

The New Lakefield DPS



Maawndookaazag – Together – Ensemble

April 4, 2017

This newsletter for parents/guardians and community members will be published regularly over the next few months to provide updates on the new Lakefield District Public School.

The new Lakefield District Public School (LDPS) will provide our students with some of the most unique opportunities across the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board. With over 40% more learning space than would be planned for any newly constructed elementary school with the same number of students, our trilingual (Ojibway, French and English) JK-8 school will include a high school size gym, multi-purpose room, modern learning commons library, and enhanced music, science and technology spaces among its many attributes. Housed on a 19-acre site – the largest elementary school property in KPR – LDPS offers a spacious yard, with a track, large field and a variety of play areas for students. The school will also include licensed child care for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and a child and family centre with early years programming.

School Transition Committee

A School Transition Committee is now in place to facilitate the move to the new school, and support positive outcomes for students. The group includes students, teaching and administrative staff, parents, community members and Trustees. The group will meet approximately every three weeks to receive updates, and discuss issues of importance to students and staff. The Committee met for the first time on March 29th, and will meet again in mid-April.

Construction Update

We are continuing to move forward with the school design plan that includes right-sizing the building by removing the Intermediate wing, and creating the safest access and traffic flow for students and families. We believe this makes the best use of the whole space for our children now, and into the future.

The construction tender for completion of the school's renovations is currently open for public bidding. The tender will be awarded at the end of April, with work beginning at the start of May. Areas under construction will be cordoned off to ensure safety. The bulk of the exterior work will begin once Lakefield Intermediate students have finished school in June. While we are still anticipating that students will be able to start the year in the new school, it is also recognized that the timelines are very tight. Contingency plans are being considered, in the event that the renovations take longer than expected. The first priority is to ensure a safe environment for students, staff and community members.

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Staying Connected

To stay connected to the progress of the new school, we invite you to visit the new Lakefield DPS page on the school board website www.kprschoools.ca or search #thenewLDPS on Twitter. We will also post each edition of this newsletter on the website.

School Closing Celebrations

While we are embracing the future of our new school, we also know it is important to honour the history of the school communities that are coming together. Lakefield Intermediate School is planning a closing celebration on April 27th. Event information will be shared through the media, the school/board's websites and on social media. A closing celebration will also take place for Ridpath Jr. PS. Once the date and details are confirmed, this information will be shared.

New School Layout

Now that the school design has been finalized, the school's floor plan is available on the new Lakefield DPS page on the school board website www.kprschoools.ca. As school organizational planning continues, actual class and teacher locations will be finalized over the coming months.

Transition Activities

We are beginning to think about ways to bring students together this spring, to build community and make connections before the move to the new school. Staff at Lakefield, Ridpath and Buckhorn schools are working together on these activities, to support a smooth transition. Watch for more details on these activities in future updates.

Community Use Activities

This summer, community use of the Lakefield Intermediate and Secondary School site will be very limited while construction takes place. We are discussing options for summer program spaces with our community groups, such as relocating to Ridpath Jr. Public School, Chemong Public School or Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School.

In May and June, groups that use the Lakefield Intermediate School gym, track or field can continue to access these spaces as they normally would, however access to the field during July and August will not be possible from the front of the school. For groups like Lakefield Youth Soccer that use the field in July, we are pleased that the Lakefield Fairgrounds have agreed to allow parking in their lot, with access to the field across the street.

If you have questions that you would like us to answer in future updates, please send them to lakefielddps@kprschoools.ca