

**HADLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**SCHOOL CLIMATE COMMITTEE REPORT**

January 2008

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

Happy New Year! The School Climate Committee felt that this would be an opportune time to provide you with an update on:

- (1) the action steps taken to address some students' and parents' concerns about procedures implemented at the beginning of the current school year to promote a more positive environment for student learning, and
- (2) the positive benefits experienced by HES students and staff from implementation of these school climate improvement measures.

Below is a list of steps taken under the direction of the School Climate Committee since the beginning of the school year to address student and parent concerns:

- A student forum was held with 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders on October 3rd to gather their input on the changes made in the cafeteria as well as lining up for hallway passing. Students were very forthright with suggestions and expressions of their feelings with the changes. Majority of expressions were very positive about the changes. A suggestion recently implemented was to change the name "Dining Room" to "The Café" (see new sign above entrance).
- A folder was placed in the café for students to include their suggestions for changes for the School Climate Committee's consideration.
- A representative from student council became a member of the School Climate Committee – council members voted in Mae Moskin (who has attended a meeting in December) with Ethan Picard and Tyler Symkowicz voted as alternates.
- An additional parent representative and school council member, Jean Klepacki, is now serving on the school climate committee along with Karen LaClair, and has already attended two committee meetings.
- Rather than denying an entire class the privilege of sitting with their friends in the café because of the disruptive behavior of only one or two students, the specific misbehaving students are now removed from their assigned table and directed to an empty table to finish their lunch and think about how they can avoid being disruptive in the future.
- Learning Zone signs are posted in hallways with reminders for appropriate student conduct while passing in the halls.
- Ms. Piekara, staff school climate committee member and school speech and language therapist, has been revisiting classrooms to review hallway transition and greeting protocols with students and teachers.

The committee continues to meet once a month to review any issues or suggestions made by staff or students. Overall, we feel very positive about the impact these social climate changes have had on the student body as a whole. We see and hear a more respectful tone and attitude between the students in the hallways and at lunchtime in the café. Students have frequently commented on how the new protocols make them feel safe at school (they

know their place in line, where to sit in the café, and where to go for help at recess), and they report making new friends.

Staff have reported quieter hallways, much less noise due to students properly closing rather than slamming lockers shut, and less disruptive behavior resulting in more time spent on learning. In fact, several parents, who help our school nurse, Ms. Lehman, with weekly fluoride treatments, have commented to staff on how much more quietly and orderly students pass in the hallways, and the respectful manner with which the students have greeted them. Recess and cafeteria duties for teachers have also been easier as a result of students getting along better with clear rules for games and appropriate café behavior. Also, there has been a marked decline in disciplinary issues and injuries from recess.

We welcome parents when visiting our school to observe the benefits of the changes that have positively impacted student behavior in the café, when lining up to enter the café, during recess, while reentering the building from recess, and traveling through the hallways during transitions. We also invite you to speak to any members of the committee with any issues or concerns you may have. We have a wonderful school community dedicated to creating a positive learning environment, and we are continually seeking ways to improve it.

Respectfully,

School Climate Committee Members:

Connie Douglas (Physical education teacher/committee chairperson)

Susan Delisle (Second grade teacher)

Philip DiPietro (Principal)

Amy Hermans (Second grade teacher)

Jean Klepacki (Parent representative/school council member)

Karen LaClair (Parent representative/school council member)

Suzanne Lehman (School nurse)

Mae Moskin (Fifth grade student council representative)

Patricia Piekara (Speech and Language Therapist)

Ann Weisse (Occupational Therapist)