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## Tools for tolerance

*Bring the World to Brookville and bring Brookville to the World*

I would like to share a recent unique, professional development opportunity that was life changing, and has reinforced my commitment to promoting a positive and inclusive school climate at Brookville Public School. I was fortunate to participate in the "Glassman Tools for Tolerance" training program that allowed me to dig deep into the "Cultural Proficiency" continuum, and gain personal insight on how to keep equity and inclusion at the forefront in my school community.

The experience included a tour of The Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, which deeply affected me as it highlighted the dynamics of prejudice and discrimination.

I was one of a group of 28 Canadian Educators exposed to exhibits that projected vivid images of the atrocities of the holocaust and other genocides. With emotions running high our group transitioned into an open discussion with an inspirational celebrity guest speaker, Dr. Terrence Roberts, one of the "Little Rock Nine", who shared his remarkable story. Needless to say it was both

moving and disturbing and an experience that I will never forget.

Since my return, I have been reflecting on my leadership with regards to equity and inclusion at my school. I have been inspired to build on our momentum and expand on our work. At Brookville, one of our challenges has been our relatively isolated, rural location. As an extension of our Safe School Action Team, we created a Making a Difference Team or (MAD) student leadership team to collaborate with staff and take a lead on some exciting school initiatives.

We have made connections

through excursions that open their eyes to global issues (e.g. Freedom Day, We Day, Plays and Performances etc... Student Leaders at Brookville, regularly visit the Primary students to do "Lunch n Learns" in the form of read alouds, and lead discussions on Respect and bullying.

These students appreciate having input into decision making at our school and they learn that their participation has a significant impact on the school climate. In the New Year they will be developing a school climate survey which they will present to our School Council. Again, students will be empowered as they take the lead to interpret and examine results and finally present to our School community.


My time at the Museum of Tolerance was deeply meaningful on a personal and professional level and has strengthened my belief that everyone benefits from a school climate that is safe, accepting and inclusive. As a society, we must value and embrace diversity and demonstrate respect in everything we do- how we treat each other is of the utmost importance.

Tony DiLeo  
 Vice-Principal  
 Brookville PS



### Canadian Educators

within the community to expose our students to diversity and promote inclusion, which is one of our school improvement goals. Specifically, we have reached out to Halton Police, Public Health, The Halton Multicultural Council, Live Different presenters, attended Diversity workshops and invited numerous guests. In addition, we provide our students with opportunities

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