



# ALGONQUIN AND LAKESHORE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*"Leading and Learning with Faith"*

## **WE THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 12, 2010

### **Early Learning for Four- and Five-Year olds**

Starting in September 2010, the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board will begin phasing in full-day learning for four- and five-year olds in select schools. The ALCDSB will be offering eight classes of full-day Early Learning for the 2010-2011 school year.

The ALCDSB has identified eight full-day every day Early Learning classes in five schools throughout the school district.

The selected schools are:

- St. Peter Catholic School (Trenton)
- Sacred Heart Catholic School (Marmora)
- J.J. O'Neill Catholic School (Napanee)
- St. Peter Catholic School (Kingston)
- St. Patrick Catholic School (Harrowsmith).

As well, the board will be working with our community partners to facilitate the establishment of new before- and after-care programs at schools where there is sufficient registration. There will be a reasonable fee for these programs if families wish to enrol, and the government is offering subsidies for some families, based on financial need.

"We appreciate the leadership that the Ministry of Education has taken in providing full-day early learning to our youngest students. The benefits to their learning will be significant," said Tom Dall, Chair of the Board.

There were a number of factors to be considered by the school board and the government in order to determine where full-day learning programs would first be offered, including:

- Availability of space
- Community need
- Existing day-care programs – availability of reasonably priced child-care and before- and after-school programming
- Student achievement

**MORE...**

The ALCDSB has been a pioneer in recognizing the importance of early learning and has funded full-day senior kindergarten programs in several schools since 2003.

The Ontario government has committed funding to support the creation of full-day learning programs for approximately 15% of the junior/senior kindergarten-aged students to start, and expanding in stages until full implementation by 2015-16.

Teachers and qualified early childhood educators will work side-by-side during the regular school day to help young students learn and grow.

The ALCDSB continues to consult with schools, employee groups, child-care providers, municipalities and coterminous school boards over the introduction of full-day learning in our school district.

Michael Schmitt  
Director of Education

Tom Dall  
Chair of the Board

***Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board***

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