January 16, 2008

Dear Principal,

Last September, we sent you a letter about the Healthy Schools Recognition Program. We believe that a healthy learning environment is essential for students to reach their full potential and we encourage every school in Ontario to participate.

This year, the recognition program presents opportunities for schools to build on last year’s successes, or to determine how best to get involved for the first time. The goal is for each school community to make a commitment to create the healthiest school possible.

Please find attached the Healthy Schools Recognition Program acceptance form and instructions. This form is also available online, along with more information about how to get involved. See the “Healthy Schools” section on the Ministry of Education’s website at www.edu.gov.on.ca, or click on the Healthy Schools link on the Ministry of Health Promotion’s website at www.mhp.gov.on.ca.

We have also introduced a new online search tool that will help you search by topic, such as healthy eating, to see what other schools have done in this area.

There are many components that make up a healthy school, including high-quality instruction and programs, a healthy physical environment, a supportive social environment, and community partnerships. The Foundations for a Healthy School Framework, available on the Ministry of Education website, provides more information about these components as well as the health-related topics associated with a healthy school.

In addition, new resources will be available online in the coming months to help spark ideas and to get students, parents, and school communities engaged in making their schools healthier.

Schools are encouraged to apply by March 28, 2008.

We hope that your school will commit to becoming even healthier by participating in the Healthy Schools Recognition Program for 2007/08.
Thank you for your ongoing dedication to Ontario’s students.

Sincerely,

Philip Steenkamp  
Acting Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Education

Cynthia Morton  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Health Promotion

c. Chair of District School Boards  
Directors of Education  
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities