



Rainy River District School Board Introduces Full Day/Every Day Senior Kindergarten

(June 7, 2005) - Improved academic achievement and enhanced development of students' social skills are at the heart of an expanded program for the Rainy River District School Board. Full Day/Every Day Senior Kindergarten is expected to ease the transition into Grade One and provide continuity for the children. Full Day/Every Day Senior Kindergarten has been approved to begin in Rainy River District School Board schools next September.

Research indicates that there are a wide range of long-lasting positive benefits to students in full-day Kindergarten programs. These benefits range from personal and social growth to academic success. Students will have an opportunity to extend their learning experiences in a developmentally appropriate program. A Canadian study by Da Costa and Bell (2001) demonstrated positive academic gains in terms of literacy skills. "Students in a full-day program experienced significantly greater growth in the prerequisite skills for reading than children in the half-day program after taking into account previous ability, age and gender."

Generally speaking, research shows that parent attitudes toward full-day are positive and Rothenberg (1995) suggests that for working parents a full-day program provides fewer scheduling problems and greater continuity for the children. Parents feel their children receive less "hectic" instruction in full-day programs and that instruction is geared more carefully to individual student needs.

Door-to-door transportation will continue to be provided for all eligible Senior Kindergarten students.

"Kindergarten marks the beginning of a very important journey: a child's formal educational experience," said Assistant Superintendent, Linda Hill. "We strongly believe this is a step in the right direction for the Board and we know that expanding the current program will be a truly beneficial experience for both children and their families."