



LINDA CURTIS, SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, ER17
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December 4, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am writing to inform you that at the Board meeting on Wednesday, November 25, 2015, the Board of Trustees of the Toronto District School Board made decisions regarding the Program Area Review that was recently completed for the AY Jackson Cluster of Schools.

There are many changes described below and I would like you to know that transition planning to carry out the changes has already begun with a team of Principals and Teachers. We are committed to supporting the students through the implementation of the recommendations. Some areas that we will be focusing on include:

- Helping students prepare for and make successful transitions;
- Celebrating graduations for all Grade 5 and Grade 6 students as well as Grade 8 and Grade 9 students leaving their schools;
- Exploring child care possibilities for Grade 6 students at the middle schools; and
- Reviewing transportation needs and safety concerns.

In summary, the following decisions have been made:

1. Grade Changes for September 2016:
 - a. The junior elementary schools (Arbor Glen PS, Hillmount PS, Cliffwood PS, Cresthaven PS, Pineway PS, and Steelesview PS) will become JK to Grade 5 schools. In June 2016, the current Grade 5 and 6 students will graduate.
 - b. Highland JHS and Zion Heights JHS will become Grade 6 to 8 schools and the schools' names will change to Highland Middle School and Zion Heights Middle School. In June 2016, the current Grade 8 and 9 students will graduate.
 - c. AY Jackson SS will become a Grade 9 to 12 secondary school.
 - d. Please note that there are delayed grade changes for students enrolled in the French Immersion Programs. Please see Section 3.
2. Shift in Special Education Programs:

Placement in the Special Education Intensive Support Programs mentioned below is through the Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) process. The following explanations apply if the parent/guardian continues to agree with a placement in a Special Education class. Should the parent/guardian not agree with placement in a Special Education class, the student would return to his/her designated school by home address.

 - a. Grade 4 and 5 Gifted Program at Lillian PS will relocate to Steelesview PS, and will be implemented by phasing out grades so that students already at Lillian PS will remain there until they finish Grade 5. Students will transition to the Grade 6 Gifted Program at Zion Heights MS.

- b. Grade 4 and 5 Gifted Programs at Hillmount PS will relocate to Steelesview PS and the Grade 6 program will relocate to Zion Heights MS. This will also be implemented by phasing out grades. Students currently in Grade 5 and 6 will transition to the Grade 6 and 7 Gifted Program at Zion Heights MS. Students currently in Grade 4 will remain at Hillmount PS until they finish Grade 5.
 - c. The first Gifted Program classes at Steelesview PS will be Grade 4 and will start September 2016, followed by Grade 5 classes in September 2017.
 - d. Grades 6 to 8 Gifted Programs at Cummer Valley MS and Zion Heights JHS will be consolidated at Zion Heights MS, and implemented by phasing out grades so that the students already at Cummer Valley MS will finish at their existing school.
 - The last Grade 9 Gifted class at Zion Heights JHS will graduate in June 2016.
 - The first Grade 6 Gifted class at Zion Heights MS will start in September 2016.
 - e. The Gifted Program pathway from Cummer Valley MS and Zion Heights MS, for Grades 9 to 12, will no longer be Don Mills CI but will be based on the student's home address, as approved by Board on October 28, 2015. For many students in these programs, this will lead to AY Jackson SS.
 - As Zion Heights JHS already has a Grade 9 Gifted class, the first classes at AY Jackson SS will be Grades 9 and 10, and will start in September 2016.
 - f. The Autism Program at Finch PS will relocate to Pineway PS, and implementation will be at the discretion of the Special Education Department to ensure the best transition for the students in this program.
3. Shift in French Programs:
- a. The Extended French Program at Cliffwood PS will be relocated to Cresthaven PS, and will be implemented by phasing out so that students already at Cliffwood PS will finish Grade 5 at Cliffwood PS before moving to the new middle school program at Highland MS for Grade 6.
 - The first Extended French class at Cresthaven PS will be Grade 4 and will start in September 2016.
 - b. The graduates of the Extended French Program at Cresthaven PS will attend Highland MS for Grades 6 to 8, and then Newtonbrook SS for Grades 9 to 12.
 - The first Extended French classes at Highland MS will be Grades 6 and 7 and will start September 2016.
 - c. The Middle French Immersion Program at Hollywood PS will relocate from Hollywood PS to Cresthaven PS by phasing out the grades.
 - The phase out at Hollywood PS will start for September 2017.
 - Students already in the Middle French Immersion Program at Hollywood PS will finish Grade 6 at Hollywood PS and graduate to LB Pearson PS.
 - The French Department will review converting the Middle French Immersion Program to an Extended French Program and will contact affected parents upon concluding the review.
 - d. The pathway for the graduates of the Cliffwood PS French Immersion program when graduating from Don Valley MS is Windfields JHS for Grade 9 and York Mills CI for Grades 10 to 12. However, these students are also guaranteed placement at Newtonbrook SS for Grades 9 to 12 to continue their French Immersion program.
 - e. The relocation of the Grade 6 French Immersion Program from Cliffwood PS to Don Valley MS will occur September 2017. This is being done to be consistent with other changes being made at Brian PS and Dallington PS as a result of other Program Area Reviews that occurred. This alignment will lead to a more viable program with a larger

critical mass of students and a stronger program at Don Valley MS in terms of the number of French Immersion students enrolled.

4. Shared Finch PS / Steelesview PS Attendance Area:
 - a. The shared Finch PS / Steelesview PS attendance area will become entirely the Steelesview PS attendance area with the pathway to Zion Heights MS and AY Jackson SS. The pathway to Cummer Valley MS and Earl Haig SS will no longer exist for this area.
 - b. All students who currently reside in the attendance areas for these schools and attend these schools as of the end of the 2015-2016 school year, and their siblings, will be allowed to remain at the current schools until they graduate.

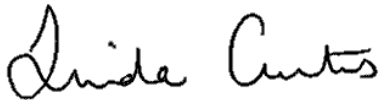
If you would like more detailed information regarding the nature and timing of changes, a summary of the student accommodation and program plan for each school involved in the review can be found by going to:

http://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC_helpful_info_docs/SummaryAccommodationProgramPlanv5.pdf

I would like to thank all of the parents, guardians and community members who dedicated their valuable time to participate in this review process. The decisions reflect the input that we received.

Again, please be assured that students will be supported through the transition process so they can continue to be successful. If you have any specific questions or concerns about your child, please contact the school Principal. If you have any questions about the process, please contact me at 416-396-9172 or at linda.curtis@tdsb.on.ca.

Regards,



Linda Curtis
Superintendent of Education ER17

Cc. Alexander Brown
Trustee Ward 12

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- French** **Le présent document contient des renseignements importants. Veuillez le montrer à une personne qui comprend l'anglais écrit ou au bureau de votre école qui prendra les dispositions requises pour engager un interprète ou un traducteur.**
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- Mandarin (Simplified)** 此文件含有重要资讯。请找一能阅读英文的人替你翻译或将文件带到你的学校办事处以便他们能替你安排一口译员或翻译员。