

Dear Mr. Philip Carter and Ms. Jacqueline Kovacs:

It was with great concern and embarrassment that I read the "Teacher Tip" in the March 2012 edition of Professionally Speaking.

As mandatory subjects within the Ontario Curriculum, Health and Physical Education and the Arts, must never be taken away as a consequence for behavior. These subject areas are not simply "popular activities" but mandatory curricula. To have this practice highlighted as a "Teacher Tip" in our professional magazine is deplorable.

Research is showing that children who are active will be better prepared to learn and reach their academic potential. Health Canada believes that Canadians need to *"Stay physically active to keep your body strong, reduce stress, and improve your energy"*. The Ontario Health and Physical Education curriculum is a world class curriculum and has been touted as the most significant health intervention strategy in the province reaching 2.1 million children. To deduct time from a subject area that has such broad benefits would be so incredibly short sighted. Regardless, of all of the above, no teacher should be reducing time spent on mandatory curriculum as a disciplinary strategy.

Of further concern, as we work hard with our students to eliminate bullying, is the suggested approval of intimidation by fellow students as a way to manage classroom behaviors. It is certainly the role of the teacher to manage the behavior in their class and not up to the students to "admonish each other" to behave.

Quite simply, there is nothing right about this "Teacher Tip"!

Sue McMahon

Co-President of OASPHE

Ontario Association of the Supervision of Physical and Health Education
(Provincial Subject Association for H&PE)