



September 4, 2019

*"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." Luke: 11. 9-11.*

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As part of the board's Strategic System Plan 2014-2019, when the safety of a child or youth may be at risk, the board collaborates with the *Peel Children's Aid Society* in Mississauga and Brampton, and the *Dufferin Child and Family Services* in Caledon and Orangeville. These organizations are mandated to help, support, and strengthen families, so children and youth are safe and well.

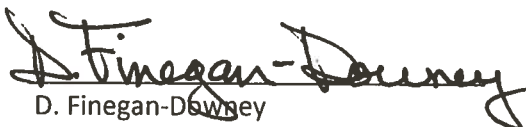
At times, school staff may become aware of students who might be experiencing difficulties. It is not the school's responsibility to investigate, evaluate or assign blame. It is everyone's responsibility to help keep all children safe.

Under the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act (2017)*, every person within our school board who has reason to believe that a child is or may be abused or neglected *must* report his/her suspicions directly to the appropriate Children's Aid Society. When a youth is 16 or 17 years of age, a person may make a report where there is a reasonable suspicion that the youth is in need of protection. Concerns must be shared, so that a support plan that ensures safety is developed with families, as appropriate.

When a report to Children's Aid is made, school as well as community-based resources may be offered to help resolve concerns or issues. The board also continues to support students who are in the care of the Children's Aid societies.

Within Catholic Community Culture and Caring, it is the board's sacred trust to ensure your child/children's safety and well-being.

Sincerely,



D. Finegan-Downey  
Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services



Y. Julien, MSW, RSW  
Chief Social Worker

DFD/YJ/rds