



Hay Lakes School

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Hello Hay Lakes School families.

We've recently had some questions brought to us regarding how our school will be acknowledging Pride Month, which is traditionally celebrated in Alberta during the month of June.

We understand that, for some households, this is a big conversation. We want to be as transparent as possible in sharing our plans and assure families that every Hay Lakes School student is part of a safe, welcoming, and caring environment. We also want to address some of the specific questions we have received.

The intent of Pride Month is to uplift and support a community of people who have traditionally been marginalized. As a public school in the Province of Alberta, we are bound by the current Alberta Education program of studies, which states:

The program of studies emphasizes how diversity and differences are assets that enrich our lives. Students will have opportunities to value diversity, to recognize differences as positive attributes and to recognize the evolving nature of individual identities. Race, socioeconomic conditions and gender are among various forms of identification that people live with and experience in a variety of ways.

- Alberta Social Studies Program of Studies

We are also bound by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms obligations, as established in Bill C-16, which enshrines individual human rights such as identity, expression, and equality.

Hay Lakes School has had a student-led Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) group for many years. In observation of Pride Month, Hay Lakes School staff have been working with the GSA to guide our path forward. Some of the items that Hay Lakes School will be supporting include:

- The displaying of a Pride flag within the school
- Pride stickers will be available to students who wish to receive them

We assure you that the topic of sex and sexuality will not be addressed without your prior consent as a parent/guardian. If there is consideration of these topics being addressed in your child's classroom, you will be notified prior to the lesson being given.

We are hopeful that this information will help answer any questions you have. If you wish to speak further, please contact us directly at the school at (780)878-3368

Thank you.

William Klassen, Principal

Karla Koleba, Assistant Principal