

# FOREST HILL COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

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Reiko Fuentes, B. Sc, B. Ed - Principal

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March 22, 2019

Dear Students/Parents/Guardians:

This week we have been sharing information about the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In the context of recent acts of hatred including the tragic event in New Zealand, we have echoed the messaging from the Toronto District School Board's (TDSB's) Director and Chair; *that acts of hate and Islamophobia...only strengthen our resolve to engage our students and staff in important conversations about building a more inclusive and compassionate society.*

At Forest Hill CI, we strive to create spaces that are safe, nurturing, positive, and respectful. These are notions that we work to instill every day. I know that our students stand with us in condemning these offensive acts, wherever they happen. We have become aware of two concerning situations in the school that we wish to bring to your attention.

Earlier this week, a student reported anti-black graffiti written on a classroom desk. It was photographed, immediately removed and the incident was reported to the Caring and Safe School Department and to Toronto Police. Staff are conducting an investigation into the matter. These acts of hate have no place in our school and cannot be tolerated.

As a school community we recognize that our students are actively engaged in the online world. Young people have access to information and media that can be beneficial, but that can also be harmful and traumatic for students and staff alike. We have become aware that some students have been accessing and viewing inappropriate, discriminatory and hate-based media while at school. The content was disturbing and viewing it was disrespectful in our diverse learning environment. Although we have dealt with this situation as it occurred, we do want to alert you to the issue. Especially at times like this, it is important to review school and TDSB policies to ensure the safety of our students. One such policy is the TDSB's Code of Online Conduct which sets out roles and responsibilities for students. Students are expected to use online resources in appropriate ways and to follow that policy as well as the school's own code of conduct.

It is important that parents reinforce our message about the appropriate use of the internet and social media and the potential implications of misuse. Please take some time to speak to your child about this issue; the attached fact sheet may provide some guidance for you in those discussions and in monitoring your child's use of online resources.

Thank you for your ongoing support. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Sincerely,

Reiko Fuentes

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*Not for ourselves alone*