

A Smooth Move

Grade 7 & 8 to Lively District Secondary School

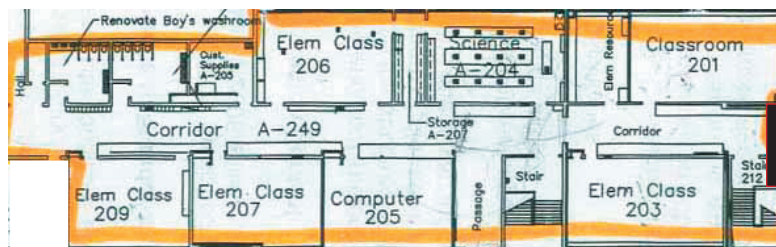
JOIN US!

Lively District Secondary School
Open House and BBQ
for Grade 6 and 7 students and parents/guardians
Monday, June 16, 2008
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Enjoy a BBQ, speeches, ribbon cutting and tour of the intermediate wing.
All parents and students of Grade 6 and 7 students
from Jessie Hamilton and George Vanier are invited to attend.

The Intermediate Wing on the second floor

Gymnasium on first floor



**Separate
entrance
for 7/8s**

Lively District Secondary School main entrance

Intermediate Timetable

Bus arrival

8:35 am

Block 1

8:50 am - 10:30 am

Nutrition Break

10:30 am - 11:15 am

Block 2

11:15 am - 12:55 pm

Nutrition Break

12:55 pm - 1:40 pm

Block 3

1:40 pm - 3:20 pm

Intermediate Teaching Staff

Jennifer Hopkins
Cory Ross
John Peacock
Ted Smith
Eric Bacon
Michael Rybiak
Chantal Bois

Co-ordinating Committee

A Co-ordinating Committee has been formed to facilitate the transition. The Co-ordinating Committee is made up of representatives from George Vanier Public School, Jessie Hamilton Public School and Lively District Secondary School.

Rainbow District School Board:
Dr. Sharon Speir - Superintendent

George Vanier Public School:
Maj Myers – Principal
John Peacock - teacher
Diane Jeffery - parent

Jessie Hamilton Public School:
Lesley Fisher – Principal
Ted Smith – teacher
Lori Santi - parent

Lively District Secondary School:
Judy Noble - Principal
Kyle Gutsher – teacher
Pam Brown - parent

Guiding Principles

- The focus is on the well-being of students.
- Efforts are directed toward minimizing the impact of change.
- Providing the best possible education for the students affected is first and foremost.
- The process builds on our previous experience.
- Our response is flexible to the unique concerns of individual schools, students, staff and parents/guardians.
- The plan is not inclusive, nor does it cover every eventuality.

**This newsletter provides
an update on the progress
of the transition.**

**It is available online at
rainbowschools.ca.
Click on accommodation.
Click on Sudbury West.**

For more information, please contact your school principal

Q&As

Timetables

Will the school day be on a balanced day schedule?

Yes. The intermediate students will continue to be on a balanced day schedule with three 100-minute blocks of instructional time and two 45-minute nutrition breaks.

When do the secondary students start and finish their day? What are the break times?

Classes for secondary students start at 8:20 am. Lunch for secondary students is from 11:06 am to 11:55 am. Classes end at 2:50 pm.

Will there be a rotary system?

Music and French will be provided by specialist teachers.

What high school services, such as shops, labs, and science facilities, will the Grade 7 and 8 students have access to?

The intermediate students will have their own science lab in the intermediate wing. They will have access to the gym, music room, and library at scheduled times. They will have access to technology labs, the cafeteria and drama room when these areas are not in use by the secondary school.

Classes

Will classes include both George Vanier and Jessie Hamilton students?

Yes. In order to create a new school culture and to establish classes of similar size, students from both schools will be included in the English classes.

Will there be split grades? What will the class sizes be?

Class sizes will continue to depend on enrolment. Class sizes in intermediate grades can range from 25 to 32 students. There will be two Grade 7 English classes and two Grade 8 English classes. The intermediate French Immersion class will be a split Grade 7/8. All schools, including Lively District Secondary School, review enrolment in September at which time changes can be made.

Will students have equitable access to technology?

Yes. The intermediate students will have access to a new computer lab.

Sports

What are the teams going to be called?

The school team will be the Hawks.

Will school team uniforms be provided?

Start-up team uniforms will be provided.

Will there be enough gym time for everyone, including before and after-school practices?

A timetable has been developed that accommodates physical education classes for both secondary and intermediate students. There will be access for extra-curricular opportunities in the gym.

In addition to school teams, will there be A and B teams so more students can participate?

Intermediate and secondary staff members are committed to providing as many extra-curricular opportunities for Grade 7 and 8 students as possible. Due to the relatively small school staff, community coaches will be needed to provide A and B teams for the intermediate program.

Will there be sports opportunities and teams?

Yes.

Will there be intramurals for students?

Yes. Intramurals will be provided for the intermediate students. Secondary student leaders may lead these activities.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Will extra-curricular activities be provided for students?

Most of the sports teams and arts activities that make up the extra-curricular activities will be for the intermediate students only, however, some consideration is being given to allowing intermediate students involved in individual sports such as cross-country and skiing to be coached along with the secondary students by secondary coaches.

Will there be choirs, instrumental music, and guitar groups?

Yes. The staff is committed to providing as many extra-curricular opportunities for students as possible. There will be an instrumental music program. Choir and other music ensembles require further consideration.

Will students be able to continue to have piano lessons on site?

Yes.

Will there be a Student Council?

Yes.

Will there be field trips, for example ski trips?

Yes. Field trip plans will continue to be developed on an annual basis.

Will there be opportunities for Grade 7 and 8 students to take Grade 9 courses?

There will be opportunities for Grade 7 and 8 students to participate in reach ahead activities.

Lunch

Will Grade 7 and 8 students be mixing with high school students at lunch?

No. Intermediate students will have different break times. These break times will be supervised and in distinct areas.

Will there be special lunch days?

Lunch days may be organized with the support of parent volunteers. A number of options are being considered, including hot dog days, pizza days and supervised students possibly accessing the cafeteria once during the week.

Will the high school be peanut-safe?

If a student has a severe allergy of any kind, an individual medical plan is developed with parents, in accordance with Board policy.

Orientation

Will there be an Open House/Orientation Session for students in June?

Yes. An Open House for students and parents/guardians will take place on Monday, June 16th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. There will be a BBQ, speeches, ribbon cutting and a tour of the intermediate wing. All parents and students of Grade 6 and 7 students from Jessie Hamilton and George Vanier are invited to attend.

Special Education

Will there be sufficient resource support for identified students in the English and French Immersion programs?

Yes. A half-time special education teacher has been allocated for the Grade 7 and 8 classes. This allocation is based on the anticipated number of students requiring special education.

What provisions will be put into place to make the school accessible for students with special needs (ie. students in wheelchairs, visually impaired, etc.)?

An elevator to the second floor is located outside the intermediate hall. Other provisions for students with special needs will be developed as required.

Access and Supervision and Recess

How much freedom will intermediate students have to move around the grounds and building?

Students will move around and through the school according to their schedule and the supervision provided by intermediate staff. The intermediate schedule is different from the secondary schedule. As a result, general access to the school will be limited.

Will there be controlled access?

Yes. All doors, except the main entrance, will be locked after 8:30 am.

Will there be outside supervision for intermediate students?

Yes. There will be supervision as students arrive and depart. There will also be supervision for breaks, including nutrition breaks and outside activity times.

Where will students spend recess?

Students will gather at the front of the school at the beginning of the day. There are three areas that could be used for recess - the front of the school where a cement pad with basketball net, benches and trees will be installed, the hill at the side of the school and the courtyard at the centre of the school. The area used will be based on the weather and time of day.

Will there be outside equipment for student use?

Yes. Intermediate students will have equipment for playing outdoor games.

Will fencing be erected near the field to protect students?

Students will be expected to adhere to designated areas which will be outlined for different activities. There will be clear expectations as to what areas are for their use and what areas are not. Teachers will supervise and reinforce these boundaries.

How will discipline be handled?

Teachers will continue to deal with minor disciplinary issues and will refer major incidents to the school principal or vice-principal.

How will emergencies be handled?

A school emergency response team with first aid training handles emergencies in all schools. This team will include representation from the intermediate staff.

Will students be allowed to leave the school for lunch?

The school will assume that students are staying for lunch. A parent/guardian will need to send a note to the homeroom teacher to give a student permission to leave the school during the second break.

Will students be kept away from the smoking zone?

Smoking is not allowed on school property. The area where students smoke beyond school property will be out of bounds for intermediate students.

How and where will students be signed in and out?

Students will sign in and out through the school office.

School Council and Fundraising

Will there be representation from the Grade 7 and 8 parents/guardians on the Lively District Secondary School Council?

School Councils are elected. Nominations for School Council will be encouraged from the parents/guardians of Grade 7 and 8 students.

Will the intermediate school have its own fundraising committee?

The administration at Lively District Secondary School is committed to working with parents/guardians to provide every opportunity for students. An intermediate fundraising committee would be welcomed. Fundraising plans are submitted to the Superintendent annually by September 30th.

Will intermediate students be required to raise funds for high school students or events?

Grade 7 and 8 students will raise funds for events and activities that they wish to participate in. Shared fundraising will be reflected in the annual fundraising plan.

Staff and School Office

Will some of the teachers from the intermediate school be moving to Lively District Secondary School?

Yes. Teachers at both George Vanier and Jessie Hamilton were given an opportunity to move with intermediate students to Lively District Secondary School.

Will there be cross-grade learning opportunities?

Yes. Opportunities for mentorship will be explored between intermediate and secondary students and between intermediate and intermediate students.

Q&As

Will there be a designated secretary, Vice-Principal or lead teacher for the Grade 7 and 8 students?

One of the office staff will be responsible for the Grade 7 and 8 safe arrival program. There will not be an addition to the administrative staff at Lively District Secondary School.

Will there be one or two office areas?

The school's main office will service both the secondary and intermediate areas.

School Culture and School Name

Will there be an eventual blending of the Grade 7 and 8 students with the whole school?

Staff will work to make the Grade 7 and 8 program distinct and will blend activities where appropriate.

What will be the school name?

According to input collected to date, there is an interest in retaining Lively District Secondary School as the school name.

What will the school colours be?

The school colours are black, gold and white.

Will there be spirit wear?

Yes. Lively District Secondary School currently has a HAWK shop where students can purchase spirit wear.

Will a mural be created for students?

The secondary students are painting a mural for the Grade 7 and 8 students. It will be showcased at the Open House/BBQ on June 16th.

French Immersion

How will a French presence be created in the school?

There will be a focus on French studies as well as cultural opportunities that may include the following - French Canadian customs and festivals, French assemblies, Immersion and Core French students working together, O'Canada and announcements in French, French in the hallways, and bilingual musicals and dramas. The following subjects will be

taught in French - musique, arts dramatique, arts visuels, éducation physique, hygiène, histoire, géographie.

Will French Immersion students be integrated with regular program students for English classes?

French Immersion students will be integrated as the flexibility of the teaching timetable allows.

Will there be novels, dictionaries, and software in French? Will there be a French section in the library?

Yes. Staff members are reviewing the resources at George Vanier and Jessie Hamilton to determine what exists and what will be required. All of the resources from the Grade 7 and 8 classrooms will be moving with the students to the secondary school. A resource section in the secondary school library is currently being reviewed for Grade 7 and 8 program suitability.

Will French Immersion students feel isolated while English students merge with new friends?

Activities have been planned that will allow students in both the English and French Immersion programs to mix and get to know each other.

Will there be a French Immersion program at Lively District Secondary School?

The cohort of students in Grade 7 going into Grade 8 in September is small. Based on current enrolment, there will not be a sufficient number of students to offer French Immersion in Grade 9 in 2009-2010. Rainbow District School Board will offer French Immersion at Lively District Secondary School with a cohort of 25 students in Grade 9.

Leadership Opportunities

Will the intermediate students have leadership opportunities?

Yes. Intermediate students will be able to partner with JK to 6 students for leadership opportunities that might include reading buddies, coaching extra-curricular activities, and peer helpers.

Timelines

When will the Grade 7 and 8 wing at Lively District be ready for students?

Students and parents/guardians will be able to view the site on June 16th. Work on the Grade 7 and 8 section of the school will be completed in August for the September start-up.

Ceremonies

Will there be a Grade 8 graduation?

Yes. The Grade 8 students will have their own graduation.

School Policies

What will school policies be for agendas, the dress code, cell phone/ i-pod use?

The school agenda and dress code is being developed. It will take into consideration the current policies at George Vanier, Jessie Hamilton and Lively District Secondary School and will be ratified by the school councils. The Board policy on the use of the Internet and electronic devices will be implemented.

Transportation

What length of time will students be on the bus?

The busing schedule is still being developed by the Sudbury Student Services Consortium.

Will secondary school students and intermediate students be sharing the same bus?

No. The intermediate students will not be on the same bus as secondary school students.