

Suggestions Package

For resources log onto: <http://bctf.ca/social/homophobia>

For further information and support in this area contact **Murray Harris**, Resource Teacher, District Gay/Straight Alliance Committee at muharris@sd61.bc.ca

What can Elementary and Middle teachers do?

- Share a book that talks positively about same-sex families. Books are available on loan from the Rainbow Book Box collection (contact Murray Harris at muharris@sd61.bc.ca.)
Sample titles are:
 - Grade K-3- ABC - A Family Alphabet Book, My Two Uncles, Mom and Mum Are Getting Married, Who's in a Family?
 - Grade 4-7 S.P. Likes A.D., Rough Tough Charley
 - Grade 6-7 - From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun, Zack's Story
- Put up a "Homophobia Free Zone" or "That's so Gay!" poster in your classroom and discuss the harmful effects of using anti-gay slurs.
- Show an anti-homophobia educational video "Sticks and Stones" recommended by the BC Min Ed, for grade 3-7, Apples and Oranges grades 3-5, That's A Family grades 1 -3. They are available free of charge from the BCTF or Rainbow Book Box collection.
- Have a class discussion about Canadian newsworthy events (i.e., same-sex marriage in Canada).
- Be a friend and ally to an LGBT colleague at school. Support them if they choose to be "out" to parent and students.
- Create a bulletin board of GBLTQ persons throughout history. (Murray Harris can provide you with this. muharris@sd61.bc.ca)

What can Middle and Secondary teachers do?

- Highlight famous LGBT people and discuss their contribution to society within your subject area. See the pages of the "Challenging Homophobia in Schools" handbook available in your school or from the social justice committee's Rainbow Book Box collection muharris@sd61.bc.ca.
- Create a bulletin board of GBLTQ persons throughout history. (Murray Harris can provide you with this. muharris@sd61.bc.ca)
- Create a library display of books on this topic
- Host an anti-homophobia poster competition in your school.
- Invite speakers to your class or an assembly.
- Support your Gay Straight Alliance Club in your school.
- Put up a "Homophobia Free Zone" poster in your classroom and draw analogies between many forms of discrimination.
- Show an anti-homophobia educational video - In Other Words, One of Them, Let's Get Real, suitable for Grades 7-12. Check availability with the District 61 Resource Library, Rainbow Book Box collection, BCTF and Public Library.
- Debate an issue regarding LGBT people and equality. For example: same sex marriage, what are the merits of Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs in schools, should sex education be inclusive of LGBT information?
- Discuss Canadian law and LGBT issues like:
 - hate crimes speech law, Bill C-250, BC Human Rights code, same sex marriage (Grades 6-12), hate crimes sentencing (Grade 9-12)

What can Administration do?

- Support Gay-Straight-Alliances (GSA's) within your school
- Welcome presentations from community organizations
For example:
OUTSPEAK Youth Team (Aids Vancouver Island)
PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
BCTF Social Justice Workshops ("That's so gay" is not okay!)
Out in Schools Program (Out On Screen Film and Video Society)
- Invite Murray Harris, Resource Teacher, District Gay/Straight Alliance Advisory Committee to present to your staff muharris@sd61.bc.ca

What can librarians do?

- Find out what new books are available to positively portray lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and add some to your library collection. Log onto bctf.ca/social/homophobia to find resources.
- Contact the Murray Harris, Resource Teacher, District Gay/Straight Alliance Advisory Committee at muharris@sd61.bc.ca to borrow some resources from their Rainbow Book Box collection of 50 books and videos.

What can Parents do?

- Educate yourself first
- Encourage healthy discussion about families and discrimination in general
- Do not allow anti-gay language in the home
- Invite Murray Harris, Resource Teacher, District Gay/Straight Alliance Advisory Committee to present to your PAC muharris@sd61.bc.ca

What can Students do?

- Have discussions with you friends about phrases like "that's so gay". Imagine if your name was Jerry and every time somebody saw something they didn't like, they said "that's so Jerry", "ha ha that's sooo Jerry". Eventually you would be associated with things that people didn't like, which is not ok. AND THAT IS WHY SAYING "that's so gay" is not OK!
- Join or start a Gay-Straight-Alliance (GSA) at your school
- Encourage your teachers to have Homophobia Free Zone posters in their classrooms
- Encourage the school to provide an opportunity for presentations from such groups as the OUTSPEAK Youth Team

Together, we can make schools safer and more accepting places for all people and families