



# Safety in our Schools



Most schools are safe. In fact, schools are among the safest places for young people but violence and troubling behaviours that occur in our neighbourhoods and communities often arrive at school with our kids. School violence reflects a much broader problem that can only be addressed when everyone; school, parents, kids, police and communities work together.

The word violence often intimidates and denotes a tone of anger yet it is simply best defined as: *an act of destruction*. Behaviours such as aggression, exclusion, ridicule, swearing, personal injury and anger outbursts can all be deemed 'violent' in some way. We have created media that is sending those exact messages to kids at alarming rates.

We, at Safe Futures feel that with a community approach, these behaviours can be reduced.

All staff, students, parents and members of the community can be a part of creating a safe environment:

- Listen to your personal responsibility for reducing risk among young people
- Stay informed, read articles, attend workshops
- Join the parent council at your school
- Learn new skills to help identify warning signs and focus on prevention rather than reaction
- Teach good problem solving skills
- Talk openly about violence in the media and how it affects society today
- Take advantage of before and after school programs
- Get involved!!!

We are hosting a one day conference here in Orangeville for parents, teachers, child and youth workers, social workers, police officers and interested community members. Our intent is to provide school communities with reliable and practical information about what they can do about issues that are arising in our schools.

Some topics that will be discussed are:

- Bullying prevention and intervention
- Cyber bullying
- Internet safety
- Youth violence and the media
- Creating a safety team
- Assessing potentially violent behaviours

If you are interested in learning more about these issues, and would like to register, please visit our website at [www.safefuturescanada.ca](http://www.safefuturescanada.ca) or contact Sonia McDonald at (905) 866-2172

## Coming Events

May 7 <sup>th</sup>	7-9pm	Drug and Alcohol presentation for youth	Dufferin Child and Family Services
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 3:30pm	Safety In Our Schools Conference, Orangeville	Monora Park Pavilion