



**cyberpresse.ca**

Publié le 28 octobre 2008 à 07h02 | Mis à jour à 07h06

# Enfin, le Ministère dévoile ce que les élèves doivent apprendre



Photo: Patrick Sanfaçon, La Presse



**Marie Allard**  
La Presse

Huit ans après le début de la réforme, le ministère de l'Éducation indique enfin "«ce que les élèves doivent apprendre chaque année:

Un document détaillant les connaissances à acquérir en orthographe et en conjugaison au du primaire vient d'être publié. D'autres portant sur la ponctuation, la structure de la phrase, les fonctions et les accords seront dévoilés plus tard cette année. «C va le faire pour d'autres matières l'an prochain, mais on commence par le français», a dit lundi à *La Presse* Jean-Pascal Bernier, attaché de presse de la ministre de l'Éducation. Avec la réforme, les enfants devaient atteindre des

compétences telles que «lire et écrire des textes variés» et «apprécier des oeuvres littéraires». Le document *Progression des apprentissages en français* précise qu'ils devront désormais orthographier correctement 3000 mots fréquents à la fin du primaire. Dès la fin de la 1re année, ils devront identifier les voyelles et les consonnes dans un mot, reconnaître les lettres de l'alphabet, en plus de les nommer dans l'ordre alphabétique. Un total de 28 connaissances à atteindre sont énumérées en orthographe et 45 en conjugaison.

Dans une lettre adressée aux enseignants, la ministre Michelle Courchesne dit que ce document «pourra (les) aider à mieux soutenir l'apprentissage de la langue française par les élèves». Il s'agit carrément d'une «réécriture des savoirs essentiels contenus dans le programme de français du primaire», lit-on dans la présentation.

Le Ministère propose des stratégies pour mémoriser et comprendre ces connaissances, telles que la copie de mots, le recours aux règles et la consultation de dictionnaires. Très classiques, ces moyens sont loin des



FERMER

## Une tempête de neige va s'abattre dans la nuit de mercredi au Québec

Article mis en ligne le 28 octobre 2008 à 0:00

[Soyez le premier à commenter cet article](#)

**MONTREAL - Une tempête de neige va s'abattre sur l'ouest du Québec et l'est de l'Ontario dans la nuit de mardi à mercredi.** Entre 5 et 15 cm de neige sont prévus. Ainsi, l'Outaouais devrait recevoir environ 15 cm de neige, comme le nord des Laurentides, et la réserve faunique de la Vérendrye. Plus au sud, à Montréal notamment, seulement 5 cm devraient recouvrir le sol. Par contre, les secteurs du Centre du Québec et de l'Est devraient être épargnés.

---

*©Tous droits réservés, nouvelles de la Presse Canadienne*



Tuesday » October  
28 » 2008

## **Barrhaven students suspended for hazing** Grade 9 boys paddled 'pretty hard' during secret ritual

**Joanne Laucius**  
The Ottawa Citizen

*Tuesday, October 28, 2008*

Three Grade 12 boys have been suspended after an incident at a Barrhaven high school in which younger boys were "paddled," some on their bare buttocks, as a secret initiation ritual.

The incident underscores the difficulty in eliminating hazing even as schools have outlawed the practice while trying to find less dangerous and more constructive ways to observe teenage rites of passage through high school.

School board administrators say they just discovered the paddling ritual, believed to be a long-standing underground rite of passage at the school. Officials took action after receiving complaints from parents about the incident, which occurred outside the school in mid-September.

According to the parents, Grade 12 students who had been paddled as freshmen claimed the right to deliver a paddling to a group of boys in Grade 9. Although some older girls were observers, they did not participate.

Walter Piovesan, superintendent of instruction for John McCrae Secondary School, said the school's principal, who is new this year, called him as soon as he heard about the incident.

Although Mr. Piovesan has been a superintendent for three years, he has never heard about the ritual until this year, he said.

"This is a splinter group. Student councils organize events that are welcoming and inviting," he said.

Anne Teutsch, chairwoman of the Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils, said she heard about the incident after a parent came forward, although the complaint was not formally presented to the assembly, which represents school councils from across the public school board.

"My understanding is that some of the kids were paddled pretty hard," said Ms. Teutsch.

"Maybe these things happen, but that doesn't make them right," she said.

"It's only a joke if it's a joke to everyone. If a joke isn't funny to everyone, it's not appropriate."

Earlier this month, trustees in Steinbach, Manitoba, suspended six Grade 12 students, boys and girls, until at least February for a hazing and alleged physical assault of three Grade 10 students with paddles. Reportedly, the older students lured the younger students away from a barbecue arranged to welcome students to the school.

In August, 14 Edmonton-area 16-year-olds were charged with assault after eight younger students were paddled with hockey sticks, homemade paddles and cricket bats. The victims' injuries ranged from reddened buttocks to bruises and bleeding.

On the first day of school last month, a 15-year-old Hamilton student sustained non-life-threatening injuries after he was stabbed in the abdomen when a group of Grade 12 students confronted a group of Grade 9 students at Delta Secondary School. Police said they believed the incident was hazing-related and the student was trying to help a friend who was being bullied. Hamilton school board officials are contemplating hiring adult hall monitors to patrol the school's cafeteria, halls and grounds.

The Safe Schools Act, introduced in 2000 in Ontario, provides a code of conduct that outlines responsibilities for making schools safer for students and staff. The act provides mandatory consequences for behaviour that breaks the code, including suspension for uttering threats to inflict bodily harm and expulsion for using a weapon to cause of threaten harm.

However, the province has since moved away from a "punitive approach" to something called "progressive discipline," which allows principals to choose the most appropriate response to each situation.

The school board is working on other measures, including restorative justice, which engages those who are harmed and those who do the harm to work on solutions that promote reconciliation and healing. So far, five "restorative circles" have been held at schools in the board instead of suspending students or calling on police to lay charges.

"In some cases, suspension may work. In some cases, it may not change behaviour," said Mr. Piovesan.

The parents who contacted the school board about the John McCrae incident were concerned the clandestine and tradition-bound nature of the paddling ritual means it creates victims who become perpetrators of bullying.

Rituals have different mechanisms in some ways than bullying, said Mr. Piovesan. They become established as part of a school's culture and it's difficult for administrators to uproot a tradition, especially one that depends on secrecy.

"One of the barriers we face when we deal with rituals or rites of passage is that kids are not willing to identify other kids."

Often, the younger students feel pressured into participating and participate willingly because it gives them a sense of belonging, he said.

"I'm not telling you that some kids aren't coerced. But some kids feel like part of the club."

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board has introduced the concept of a "community of character." A team of teachers has been recruited to embed 10 attributes such as empathy, respect, fairness and responsibility into the curriculum.

"We're trying to get away from 'anti-bullying day' or 'anti-bullying weeks' " said Mr. Piovesan, pointing out that research suggests these approaches don't work.

"Ninety-nine per cent of kids are doing what they are supposed to do," he said. "Research shows that empowering kids is very powerful."

Parents and students are being more frequently notified about activities, like the end-of-year "tequila sunrise" parties, to warn them that police can get involved when students

step over legal boundaries, said Ms. Teutsch.

Shelley Hymel, a professor of education at the University of British Columbia who studies bullying and peer harassment in schools, said bullying is defined by three parameters: intent to harm, the possibility of a recurrence and a difference in status between the bully and the victim.

The distinction is in the perception of the victim.

"If kids are coerced into doing it, then it's bullying," she said.

There may be parents who think the students' punishment was too lenient, said Mr. Piovesan. But mitigating circumstances, such as a student's past record, are considered.

Mr. Piovesan has been a teacher or administrator at five high schools and can recall only one other initiation ritual. In that incident, Grade 9 students were ordered by older students to jump into a pond.

"Whether it happens next year, I don't know," he said. "But we're developing strategies."

© The Ottawa Citizen 2008

CLOSE WINDOW

---

Copyright © 2008 CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#) All rights reserved.  
CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#) All rights reserved.

## Carleton to receive lucrative gift today

**The Ottawa Citizen**

Published: Tuesday, October 28, 2008

Carleton University is to announce a multimillion-dollar gift to the university at a press conference this morning. University officials declined to name the donor or the amount of the gift in advance. However, the university has received a number of significant gifts from high-profile business people and philanthropists in recent years. Montreal architect and developer David Azrieli, who earned a master's degree from Carleton, for example, has donated more than \$8 million to the university in his lifetime, including a \$5.5-million donation that resulted in the renaming of the university's architecture program to the Azrieli School of Architecture. Last year, the university renamed Alumni Theatre A in Southam Hall after long-time donor Kailash Mital, who has helped to create scholarships for business and technology students. And William Barton, who once served as Canada's ambassador to the United Nations, pledged \$3 million from his estate to create an endowment fund for arms control and disarmament studies in Carleton's international relations program.

© The Ottawa Citizen 2008



Tuesday » October  
28 » 2008

## Every parent is a risk manager

**Elizabeth Payne**

The Ottawa Citizen

*Tuesday, October 28, 2008*

During the same month that the Canadian government formally declared the chemical bisphenol A a toxic substance, my daughter's dentist mentioned it would be a good time to have cavity-preventing sealants applied to her teeth.

This has left me in a quandary.

Most dental sealants contain bisphenol A which has been linked to accelerated puberty, cancer and increased likelihood of diabetes and heart disease. Studies have shown the chemical is in sufficient amounts in the sealants to show up in the saliva of patients, although for a short time and at very low levels. Despite BPA's being declared toxic, both the federal government and the Canadian Dental Association say the exposure from dental sealants is negligible and that they are safe.

Should that be enough assurance to make me book the appointment?

My quandary is one many parents will recognize. Research about the effects of chemicals on humans is constantly evolving. Between the time last spring when the federal government announced plans to declare bisphenol A a toxic substance, and when it did so this month, new research has emerged suggesting the chemical negatively affects humans in lower doses than previously believed. How confident can anyone be, then, that a toxic chemical in a child's mouth, even in a very small amount, is harmless, despite the assurances of the country's leading dental association? And does that concern outweigh the benefit in protection against cavities?

Despite the tsunami of information now available on the internet - possibly because of it - I am not alone in feeling paralysed about decisions involving my health and, especially my children's health.

As a result, some parents have become downright cynical about medical advice. On one hand, that cynicism is a response to the times, fueled by an aggressive pharmaceutical industry and a suspicion that people with something to sell are often more motivated by profit than public good. The global market meltdown has done little to dispel this fear.

A report published in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* about the same time bisphenol A was declared a toxic substance in Canada said the U.S. government's report on the chemical was largely written by the chemical industry. Does that negate the Food and Drug Administration's findings that the chemical is safe? Maybe not, but it certainly breeds cynicism.

Yet the growing distrust of public health advice can be dangerous. A case in point is the anti-vaccination movement, the result of which is declining immunization rates in some places and the resurgence of some childhood diseases.

That cynicism is also seen in a backlash against one of the newest weapons in the public health arsenal -- the vaccine against human papilloma virus, which causes cervical cancer.

The vaccine, the result of a Nobel Prize-winning discovery by German researcher Dr. Harald zur Hausen, was mired in controversy before it was even available to the public.

Some complained that administering it to teenage girls would promote promiscuity and send the wrong message. Others said the speed with which the vaccine was made publicly available had more to do with making money for drug companies than about protecting public health.

Once the vaccine was available, governments, including Canada's, quickly jumped on board with public programs to vaccinate teenage girls. Yet despite the availability of this vaccine free of charge, only about half of those eligible have taken up the offer. Again, the wariness is understandable. Even Dr. zur Hausen attributes some of the controversy about the vaccine to the fact that drug companies "have been very aggressive with their propaganda."

But a big profit margin for drug companies doesn't automatically mean that the vaccine is not the remarkable public health tool that the companies say it is. Experts agree that the vaccine prevents cancer caused by a common, sexually transmitted, virus. As well, recent studies show few side effects from the vaccine.

These are polarizing debates, and they complicate the lives of parents who are simply trying to make reasonable decisions.

This fall, my husband and I faced two decisions: should our older daughter get the HPV vaccine, and should our younger daughter get dental sealants?

My research has convinced me that the benefit of the vaccine far outweighs any risk. I had no qualms about signing the forms my daughter brought home from school.

As for dental sealants, I'm going to trust my initial instincts and wait. The Canadian Dental Association is working with manufacturers, so BPA-free sealants could be available soon.

In the scheme of things, of course, children growing up in Ottawa are healthier and safer than most children at any time in the world's history. Does that make it easier to make trivial and not-so-trivial decisions about their health? Not really.

*Elizabeth Payne is a member of the Citizen's editorial board.*

E-mail: [epayne@thecitizen.canwest.com](mailto:epayne@thecitizen.canwest.com)

© The Ottawa Citizen 2008

**CLOSE WINDOW**

---

Copyright © 2008 CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#). All rights reserved.  
CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#). All rights reserved.