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## COTTINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOL

85 Birch Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4V 1E3 • Tel: (416) 393-1895 • Fax: (416) 393-1893

G.Christakis, Principal

November 26, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to you regarding an incident that occurred yesterday afternoon after school dismissal, between 4:00-4:30pm, near our school property. Three students reported that an unidentified man was leaning against a black 4-door compact sedan on the corner of Yonge Street and Alcorn Avenue and approached them. He invited the students into the car to take a look at something interesting. The students reported this incident to their parents, and police were immediately contacted to investigate.

As you know, safety is always a top priority in our school community. At Cottingham Junior Public School, we will be increasing our vigilance during school hours and staff will be reviewing safety precautions with students. Parents are also encouraged to reinforce with your children common streetproofing and safety procedures. Below, you will find a helpful list for discussing street safety with your child(ren).

Children should:

- Always walk with a buddy to and from school;
- Always tell your parents where you are and ensure you have permission to be out for lunch;
- If you see suspicious activity or strangers, trust your instincts and go to a safe place;
- When help is needed, go to the nearest store or school, the home of a friend or run towards a group of people or a parent with children;
- If someone grabs you, **SCREAM and RUN**;
- Never approach or enter a stranger's car;
- If a car is following you or a stranger, change directions and run;
- Say 'NO' if an adult wants you to do something you know is wrong;
- Know your name, address and phone number;
- Tell your parents or teacher whenever someone treats you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe. **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS**;

We are including a brief description of the individual/car:

- Young male in his 30s
- Brown skin, black hair, thin beard
- Wearing a baseball cap
- 4-door, Toyota black sedan

We have also been in contact with the TDSB's Caring and Safe Schools staff. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.

Sincerely,

Gina Christakis,  
Principal