



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM SCHOOL SITES ANNOUNCED

Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board, and Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board schools participating in the first round of the provincial Early Learning Program were announced today.

Beginning in September, 2010, the following schools will participate in year 1 of this program:

#### **Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board**

- St. Paul Catholic Elementary School, Peterborough
- St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, Port Hope
- St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School, Bowmanville
- St. Mary Catholic Elementary School, Lindsay
- Pope John Paul II Catholic Elementary School, Lindsay

#### **Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board**

- Apsley Central Public School, Apsley
- Northumberland Hills Public School, Castleton
- Central Public School, Bowmanville
- Colborne Public School, Colborne
- Ganaraska Trail Public School, Port Hope
- Grant Sine Public School, Cobourg
- Havelock-Belmont Public School, Havelock
- Otonabee Valley Public School, Peterborough
- Prince of Wales Public School, Peterborough
- Roseneath Centennial Public School, Roseneath

- more -

“Children begin their journey in school in the kindergarten classroom and what they learn there sets the foundation for future success,” says Dave Bernier, Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board Chairperson. “We commend the government for its commitment to the welfare of young children as it will pay a lifetime of rewards, not only for children, but for our communities.”

“The implementation of full day kindergarten in our Catholic schools is really welcome news,” says John Mackle, Director of Education. “The time a child spends in kindergarten is among the most critical in his or her life to influence learning. This program represents a truly important piece of the child development puzzle.”

In October, 2009, the provincial government announced details for the first three years of a province-wide Early Learning Program (ELP) implementation for four and five year olds. Full implementation of the Early Learning Program will take five years with further details coming at a later date for the final two years.

“We applaud the government for continuing to place public education at the top of their agenda,” says Diane Lloyd, Chairperson, Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board. “We are very excited about the chance to put this program in place for our students and parents.”

“Quality early learning opportunities provide children with a greater chance for success and achievement throughout life,” says Rusty Hick, Director of Education. “We look forward to implementing this program throughout all the schools in our board over the next few years.”

The Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic District School Board, Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, and community and municipal agencies have coordinated the launch of this program.

The Ministry of Education established specific criteria for the implementation of the program in each of the first three years:

- Boards are expected to identify schools where the Early Learning Program can be introduced without capital construction or renovation costs and that will be open for the next five years.

- Coterminous boards are required to consult and plan together regarding site selection
- Boards are also expected to consult with consolidated municipal service managers and district social services administrative boards and local Best Start networks.
- For 2010, the Early Learning Program is to locate a portion of their allotment in schools that serve low-income neighbourhoods (minimum of 10%).
- Boards need to consider whether the community will be best served by selecting schools with existing child care programs, schools near existing licensed child care, or schools in neighbourhoods where no child care is currently available for four and five year olds.
- Boards should identify schools where students would benefit significantly from the increased learning opportunities offered by the Early Learning Program. This may include issues of poverty, language or static student achievement.

**Both school Boards will provide information regarding registration procedures during the first week of February, 2010.**

For more information, please call:

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