



**YELLOWKNIFE EDUCATION
DISTRICT NO. 1**

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**ADMINISTRATION SCOLAIRE DE
DISTRICT N° 1 DE YELLOWKNIFE**

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September 23, 2019

To all parents and guardians of YK1 students:

Re: Yellowknife Student Climate Change Rally on September 27

Inspired by Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg, young people from around the world have joined the #FridaysforFuture movement and are showing their support by participating in climate change rallies. In Yellowknife, a student rally has been planned for Friday, September 27, 2019 from approximately 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It will begin at École Sir John Franklin High School and finish at Yellowknife City Hall.

This is not a YK1-sanctioned event, however we understand that students at some of our schools may take part. At YK1, we respect and appreciate student participation and concern for this global movement. We also encourage constructive, respectful and responsible student participation in different forms of social activism.

As a district, we know that climate change is an important issue that needs to be addressed and students play an important role in building an environmentally sustainable future. YK1 provides opportunities within the classroom, the school and the community for students to engage in education actions that prepare them with the knowledge, skills, perspectives, and practices they need to be environmentally responsible citizens. These opportunities include social studies and sciences programs, environmental clubs, Me To We, Camp Akaitcho, Birchbark Discovery Centre, BushKids, Dene Kede curriculum and on-the-land programs to name a few.

At YK1, student safety is always a top priority. We have asked all school staff to work closely with students and event organizers to ensure all planning is done with safety in mind. As always, students under the age of 18 require parental permission to leave class. Students who are not in attendance will be marked absent unless they are excused by their parent or guardian. To ensure students receive no academic penalty for taking part in this rally, we have also asked schools to avoid scheduling tests and other assessments on that day.

Moving forward, we will ensure that relevant curriculum resources are provided to support teachers as they provide learning opportunities for students on climate change. Student voice and action is important and we encourage parents and guardians to discuss climate change and social activism with their child(ren).

For more information, please contact:

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