April 25, 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.

Farewell to Lakefield Intermediate – Open House

Current and former LDIS students, past and present teachers, parents, and the community are invited to an Open House on Thursday April 27th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. to walk through the halls and reminisce.

The current LDIS wing will be removed, as part of the renovation plan for the new school. This event is an opportunity for the community to walk through the school and see it before construction begins. Art work that has been displayed at LDIS over the years will be set up in the gym and rightful owners may take their art work home.

If you have any LDIS memorabilia that you could lend for display that evening please contact Julie Chatten from the LDIS School Council at juliechatten@live.ca

The date for the Ridpath Jr PS Closing Celebration has not yet been finalized, but it will be planned for later this spring.

Construction Update

The construction tender for completion of the school’s renovations will be awarded at the end of April, with work beginning at the start of May. Once work begins, pictures of the construction’s progress will be posted through Twitter using #thenewLDPS and on the school board website.

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. The contingency plan is to have five portables onsite at
Construction Update (contd)

Ridpath Jr PS in the event that the renovations take longer than expected, or if there are any unexpected delays. If it becomes necessary to follow this plan, there will be direct communication with all families during the summer, as well as through traditional media and social media. The first priority is to ensure a safe environment for students, staff and community members.

Student Transition Activities

Students at all local feeder schools (Ridpath, Curve Lake, Buckhorn and Lakefield Intermediate) will have opportunities to come together and get to know each other as they transition from their current schools into the new Lakefield DPS. There will also be opportunities for parents to meet with the Lakefield DPS principal Penny Hope to learn about the new school and ask questions. Here are some details about the upcoming student activities.

Curve Lake students traditionally join Ridpath at the beginning of Grade 4. Students currently in Grade 3 will come to Ridpath Junior Public School for three days of visits at the beginning of May to meet with Grade 3 students at Ridpath. Students from Ridpath will also join Curve Lake students for the Pow Wow on June 22nd. Students from Buckhorn and Ridpath have already been coming together through different school events, such as sports, and this will continue throughout the spring. A barbecue and summer pen pals are also being planned. Lakefield Intermediate students will have a chance to meet their new principal, see the school plans and ask questions about next year.

Staff Transition Activities

It is also important for school staff to transition with one another, in support of student learning. In particular, special education staff will meet to determine needs of students from each site and start to work on individualized support plans. These plans will support a positive start to the year for all of our students.

Fun Fair

Ridpath Jr PS’ annual Fun Fair will take place on June 8th and everyone is welcome. The Fun Fair is another opportunity where students from all local schools, parents/guardians and community can come together before the move to the new school. More information about the Fun Fair will be communicated in the next update, and through regular school communication channels.

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.kprschools.ca or search thenewLDPS on Twitter. We will also post each edition of this newsletter on the website. If you have questions that you would like us to answer in future updates, please send them to lakefielddps@kprschools.ca