



Eastern School District

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Media Release

District Announces Plans for St. George's Elementary and Frank Roberts Junior High

(September 15, 2008) Mr. Darrin Pike, C.E.O./Director of Education, today announced plans to temporarily accommodate students of St. George's Elementary and Frank Roberts Junior High while work is carried out to remediate mould and address air quality issues in these schools. Both schools have been closed since September 11, 2008 and will remain closed until the necessary remediation work and air quality testing is carried out.

“Over the weekend, an environmental consulting company conducted a thorough investigation of both schools and we now know that each school requires significantly more work than we originally anticipated,” says Darrin Pike, CEO/Director of Education, Eastern School District. “A District team has been working since late last week to devise a relocation plan for students. We've consulted with school councils and the plans we put in place are what we feel will best address students' programming needs,” says Pike.

The plan for St. George's Elementary involves sending students to three different locations beginning on Monday, September 22. The school is expected to remain closed until late December. Students at Frank Roberts Junior High will share a shift system with students at Queen Elizabeth High for about 8 to 10 weeks beginning Friday, September 19.

“We are extremely appreciative of the support of our school councils and community partners in responding to this unfortunate situation,” says Pike. “While we've been successful in keeping children with their homeroom teachers and classmates, we understand that this is not an ideal situation. We are committed to doing everything we can to make this transition as easy as possible for students, staff and their families.”

Students and parents are encouraged to check the District website www.esdnl.ca and local media for any further announcements.

Relocation Plans

St. George's Elementary

It is anticipated that St. George's Elementary will be closed for at least three months. Therefore, the following plan will be in effect starting on **Monday, September 22, 2008**.

- All Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students will attend school at All Saints Parish Hall, Foxtrap.
- Grade 3 students will attend school at Topsail Elementary, Topsail.
- Grades 4 – 6 students and Challenging Needs students will attend school at St. Matthew's Elementary, St. John's.

All students' personal belongings (K-6) will be packaged and delivered to All Saints Parish Hall, Foxtrap. Parents/guardians can pick up their children's belongings on Thursday, September 18 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. New bus routes have been added and bus route information and school start times will be posted on the Eastern School District website (www.esdnl.ca) by Friday, September 19, or by calling District office at 757-4634.

A public information meeting for parents/guardians of St. George's Elementary will be held on Tuesday, September 16 at Villanova Junior High beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Frank Roberts Junior High

It is anticipated that Frank Roberts Junior High will be closed for approximately 8 to 10 weeks. Therefore, Grades 7 – 9 students will share a split shift with Queen Elizabeth High School.

The following plan will be in effect for Queen Elizabeth High and Frank Roberts Junior High students starting on **Friday, September 19, 2008**.

- Queen Elizabeth High students will begin classes at 8 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m. Revised class and bus schedules will be posted on the District and school websites on Wednesday, September 17.
- Grades 7 – 9 students at Frank Roberts Junior High will begin classes at Queen Elizabeth High School on Friday, September 19. Classes will begin at 1:30 p.m. and end at 5:45 p.m. Frank Roberts students should report to the gymnasium of Queen Elizabeth High School on Friday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. for their classroom assignments.

Students and/or parents of Frank Roberts Junior High can pick up their books and any personal belongings on Wednesday, September 17 in the Frank Roberts Junior High gymnasium between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. Bus routes for Frank Roberts Junior High will remain the same and the new start times for bussing will be posted on the Eastern School District website (www.esdnl.ca) by Thursday, September 18.

A public information meeting for parents/guardians of Frank Roberts Junior High will be held on Thursday, September 18 at Queen Elizabeth High School beginning at 7:30 p.m.