December 14th, 2018

Dear Families,

At Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board we are committed to creating school communities that support the development of positive attributes in our students. We recognize that the assessment of emotional development, health, and well-being is necessary to support this endeavor.

A specialized working group was tasked with selecting an objective, reliable metric, that could best capture the voice of students in reporting their thoughts, feelings, and experiences in school, home, and community. In consultation with recommendations from provincial leaders in children’s mental health, we are pleased to announce that ALCDSB will be using the Middle Development Instrument (MDI) designed by the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) with our grade 4 and grade 7 students.

The MDI is a questionnaire that reports on 5 key areas: social and emotional development, connectedness, school experiences, physical health and well-being, and use of afterschool time. From this data, strengths and gaps, as identified by students, can be acknowledged and subsequently, the ways in which we promote well-being in our schools and communities can be customized. Furthermore, we can better coordinate efforts in supporting areas that require improvement.

In the 2017-18 school year, the MDI assessed was used to assess over 83,000 students. This school year, should your child participate, he/she will be asked questions pertaining to his/her social and emotional development, health, and well-being. The survey will take place between January 28th and February 13th, 2019, in our school, and during class time. The estimated time of completion is between 45-90 minutes.

In order to address any questions you may have, please see the attached copies of MDI’s Parent Information Letter and Informed Passive Consent Letter. We greatly look forward to hearing the voices of our students and gathering their insights. If you agree to your child’s participation, no further action is required on your part.

If you **do not** wish for your child to participate, please fill in and sign the attached informed passive consent letter and return it to your school no later than **January 28th, 2019**.

We are very excited to use the MDI with our grade 4 and 7 students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me or with our MDI Implementation Lead, Alexandra Weedmark.

Sincerely,

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| Principal Name  Contact Information |  | Alexandra Weedmark  ALCDSB, MDI Implementation Lead  613-484-0881  [aweedmark@alcdsb.on.ca](mailto:aweedmark@alcdsb.on.ca) |