

Letters

# Ballantrae school's dress code part of standards

Dear Editor,  
Your recent newspaper article and the editorial cartoon one week later regarding the decision to not allow British Union Made designer clothing at Ballantrae Public School has necessitated my response.

This clothing ban is only a component of a much larger issue called "standards". Almost daily I read in our metropolitan press articles, editorials and letters to the editor that scream out loudly the public demand for standards in our schools - primarily of course in the curriculum we present but also quite clearly in the expecta-

tions that we should have for students outside the academic sphere.

At Ballantrae Public School, we have developed and are constantly considering consistent standards in our classroom programs. We collectively believe that basic skills, knowledge and attitudes are the foundation on which education is built. In addition, we believe in other standards which contribute to a positive atmosphere for learning. We are committed to the belief that all students and staff deserve to receive

encouragement and support in a healthy, safe and caring environment. "Please" and "Thank you" are still in style at Ballantrae Public School. We have a code of behavior that sets out expectations and a process of learning from mistakes for all students. Presently, we are creating a policy on involvement in extracurricular activities that will have direct expectations for students, staff and parents alike.

While we certainly are not advocating school uniforms at Ballantrae, we do have standards of a

dress code that are fair and appropriate. The students attend Ballantrae Public School first of all to learn. We try to minimize any distractions to our key function.

The issue of British Union Made clothing is one of standards - no more, no less. At Ballantrae Public School we listen to the concerns of our community and society at large. There is no question of their demand for standards. We happen to agree.

D. Bodkin,  
Principal,  
Ballantrae Public School

## Food bank users are grateful

Dear Editor,

Once again a letter of thanks from the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank for the generosity and support this community gives.

The following is a quote from a Food Bank User in a note of thanks: "Our family would like everyone who is helping with the Food Bank to know that the help we have received has changed our lives. There is a feeling of security just putting food on the shelf. Thank you."

The need continues and we know your support will be there throughout the Christmas season. The Progress Club is having a special drive Saturday, Dec. 4 as part of the Santa Claus Parade. A special bag will be provided in one of the local newspapers for this purpose. We ask, that along with usual provisions you include some Christmas favors - cake, pudding, cranberries, etc. that all our families might have a blessed Christmas. Bring these to the parade and place them on the float provided.

There are many individuals and many groups doing special things for the Food Bank throughout this season. We sincerely thank each one of you for your thoughtfulness. If you need to have goods picked up, please call Bill Heath at 642-2769.

May the Peace, Joy, Love and Hope of Christmas truly fill the lives of all who live in this wonderful community.

Esther Powell  
Co-Ordinator, W.S.F.B.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

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