



MEDIA RELEASE

October 5, 2009

KL Schools Working Hard For Students

With another school year underway, District School Board Ontario North East continues to be the best that education has to offer in Kirkland Lake.

Students at Federal Public School returned to see some significant changes at their school this Fall. Months of collaboration with Ontario Hydro, the Town of Kirkland Lake and concerned citizens, produced an improved bus loading zone. The new loading area has moved school parking and buses off of Tweedsmuir Street, greatly improving student safety.

Meeting the needs of all students has been the focus of the new school year at Federal. "We recognize that each child is unique and that children learn in a variety of ways", says Principal Terry McMillan. "Working in close partnership with students and parents allows us to tap into student interests. It is very important to us that we reach all students so that they feel ownership over their own learning." Federal offers a wide variety of programs including the use of smartboard technology. The school is already offering students a Mystery Club, Choir and intramural soccer. Many more activities are being planned including robotics, art clubs and a wide variety of other sports.

Central Public School would like to thank staff, students and their families for a very successful "Welcome Back Open House BBQ" on September 10th. Principal Linda Henry says "...over 36 dozen hamburgers were cooked to perfection! Merci mille fois! We enjoyed showing everyone our classrooms, our work, and the recent changes within our school building – specifically our new Junior Kindergarten Room, new Book Room and vibrant school colours in our foyer, office and staff room, which will gradually extend throughout our hallways."

Henry adds, "...Central students and staff are looking forward to a variety of continuing and new co-curricular activities including: Interlink choir events, T-ball, a musical, field trips

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(to the Hilliardton Marsh and Belle Vallée Woolen Mill), bus safety and D.A.R.E programs. Central is a bustling "community within a community" working to meet the diverse needs of all students.

Over at Kirkland Lake District Composite, the school year is off to a great start. Grade 10 students have written a practice literacy test to help identify areas where they might need extra support to be successful on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. All students write this test in the spring of their grade 10 year, and must pass to earn a diploma. As a result of this practice test, the school has introduced a standardized paragraph format for all grades -- from grade 7 through to grade 12. The school has also adopted a standard policy to address assignments not being handed in. This should help all students get their assignments in on time, and help teach an important lesson about meeting deadlines.

KLDCS students are also very busy making a difference in their world locally, and globally. Principal Chad Mowbray says "...recently, the students raised \$1200 for the local chapter of the Salvation Army through a penny drive. Another student club is raising money to purchase an acre of rainforest. Yet another group of environmentally-minded students has formed a group called "Roots and Shoots" to head up the KLDCS recycling project. Our VISTA program students will also be helping out with this recycling project. Last year, we diverted several thousand pounds of paper from heading to the landfill site."

The senior boys' basketball team is also looking to help out around the community this year. Ren Rivers, coach for the senior boys' team says, "...this year, another component of being on the senior boys basketball team is the involvement in charity work throughout the community. I feel this is a great way to build character, and a sense of teamwork for the boys." Those interested in enlisting the help of the senior boys' basketball team can contact Rivers at 567-4981.

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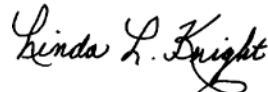
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