

Dear Parents,

I would like to take a moment to welcome all families and students to a new school year, and to remind you of a great family resource provided by our school district that is available free of charge to all district residents. Please take a few moments to read this important letter. I am confident that you will find this information very useful.

Our school district believes that parents in our community want what is best for their children and that they work hard to promote positive values that build good character. We also understand and appreciate that being a parent in today's world can be a challenging and stressful role. Issues confronted by families and children can be very complex and sometimes solutions seem difficult to find. The social and academic pressures that our children face are often new to us, and very different from our own experiences growing up. It is more important than ever for parents and schools to join together and work as a team in finding solutions to the challenges faced by families and children today.

During the 2004-2005 school year, the Cheektowaga-Sloan School District sent a survey to all district residents, asking for feedback about the types of problems that families in our community face. The responses that we received indicated that the financial, social, and family pressures faced by parents in our community often leave them feeling stressed and overwhelmed, and may affect the way that families communicate and interact. The school district paid attention to your feedback and set out to provide a service that would lend support to all parents and families, and at the same time, help our students to be more successful. The Family Solutions Center, a free, school-based family consultation service opened doors in January 2005. The Family Solutions Center is sponsored by the Cheektowaga-Sloan Family Services Network, and provides short-term, solution-focused consultation and counseling to families in our school community. Since opening, the Family Solutions Center has provided services to nearly 80 families! Families have requested assistance dealing with issues ranging from problems in school, to parenting challenges and behavior problems, to dealing with divorce and blended families. Services are designed to meet the needs of each individual family. We believe that you are the expert with regard to yourself and your family, and we work together to help you utilize the strengths that you already possess in order to deal with the particular challenges that you are facing. We do not diagnose or label, and all services are confidential. The Center is located on the first floor of Woodrow Wilson School and evening appointments are available. You may contact the Family Solutions Center directly at 891-6433, or request services through your child's teacher, school social worker, school counselor or principal.

We hope that you will find this resource helpful, and will consider it as an option to assist your child, yourself, or your family if the need arises. Please feel free to contact Joanne Wilton, Family Solutions Center Coordinator at 891-6433 if you have any questions or would like further information. We look forward to working with you and wish you a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Joanne Wilton, LCSWR
Family Solutions Center Coordinator