

Math Lives Here: Helping Social Justice Take Flight

Primary Students Sound the Alarm: An Issue that Matters

>> We have to do a good job studying this picture and looking around –

>> In Katherine Keenan's grade two class, students have concerns when they learn that there are plans to build an 8.5 metre high bridge to transport trains through their local neighbourhood, including their favourite local park. The municipality and the provincial agency, Metrolinx, have different ideas.

>> The options are the bridge, the tunnel and the trench.

>> We've been learning about the bridge and the tunnel, and then it's because we're trying to convince John Tory to build a tunnel. And then John Tory's making votes, and then most people choose the tunnel. And then so John Tory said, "I want a tunnel." But it's, like, Kathleen Wynne comes and says that, "I want a bridge." The tunnel costs more money and the bridge costs less money.

>> Dear Mayor of Toronto...

>> Dear Mayor of Toronto...

>> Dear Premier of Ontario...

>> Dear Premier of Ontario, I'm writing to you about a problem.

>> I care because...

>> Metrolinx are going to build a bridge in our community, which means double the noise and double the pollution, double the safety issues. We don't want that.

>> It bothers me extra because the bridge is going to be near where I live.

>> Campbell Park is important because people like to play there and care about the park.

>> A lot of people won't want to go to Campbell Park because the park will smell like pollution. And I play soccer with my mom.

>> I like to play soccer, I like to go on the slides.

>> It's not good if pollution or safety issues ruin the park.

>> And we found out that it was 8.5 metres tall. That's not good, because it's taller than our houses, taller than our cars. So if the train tracks were built wrong, then

probably the train might fall and hit a car, a house, or even someone, which is not good.

>> My friend, Ryan, and some other people in my class live beside it. And the noise is too noisy for them.

>> Some people, but they live close and they might be sleeping and trains might still come by, and they might make noise. And then if they wake up, they might be cranky.

>> Too much noise for us.

>> Metrolinx is going to take away our right to clean air, and that's not fair, because you're getting more power. And great power becomes great responsibility.

>> When the train keeps on passing by, it sprays a lot of pollution.

>> And I know that people need to get fresh air.

>> I want you to make the trains electric, or make a trench for trains.

>> Wow, if you don't want the tunnel, then just choose the trench.

>> The trench is like a tunnel, but it's opened at the top. That is one of the options.

>> Thank you for reading this letter.

>> Please listen to my concerns.

>> Thank you.