

“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 the one who asks, always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened” Luke: 11. 9-11.

Sept 1, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians;

The Multi-Year Strategic Plan (2019-2023) confirms Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board’s deep respect for the human dignity of each person, created in the image of God, as the foundation of equity and inclusive education. When the safety of a child or youth may be at risk, the Board collaborates with the *Peel Children’s Aid Society* in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon, and the *Dufferin Child and Family Services* in Dufferin County, including 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 Ontario’s *Child, Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA)*, 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 and 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.

It is the Board’s sacred trust to ensure the safety and the well-being of all learners so that every student can thrive.

Sincerely,



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



P. Grosso, MSW, RSW
Chief Social Worker