get regular daily physical activity. Learn more at www.saferoutestoschool.ca/.

Now that the weather is warming up, including active transport to and from school in your day is easier!

STAY SAFE IN THE SUN

It only takes one bad sunburn in childhood to increase the risk of developing skin cancer later in life. As the weather gets warmer, follow these sun safety tips to keep you and your family safe:

- use a broad spectrum sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher and SPF 15 lip balm
- apply sunscreen 20-30 minutes before going outside (even on cloudy days) and always follow the label instructions
- apply sunscreen to any exposed areas of skin – nose, ears, back of neck, tops of feet, etc.
- reapply sunscreen every 2-3 hours and after sweating or swimming
- wear loose, long sleeved shirts and pants, a large-brimmed hat and sunglasses
- if possible, avoid being in the sun between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- when you're outside, look for shade

For more sun safety tips, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 to speak with a public health nurse.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

IMMUNIZATION REMINDER

By law, all students need to have an up-to-date immunization record on file at the health unit. Since starting Kindergarten, your child may have received new immunizations. A reminder – you must send your child’s updated immunization records to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit for:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio, and Pertussis
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella
- Two-doses of a Chickenpox (Varicella) containing vaccine

If your child will not be getting these vaccines, you will need to give the health unit a valid exemption (medical or affidavit). If the health unit does not have an updated record, students could be temporarily suspended from school. Follow these steps to help us:

1. Check your child’s yellow immunization card
2. Contact your health care provider to obtain records, or to get missing vaccinations
3. Share the complete record with us at www.smdhu.org/immsonline or fax the record to the health unit at 705-726-3962

Questions? Contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or toll-free at 1-877-721-7520.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

MABEL'S LABELS

School Council has recently added Mabel's Labels to our school's fundraising initiatives. This website features peel and stick clothing labels, bag tags and a variety of safety and household labeling systems. This will be an ongoing, open initiative for our school which means that any time you wish to get labels for your children or household, please consider using Mabel's Labels and help out Algonquin Ridge. It couldn't be easier. Simply go to <http://mabelslabels.com> and click on "Support A Fundraiser". Then "Select your School/ Organization", find "Algonquin Ridge (Barrie)" and follow the steps to fulfill your order. Anyone is able to support our school, whether or not their children attend ARES so please pass this on to family and friends as well. The product comes directly to you and the school will receive 20% of the total sales! Thank you so much for your support.



IDENTIFYING SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS

All field trip information will be sent home on school and/or Simcoe County District School Board letterhead. This is the best way for parents/guardians to identify supervised and approved trips. There may have been times when community or external groups have organized trips that have been mistaken for school-sponsored field trips. Parents would be notified of individual circumstances if the school is aware that an external trip is being planned. When in doubt about any trip ask questions of the organizers, including “Who is sponsoring or in charge of this trip?”, “Who will be supervising?” and “What are their qualifications?” You can also contact the school if you have any questions about a trip you see advertised that you think may not be school-sanctioned.

INDOOR SHOES

Students and parents are reminded to help keep our school clean by ensuring that students have indoor shoes to wear inside the school and in the portables.

SUMMER CAMP CAN BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR CHILD'S GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

To many people, summer camp for kids might appear like nothing more than fun and games. However, a study conducted by the University of Waterloo supports what camp directors have been saying for decades – camp is a setting for positive youth development where invaluable life skills are acquired and nurtured. Youth development experts agree that children need a variety of experiences in their lives to help them grow into healthy adolescents and adults. Here are five critical life skills that are fostered at summer camp:

- 1. Getting along with others** – Talk to any camp alumni and you'll likely hear how some of their most meaningful friendships and lessons on how to get along with others came from camp.
- 2. Overcoming challenges** – According to the ParticipACTION Report Card, over-supervising kids or keeping them indoors to ensure they are safe limits their opportunities for physical activity. Camp provides a safe environment, allowing children to freely learn how to overcome challenges and develop and grow their capabilities.
- 3. Getting active** – A recent Statistics Canada study found that only seven per cent of youth aged six to 19 got the recommended hour a day of exercise they need. Summer camp is a great way for kids to stay active all summer and ensure they are surrounded with great role models and supportive friends.
- 4. Unplugging** – We know that when children are connected with their environment, they are healthier and happier. Summer camp provides kids with the opportunity to “unplug” and help them build social skills while enjoying all the activities of the great outdoors.
- 5. Leadership** – When it comes to developing strong leaders, camp provides both implicit and explicit training including morals, ethics, problem solving, and team work and life skills.

To learn more about the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka summer camps, visit www.ymcasummercamp.ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka (www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca)

HOORAY!!! THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IS (ALMOST) AVAILABLE FOR USE AGAIN!

The sun is warming things up, days are getting longer and many students are itching to get back on the school playground equipment. While it's hard to say 'no' to those eager faces, it's important to make sure the equipment is safe and ready to be played on. As of May 1st, the equipment was inspected and declared ready for use again. It has been checked for safety and the sand has been tilled. Unfortunately, with all the rain, the area is much too wet, so we're just waiting for things to dry up a little bit. Hopefully we'll be able to let the students use the equipment again by the second week of May.

Over the winter, school play structures have to be closed. The closure is for many reasons. The main reason is that snow and ice change the surface of the ground surrounding the play structure, packing the sand/gravel/mulch into a hard, packed surface, which can be a significant fall hazard. Inspections are done on equipment daily by the school principal or designate during the school year starting on April 1 and ending on October 31. These inspections are to ensure that there are no obvious hazards, broken equipment, vandalism, graffiti, litter, dangerous items or play items left behind. There is also an annual inspection by a professional company employing Canadian Certified Playground Inspectors (CCPI).

Each spring, a designated contractor travels to all schools who have playground equipment, to till the surface ensuring that the sand is no longer compacted before opening the equipment for student use. In some cases, the wear and tear, rain or winter may have washed some sand away and it will need to be replaced.

Playgrounds can be fun learning opportunities for students, so let's all make them safe spaces!

ARES EARTH CORNER

Hey Algonquin Ridge, did you know that most cars and trucks use gasoline to power themselves and when they do, they produce environmentally harmful emissions such as Carbon Monoxide? Carbon Monoxide is harmful to the environment and people. The amount of carbon we produce is called our carbon footprint and the Algonquin Ridge Eco Team wants to help you reduce your Carbon Footprint by promoting non-polluting means to get to school. The Eco Team would like to ask staff, students and members of our local community to participate in our first ever "Walk and Roll to School" on Thursday May 18th, 2017. Let's all do our part to help reduce the carbon footprint in our local environment.

The Eco Team would also like to thank all staff and students for their active involvement in our earth friendly initiatives this past April. If you don't recall, we celebrated earth hour with an hour of decreased lighting and by unplugging all unnecessary electronics. We also participated in Barrie's "Spring into Clean" event on April 21st. Classes cleaned up the school yard, the adjoining woods, and park areas. The community looks great, thanks again for all of your help!

IMPORTANT DATES:

May 7-13 is compost awareness week in the City of Barrie – Do YOU compost at home? How about vermin-composting? The Urquonians at ARES regularly contribute to their vermin-composting bin in their classroom. Way to go Urquonians!

Check out <http://www.barrie.ca/Living/GarbageAndRecycling/Pages/Composting.aspx> for more information on Barrie's effort at composting and what you can do.

May 18th "Walk and Roll to School"- Do your part by finding an emission-free method of travelling to school.

EARTH FACT:

It takes 250ml of oil and 3 litres of water to make 1 litre of bottled water. The best choice is tap. ARES has water fountains throughout the school, including one especially designed to fill up reusable water bottles. Remember to bring a reusable water bottle every day and FILL UP 😊

WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO ABOUT BULLYING

These are suggestions to show how students can actively participate:

1. Take part in the development of the school policy against bullying. Student representatives can make useful contributions and help to evaluate suggestions.
2. Speak up at school assemblies against bullying. Students who take a stand against bullying are far more influential than staff members who may simply make speeches.
3. Form a welcoming committee for new students when they start school.
4. Help in the development of an orientation package for new students.
5. Visit feeder schools to reassure students who will be coming to their school that they can count on being helped if they encounter any troublesome students.
6. Help in publicizing anti-bullying policies by designing posters and writing about bullying in school magazines.
7. Make it known that they will help fellow students who have problems related to bullying. Students may be informed about how particular student-helpers can be contacted.
8. Give advice to students on how they might handle conflict constructively, avoid being bullied and get help if needed.
9. Look out for students who are having problems in their relationships with others and offer them support.
10. Provide staff with information about ongoing bully/victim problems, for example, where problems may be arising, and which students are involved.
11. Help directly in the resolution of bully/victim problems. Depending on the readiness of the school to approve the involvement of students in counselling or dispute resolution roles, selected students may act to

resolve bully/victim problems under the general supervision of a staff member. For such work, the school may decide to provide special training and access appropriate resource.

12. Help monitor changes in student behaviour as a consequence of anti-bullying initiatives.