



News Release

200 Wellington Street, Sarnia, N7T 7L2 (519) 336-1500

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BOARD APPROVED DESIGN AND CONCEPT DRAWINGS FOR BEST START PROGRAM CONSTRUCTION

The Board approved the concept drawings for the construction projects required for the establishment of the Best Start programs at the Lambton Kent District School Board sites.

The Lambton Kent District School Board is a partner in the Best Start Program along with its co-terminus boards, the municipalities of Chatham-Kent, and Lambton, local children's service agencies, and Ministry representatives. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services is providing the funding for the program. The plan includes the establishment of community early learning and care hubs that will pull together screening, assessment and treatment, child care and parenting programs, and will have direct links to other children's services such as mental health and speech and language resources.

The first Early Learning and Care Hubs will be located at W.J. Baird School in Blenheim, Kinnwood Central School in Forest, Winston Churchill School in Chatham and Riverview Central School in Port Lambton. These schools will also offer the Wrap Around Program.

Wrap Around Programs will be established at the following schools along with some before and after school programs.

- A. A. Wright School in Wallaceburg
- Bosanquet Central School in Thedford
- Dawn-Euphemia School in Dawn Township
- Dresden Area Central School in Dresden
- Grand Bend School in Grand Bend
- H.W. Burgess School in Wallaceburg
- Lambton Central Centennial School in Petrolia
- Merlin Area Public School in Merlin
- Queen Elizabeth II Schools in Chatham and Sarnia
- Ridgeview Moravian Elementary School in Ridgetown
- Sir John Moore Community School in Corunna
- South Plympton/Wyoming School in South Plympton
- Thamesville Area Public School in Thamesville
- Tilbury Area Public School in Tilbury
- Victor Lauriston School in Chatham
- Wheatley Area Public School, Wheatley
- Zone Central School in Bothwell

Before and After School Care, as well as Day Care programs, are offered in some of our other schools independent of the Best Start Program. Please contact your local school to find out further information.

Native Second Language Programs

Effective September 2006, the elementary Native Second Language program will be offered at Queen Elizabeth II School in Sarnia and Sir John Moore Community School in Corunna instead of three sites in the City of Sarnia. Through consultation with principals, teachers and education representatives from Aamjiwnaang First Nation it has been concluded that there would be many advantages to offering Aamjiwnaang as a Second Language at two elementary school sites rather than three. It would allow for a full time language teacher at each of the two schools and a concentration of resources. There will also be greater opportunities for guidance and mentoring for First Nation students.

At the secondary level, the language program would continue to be offered at St. Clair Secondary School, Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School and Sarnia Collegiate Institute & Technical School, and at North Lambton Secondary School. Currently plans are in place to introduce a Delaware Language program at Ridgeview Moravian Elementary School.

First Nations students would continue to have the opportunity to attend any school in the District according to Board policy and regulations. Transportation is provided by the Aamjiwnaang First Nation. The change is that any student wishing to participate in the Native Second Language program would have to attend one of the two schools identified.

Queen Elizabeth II School and Sir John Moore Community School are excellent school facilities in close proximity to the Aamjiwnaang Community. Both will also have Best Start Wrap Around programs starting in September 2006 for parents wanting to take advantage of alternate day programs for Kindergarten children.

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For additional information contact:

Jane Bryce (519) 899-2619

Gayle Stucke, Director of Education, 336-1500, Ext 297

For reference information contact:

Trish Johnston, Executive Assistant and Communications Officer (519) 336-1530, Ext. 230

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