



**AY Jackson S.S.**  
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Dec 9, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last night during our Virtual Music Night, we were very disappointed to see inappropriate comments that were posted by a participant in the Zoom chat. These posts contained racist remarks against members of Black communities. As soon as these posts were brought to our attention, we took immediate steps to remove them and to address the issue.

As a school and as a system, we find these posts unacceptable. We recognize the hurt and harm they have caused to students, staff and families, especially in Black communities. This incident of anti-Black racism has also damaged our school climate. While equity and inclusion deeply inform our teaching and learning at A.Y. Jackson, clearly more efforts need to be made.

We will be engaging in learning opportunities to ensure students understand the real impact and hurt that their words can cause, regardless of intent. In addition, we will be coming together as a staff team to develop resources to support students to develop analytical and critical thinking skills to identify credible sources of information. We will work together to interrupt and respond to anti-Black racism from our school community.

Recently, the TDSB changed its procedures to deal with issues of racism, hate and discrimination of all kinds — including mandatory reporting and transparent communications with the school community. While these policies and procedures are important, every one of us can play a role in creating a caring and inclusive school environment for all. One meaningful step we can all take today, is to report incidents of anti-Black racism – and any other form of discrimination – if we experience or see it.

Finally, this incident may have been understandably upsetting for students. If your child requires support or counselling, please let me know. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Paputsis'.

Peter Paputsis,  
Principal