

School start pushed back; after Labour Day this year

M. McKinnon

The next new school year won't start until after Labour Day in Northwestern Ontario.

Feedback from a public survey led to the change, as almost sixty percent of 2,393 respondents favoured delaying the start of classes until after Labour Day.

As a result, the five school boards in the region have developed a calendar that will see school start on Wednesday, September 5 and run through to June 28, 2019 (177 instructional days). There will be seven PA days (including September 4). Christmas holidays will run from December 22 to January 6; March Break from the tenth to the eighteenth.

The boards, which share transportation services, work together to plan the school year calendar, align professional activity days, and ensure consistency with the length of terms and semesters.

Reading Recovery

The Reading Recovery™ program remains a key part of the supports for primary school students of the Rainy River DSB.

In a presentation to the board last week, Reading Recovery™ teacher leader Alison Simpson noted six teachers are participating in Reading Recovery™ training, with another three teachers continuing on in the role. These teachers currently facilitate lessons for 32 grade-1 students across the Rainy River District.

Grade 1 students experiencing the most difficulty learning to read and write are selected for a short-term (approximately 12-20 weeks) intervention. Reading Recovery™ has been proven effective with all children, helping to establish the foundation for literacy success.

Daycare investment

The province will invest over eight million dollars in establishing new day care facilities at four district schools: the new Catholic elementary school in Fort Frances (39 spaces for \$1.6 million in capital funding), Robert Moore School in Fort Frances, Donald Young School in Emo, and the Rainy River K-12 school. Funding for the day care centres in the public school (\$6.45 million) was announced on December 21.

On January 17, the province announced it would fund a two-room day care and an EarlyON child and family centre as part of the new \$23 million K-12 school in Atikokan.

The centres will be funded by, and operated through, the district social services administration board.

“The new daycare locations will be a benefit to our school communities,” said director of education Heather Campbell.

“School-based child care centres provide our youngest children with a seamless day, reducing the number of transitions in a child's life, and providing comfort and security, which supports student achievement and well-being.”