



# *Rainy River*

## DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

September 6, 2017

### EDUCATION CENTRE

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### DIRECTOR

Heather Campbell

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The 2017 / 2018 school year has begun, and we are excited once again to welcome your children back to Donald Young School.

Our continued focus this year, will be on literacy and mathematics. In literacy, we will be supporting students through a balanced literacy program with an emphasis on making connections and identifying big ideas in text. In mathematics, we will continue to support students with the problem solving process as well as their understanding of mathematical operations.

As you are aware, construction is ongoing at the school, and we feel it is important that you are kept up to date about what is going on so that you can know what to expect in the coming weeks.

As with any construction project, safety is our primary focus. We believe that it is important for everyone be aware of the construction areas, and remain alert when visiting the site. We have placed cones around those areas to clearly mark them as out of bounds areas where students can't go. Staff are closely monitoring students to make sure that they don't enter these areas. Staff will continue to inform students about what is going on, and will help to ensure that students are aware of their surroundings. As parents, and guardians, we ask that you talk with your child to help stress the importance of safety, and listening to staff. We will continue to make every effort to ensure the safety of your child, and ask that you contact myself or Vice-Principal Heather Bridgeman if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to help.

On Tuesday, we implemented the new Kiss and Ride procedure as well as the new Bus Zones that drop off and pick up in front of the school. A letter was sent home for each family and was also given to each vehicle passing through the kiss and ride on Friday. The new process was very successful and we thank-you for your support in helping to make it work so well.

Construction will progress quickly in the coming weeks, and we expect to see significant progress. One major project is the link between the new wing, and the existing building, which is moving towards completion. Last week, the block walls were constructed. This week we expect to see the roof framing built, followed by completion of the roof installation, and installation of windows by the middle of September. Once that is complete, interior finishing is expected to take place. Once that work is completed, final inspections by engineering, architect, and the building official will take place. We anticipate that this will occur by the end of September

allowing staff and students access through the link joining the new and old section of the building. Please note that the concrete ramp in this area will have to cure until November. When it is finally cured, flooring will be installed, until that point, it will have a smooth concrete finish.

The connecting link was scheduled to be completed prior to the start of the school year. However, unexpected structural details in this area led to the need for additional engineering design, which caused a delay in the process and additional design time was required. We appreciate your patience as we work towards completion.

Other projects scheduled to begin this week, include:

- Installation of windows, and glazing on main entrance doors in the new portion of the school (completed on Tuesday).
- Mirrors installed in main washroom.
- Library set up.
- Gym will begin to be cleared out to get ready for student use.
- Gravel to be installed behind the school to help reduce the amount of sand being tracked into the building.

The parking lots, bus loop, kiss and ride, and on the site of the demolished portion of the school will be a gravel surface for the short term.

In 2018, phase 2 of the project will begin, and will see the implementation of a site plan, and renovation of the gym section. The site plan includes, play area, sidewalks, hard surfacing, asphalt driveways, and parking lots. The gym section renovation will be extensive, and will see an upgrade to the building envelope. New exterior brick, roofing, doors, and windows will be installed. A complete interior renovation will also be undertaken. Finishes will be matched to the new building so the entire school will share the same look.

Please be advised that construction workers will be onsite for 10 hour shifts Monday to Thursday, as well as on weekends from time to time. I will continue to work closely with the construction site foreman as well as our Manager of Plant Operations to keep the site safe for students.

If you have any concerns, please contact me at the school at 482-2271.

Sincerely,

Kelly Forbes  
Principal, Donald Young School