



RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PRESS RELEASE

Early Learning Comes to Renfrew County!

The Renfrew County District School Board received confirmation from the Ministry of Education today that four of its schools will pilot the new Early Learning Program for four and five-year-olds in September 2010. Beachburg Public School, Cobden District Public School, McNab Public School, and Palmer Rapids Public School were selected from a list of schools that were submitted by the RCDSB to the Ministry in November 2009. This decision will result in a total of 156 pupil spaces or 6 classes being implemented across these four schools, thereby allowing the youngest RCDSB students the opportunity to attend school on a daily basis.

Each classroom will be staffed with a qualified classroom teacher and an early childhood educator. Students will engage with a new kindergarten curriculum that will promote strong literacy and numeracy skills in an environment designed to meet each child's social and emotional needs. An extended day program before and after school will also be offered at these sites and will be led by a qualified early childhood educator. This program is optional and will be available where numbers permit for a reasonable fee. Subsidies will be available for some families based on financial need.

Board Chair Roy Reiche states, "Our principals are very excited about working with community partners to create opportunities to enhance literacy and numeracy skills for our youngest learners. This inclusive program will be delivered in an environment that will now have a greater emphasis on the social and emotional development of each child."

Information regarding the details of this new program will be provided at the selected sites in February 2010.

For immediate release
January 12, 2010