



April 2010

Ward 3 Oakville Report Card

**From the Desk of Stuart Miller,
Superintendent of Education, East Oakville schools**

This is the fourth newsletter informing the Ward 3 community of progress concerning the re-configuration of numerous schools. Although a complex situation, the Board continues to work toward the goal of getting all the students in their newly renovated or built sites as scheduled. This newsletter addresses the interim accommodation of Maple Grove students. If you continue to have questions, please work through your school council or phone me at 905-335-3663, ext. 3385 or visit the Board's website at www.hdsb.ca or email Ward3Oakville@hdsb.ca

Naming of James W. Hill Public School:

The new school in Clearview was named **James W. Hill Public School** at the March 3, 2010 Board meeting.

In the early 1800s James Wesley Hill was a slave from Maryland who escaped to Canada via the Underground Railroad. He settled in Oakville and later became a 'conductor' himself, risking his life to help other slaves escape to freedom. "**Canada Jim**" - the nickname he was known by in Maryland - owned a strawberry farm in Oakville and gave escaped slaves work on his farm when they reached freedom.

This name is a fitting choice as it provides educational value for our students.

Renovation/Construction/Renewal:

At the March 24, 2010 Board meeting, Trustees approved a renewal / upgrade budget for EJ James of \$500,000. Work will start at the end of the school year and will be completed for September 2010. Work includes painting, new washrooms, integration of the computer room into the library and numerous other projects.

The addition to Maple Grove is \$6 million and is scheduled to be completed by March 2011. The Board has submitted plans to the Town of Oakville for site plan approval. The plans include a new gym and four specialty classrooms for science, design and tech, art and music. These are primarily for intermediate students Grades 6-8. There will also be two new Junior/Senior Kindergarten rooms

and a new office area.

Plans for New Central's \$1.3 million addition have also been submitted to the town for site plan approval. The project is scheduled to be completed by September 2010. The plan includes an addition of four new classrooms for primary students.

Meanwhile, work at James W. Hill is progressing very well and will be completed by September 2010.

To view site plans and progress of the schools, please view the Board website, www.hdsb.ca

1. At top right of home page, click on **About Us** link.
2. On left navigation bar, click on **Facility Services** link.
3. On left navigation bar click on **Construction** link to view the published plans.

Short Term Accommodation Plans for Maple Grove students:

As Maple Grove's addition is not scheduled to be completed until March 2011, it is necessary to accommodate some of their students in the interim. On March 31, 2010, a recommendation was presented to the Board by staff that will provide an interim accommodation plan for the Maple Grove students. The Board will vote on this plan at the April 21, 2010 meeting.

The short term accommodation plans calls for all JK-Grade 5 students scheduled to attend Maple Grove in September 2010 to be temporarily housed at Chisholm. They will be in their Maple Grove classes with their teacher. When work at Maple Grove

is completed, students, their teachers and even their desks will move to the newly-renovated school.

The Grade 6-8 students will be attending school at the Maple Grove site. There are a few considerations with that as these students will not have the specialty rooms at that time. We are able to stage Maple Grove construction so students will still have a gym. The first stage of construction will be the addition. The second stage will be the conversion of the current gym into an art room and a music room. This will allow the students to have a gym for the entire school year. Although the students will not have a science or tech room, they will be receiving the same curriculum that all Halton intermediate students receive. All of the required science materials and resources, as an example, will be moved to Maple Grove from New Central and E.J. James. In addition, the Board will work with Oakville Trafalgar High School to allow the students access to some of its specialty rooms.

Supercouncil:

The Ward 3 Supercouncil has met three times and the meetings have been a valuable vehicle for the exchange of information and ideas. The Chairs, Co-chairs (of each of the schools) and two parent representatives from Clearview are attending monthly meetings. The Supercouncil is dealing with a number of issues related to school changes. They will soon be divided up into separate integration committees (or subcommittees) to work on the specific needs of each school for September 2010.

One of the functions of the integration committees will be to support the work of



Board staff in the reallocation of resources to the re-configured schools. All resources presently in the schools will be redistributed in an equitable manner to support the curricular needs of all students in the Ward. Technology, library materials, classroom materials, furniture, gym equipment and other Board resources will be distributed in such a manner that duplication is avoided and all students will have equitable access. Wherever possible, those resources purchased by school councils will go to the students for whom they were originally intended. This, of course, is quite complex as the students are all moving to different schools. Staff and the integration committees will sort through this with all students top of mind.

Computer Equipment

Computer equipment in the Southeast Oakville schools will be divided to ensure the Board-provided equipment maintains the established ratios of one computer for every seven full-time equivalent elementary students and one computer for every three full-time equivalent teachers.

The Board-supplied equipment will be distributed such that half will come from the 2007-08 computer infusion initiative while the other half is somewhat older.

All schools will receive wireless transmitters, with the goal that at least 70% of each school has coverage.

Transition of Students:



School administrators have been meeting monthly to address issues that may impact the students moving to new schools, like seeing some of their friends

move. They are working together to ensure the move is as seamless as possible.

Final Word:

We appreciate that there are still some questions unanswered. However, there are fewer questions being asked and it will not be long before all students are in a newly-renovated or constructed school. Students will have better facilities and a new beginning. The Principals (and their staff) of EJ James, James W. Hill, Maple Grove and New Central are enthusiastic to start their new schools with their students. In the next newsletter, they will provide a few words on their hopes for the new school year in September 2010.

Events:

April 12 Supercouncil.....E.J. James
.....6:00-7:00 p.m.
May 15 Open House.....Brantwood
May 26 Heritage DayMaple Grove

Next newsletter:

- Transition events for students
- Update on site plan approval