



**Saskatoon Public Schools**  
**Inspiring Learning**

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George Rathwell, Director of Education

September 1, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians/Caregivers:

Saskatoon Public Schools is committed to providing school environments that are safe and caring places for students, staff, school visitors, and community members. We also work with families and community partners to provide the kinds of supports the young people in our schools require to be healthy and happy at school.

On a daily basis we model appropriate behaviour and reinforce positive choices. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviours and to accept the consequences of their actions. As part of our **Safe and Caring Schools Strategy** it is important for you to know that we will respond to student behaviours that pose a potential risk to the health and well-being of other students, staff, and members of the community. When students behave inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help students take responsibility for their actions, change their behaviour, and learn from their mistakes.

We are very proud to say that we have worked with a number of community organizations to develop the *Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol*, which we launched at the beginning of this school year. This document enables community partners to proactively share information and advice and to use their broad range of expertise to provide the appropriate supports to our youth and their families. Every Saskatoon Public School has a team that includes the principal/vice principal, school counsellor, and school police resource officer to work with the protocol. For information on the protocol, please visit our public website at [www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca](http://www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca) (look under Schools & Programs/Safe & Caring Schools).

You will also find a brochure on the same page of our website that outlines the steps we will take when working with this protocol. If for some reason there is a reluctance to support or participate in the *protocol*, the appropriate steps may continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment for all. Your school principal will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this process.

We look forward to working with you, and with our community partners, to provide caring schools where excellence in learning is a priority and everyone feels included.

Sincerely,

Avon Whittles  
Deputy Director of Education

Copy to: Superintendents of Education