



Media Release

For Immediate Release
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Grand Erie Celebrating Accessibility Awareness Day to Spur Important Discussions Around Equity and Inclusion

Brantford Ont. – Grand Erie District School Board will be marking the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Monday, December 3 by celebrating the Board’s third annual Accessibility Awareness Day. The day is meant to increase knowledge and awareness of obstacles faced by individuals with disabilities, and to find out what can be done to remove barriers to participation and access for all students and staff.

“This year, the theme is all about empowerment, and ensuring inclusiveness and equity,” said Karin Mertins, School and Program Supports Lead in Grand Erie, and chair of the accessibility committee. “It’s crucial that as a board, we create and foster those environments where everyone can thrive and succeed.”

Working with resources from Unlearn, a social enterprise which inspires critical thinking through graphic design, schools and classes will be encouraged to start discussions by examining unconscious biases and how they can be reinforced by the media, experiences, and relationships.

Grand Erie will also use the opportunity to launch the third video in its series on Equity. The video features the story of Brent Flicks, a former Simcoe Composite School student who was born with spinal muscular atrophy, and uses a wheelchair. Flicks brings an inspiring message about equity and inclusion that celebrates the spirit of Grand Erie’s Accessibility Awareness Day.

Equity is one of six key pillars in Grand Erie’s Multi-Year Plan, and works toward the promotion of practices that help students, staff, and families feel safe, welcomed, and included.

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