

DJSS Renovations Moving Forward

The Hay River District Education Authority (DEA) is pleased to provide an update on the multi-year Diamond Jenness Secondary School (DJSS) midlife retrofit. The first phase will house carpentry, metal work, welding and mechanical programs. Construction of the Trades Centre is scheduled to be complete by this summer, when work on the main school building will begin.

In order to accommodate these long-awaited improvements and upgrades, part of the school building will be sealed off while renovations take place. Several classrooms will be unavailable for use during the 2010-11 school year, and alternate arrangements must be made to ensure that students are away from the construction zone.

A plan has been developed by the DJSS Renovation Committee to address the issues of space and safety. After weighing the pros and cons of several options, it was determined that the best plan, involving minimal cost and disruption, is to keep the current grade 7 students at Princess Alexandra School (PA) for grade 8 during the 2010-11 school year.

This year's grade 8 students will move back to PA for their grade 9 homerooms. Students in grades 8 and 9 will continue to have access to specialist courses such as trades, cooking and physical education at DJSS. All other students will remain in their current schools in the 2010-11 academic year.

To accommodate the additional classes at PA, the current Grade 3 students will stay at Harry Camsell School in 2010-11 for their grade 4 year. The DJSS Transitions and Storefront programs are not expected to be affected by the move.

This stage of the renovations is scheduled for completion within one school year, after which we expect enough classrooms will be available at DJSS for all schools to return to normal in 2011-12. Based on estimates provided, this solution is expected to save the renovation project months of construction time as well as substantial costs by eliminating the need for temporary classrooms.

Principals from the three Hay River schools are working with the DEA to develop specific details of the plan. Parents and the community will be kept up to date as decisions are made.

For more information about the DJSS retrofit please contact:

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