



WITS PROGRAMS FOUNDATION

Creating Responsive Communities



Introducing WITS



What is WITS?



- The WITS Programs are about culturally changing how we view conflict and peer victimization
- We don't fix kids we change culture

WITS Aims



- Create responsive and safe environments for all children
- Promote healthy relationships
- Create social responsibility and pro social leadership
- Prevent peer victimization
- End chronic peer victimization

What we know.....



- About 1 in 5 or 6 children report victimization.
- Approximately 1 in 10 children are persistently victimized
- Frequency of victimization episodes is higher in the early elementary grades
- Episodes of victimization become more chronic in the late elementary grades

WITS is a cultural change effort

Have you used your WITS today?



The WITS Program



- Literacy based program
- Compliment curriculum
- Cultural rather than systemic
- Evidence based
- Everyone uses same language
- Limited resources are required to implement
- Resources support what community, families and schools are already doing

WITS RESOURCES

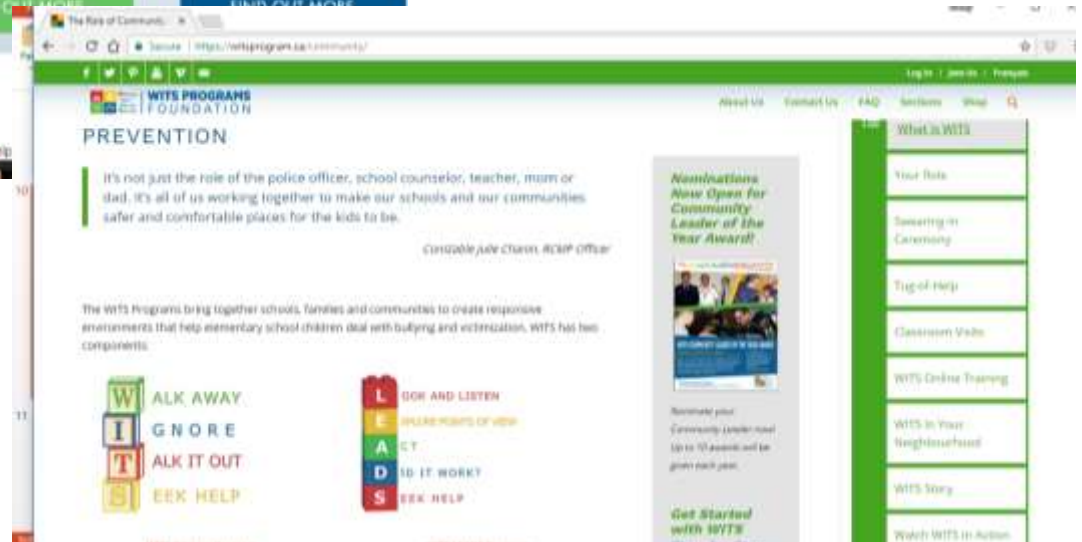
- Book list
- Lesson Plans that go with books
- Posters for classrooms
- Recognition items
- Take home items
- Pamphlets for parents, community & teachers
- Online training
- Website



The Website



So many resources available online



The Community Leaders



- Instrumental with the creation of the cultural change
- Kids building relationships with many people in community
- Conduct the swearing in ceremony
- Classroom visits to reinforce messages
- Connect with parents regarding WITS
- This is about partnership

Surrey RCMP & WITS

Sgt. Neil Kennedy



Cst. Amber BRIGGS leading the WITS
assembly at MJ Shannon in Spring 2017

The Ceremonies



Swearing in Ceremony – WITS

- Reading of The Walrus Gift
- Reading of the Oath
- Special Constable badges given out
- Parents invited
- Community Leader led
- 1st year – all involved
- 2nd year – K-3

Tug of Help Ceremony – LEADS

- Empowers kids to be leaders
- First introduction to LEADS acronym
- For gr.4-6
- Reinforces Seek help message
- Community leader led (great way to involve sports teams)

Funding WITS Programs

Andy Telfer – Executive Director

WITS Programs Foundation

- RCMP “E” Division does have some funding for implementation of WITS
 - Contact Patty Perens, ICPS, Mental Health Program Manager, Crime Prevention Services

- WITS Programs Foundation
 - Funding may be available for granters who are looking for specific areas to implement the WITS Programs
 - Contact Andy Telfer at 250-386-7625
 - Even with no funding the program can still be implemented

Thank You



Our vision is that:

All children are living, learning and playing in safe and responsive communities.

Together we know we will get there