



December 2009

Ward 3 Oakville Report Card

From the desk of **Stuart Miller, Superintendent of East Oakville schools**

This is the second monthly report on the accommodation/program issues impacting elementary students in Ward 3 for September 2010. Again, I emphasize there are questions that cannot yet be answered, but it is my hope that all will eventually be addressed. Please refer to the previous newsletter posted on the Board website for information not covered in this newsletter. Also continue to post additional questions on the Board's website. Go to www.hdsb.ca (Ward 3 Oakville community consultation information is found on the main page).

I can also be contacted at millers@hdsb.ca or by phone 905-335-3665 ext 3385.

Themes for New Central and Clearview:

New Central:

On December 2, 2009, Trustees passed a motion creating the theme of ***Creative and Critical Thinking for the 21st Century*** for New Central Public School. The Board also allocated \$10,000 for the purchase of resources and/or artifacts in support of the theme.

Clearview:

Also on December 2, 2009, the Board passed a motion creating the theme of ***Innovation for the 21st Century*** for the Clearview school. The Board allocated \$10,000 for the purchase of resources and/or artifacts in support of the theme.

French Immersion (FI) at Clearview:

On November 18, 2009, the Board passed a motion for the delivery of French Immersion at the Clearview school. The present group of Grade 6 and 7's at E.J. James will be "grandfathered" (i.e. these students will remain at E.J. James until their graduation). All Clearview students, presently at Linbrook (Grade 1 - 5) will attend the dual track FI in the Clearview area school beginning in September 2010 for Grades 1 - 6. In September 2011 the Clearview school will be FI for Grades 1 - 7 and in 2012 Grade 8 will be added.

Appointment of Ward 3 Principals:

On December 2, 2009 the Board named the Principals of the elementary schools for Ward 3. Their appointments are effective September 2010, however the Clearview Principal will begin March 2010 to work full time on the new school. All these newly appointed Principals, however, will receive some release time from their present position to do work for their newly assigned school.

Appointments:

Shawn McRae Principal of Falgarwood P.S. appointed to Clearview
Suzanne Leclerc-Harwood Principal of Linbrook appointed to E.J. James
Merrill Mathews Vice-Principal of Sam Sherratt appointed to New Central
Kathy Dmytraszko Principal of Chisholm appointed to Maple Grove

Transition of Students:

The current administrators in Ward 3 schools have been meeting to develop some common transition plans for the students. These plans will be implemented in late Spring 2010. It is felt that this is the most appropriate time to begin preparing students for transition to their new schools.

We will also be holding two nights for parents to provide strategies and support as they help their children through the transition.

The dates of these evenings are :

Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Oakville Trafalgar High School (cafeteria)
Topic: *Raising Resilient Children*

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Oakville Trafalgar High School (cafeteria)
Topic: *The Fog of Change*

The presenter for both of these evenings is Dick O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien is a professional speaker and consultant in human relations, who has held senior management positions in government and business. For the past fifteen years he has assisted corporations, school boards, police departments and hospitals with issues of stress, wellness, counseling and leadership.

We will also have a session for students in April / May regarding "transitions".

Optional Attendance:

At the individual school meetings we held, the issue of optional attendance was raised. Optional attendance is a request to have your child attend a school which is not their

home school. We will follow Board policy as it relates to optional attendance.

Generally if parents would like their son/daughter to attend a school that is not the home school, they must get an application from their home school. Due to the many changes in school configurations in Ward 3, we ask parents to collect the application from the school their child presently attends. If the child is not yet in school (i.e. going into JK in September 2010) parents should pick up the application from the school they would have attended had there been no changes. Please indicate on the application form which school you are requesting and which is your home school. Please have your current Principal sign the application. This form is also available on the Board's website.

Optional attendance will be denied if the requested school is at capacity (or greater) or the home school will experience program challenges due to the loss of students.

The timelines for optional attendance requests are as follows.

December-January..... applications received at home school (or present school)
End of February decisions made and parents notified
March written appeals considered

Bus Routes and Boundaries for September 2010:

The maps indicating which school is your home school can be found on the Board's website at www.hdsb.ca. (Ward 3 Oakville community consultation). We will also post these in all schools in the ward. The map will also indicate bus eligibility.

Integration Committee:

The committee will begin meeting in January 2010. The purpose of this committee is to determine the distribution of the resources presently located in the schools. Due to the complexity of the school configuration we will convene a meeting of all the School Council Chairs and some community representatives from Clearview to form a "Super Council". This group will be provided with an inventory of all school resources and will divide the resources equitably across the Ward 3.

The committee will be composed of all the School Council Chairs, Ward 3 Trustee Philippa Ellis, Board staff, Superintendent Stuart Miller and parents invited to be part of the process. Although this makes for a large committee, it is the most efficient and equitable method to distribute the resources. The committee will have all the information at their disposal so they can make informed decisions.



Contingency Plans:

One of the most frequent questions in public meetings concerns contingency plans in the event the renovation work is not completed by September 2010. It is difficult to make plans at this early stage. Be assured that contingency plans will be developed well in advance and made public to the community. We will be in a much better position to

determine this in the spring when the contractors are selected and begin to work through the project plans. I appreciate that the community/parents are anxious about this and therefore we will communicate contingency plans by April 1st. This will allow parents to make informed decisions and to know exactly where their children will attend school in case of construction delays.

We have numerous options open to us that do not normally exist. We may decide to use portables, or temporarily use the three schools slated for closure.

JK and SK Registration:

The process for registering children for JK and SK September 1010 will begin in January 2010 with a February 8, 2010 deadline. Parents should register at the home schools they would have attended had there been no changes to Ward 3 school configurations.

Please clearly indicate the school for which you are registering.

Final word

There continue to be numerous questions regarding accommodation in Ward 3. The most frequently asked questions concern the renewal/renovations and new construction projects. I have not addressed these particular issues in this newsletter because updated reports concerning this will come to the Board in January. I will include that information in the January newsletter.

Again I emphasize that we will continue to communicate questions and answers, both in this report and on the website. I will also work with the School Council Chairs and I will continue to inform their respective school communities. School Council Chairs will also be a valuable conduit for the community to make inquiries to me.

Updates to come in January 2010:

Budget and scope of work for E.J. James
Scope of work for Maple Grove and New Central
Meeting dates for integration committees
The process of naming the Clearview area school

