

Community Information Bulletin #1

Hosting St. Evan Students at St. Rita: Fall 2018

June 26, 2018

This notice is to advise parents/guardians of students attending St. Rita Catholic Elementary School of the hosting arrangements that will take effect for St. Evan Catholic Elementary School from September 4, 2018 to December 21, 2018 at St. Rita.

The Ministry of Education announced funding for St. Evan Catholic Elementary School, to be constructed in the Mayfield West community, in November 2016. The firm of Kingsland Architects Inc. was retained by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) to design St. Evan. After receiving the appropriate ministry and municipal approvals, construction of the school began in January 2018.

Despite the efforts made to construct the school in time for opening in September, circumstances beyond the control of the DPCDSB will delay the opening of St. Evan at its permanent location until January 7, 2019.

DPCDSB staff have enacted a contingency plan to form St. Evan at alternate locations until the new school building is complete. In this regard, St. Evan students will be temporarily located at two host locations; Kindergarten to Grade 3 students will attend here at St. Rita, and students in Grades 4 to 8 will attend at St. Leonard Elementary School, which is located at 185 Conestoga Drive in Brampton.

The main factors used in determining the temporary host locations for St. Evan students include the proximity to the St. Evan community and the availability of surplus classrooms at the host schools minimizing the need to host students in portables. In addition, the host locations are within the St. Evan parish of St. Leonard Church.

St. Rita and St. Evan will operate as separate schools within the same building. The bell times for the schools are off-set, therefore minimizing traffic congestion at the beginning and end of the school day. The daily operation of the two schools within St. Rita will be coordinated to minimize disruption to the St. Rita students. This includes off-set times for recess, lunch, gym and library. There will be minimal interactions between the two schools.

PLASP Child Care Services has been selected as the child care provider for the school-aged before and after school program at St. Evan. PLASP will operate a separate school-aged program for St. Evan at St. Rita, which will not affect the existing PLASP child care program.

Attached is a document with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) providing additional information.

St. Rita and St. Leonard Communities - Frequently Asked Questions

June 26, 2018

Why is the opening of St. Evan delayed?

The typical construction schedule for an elementary school is 11 months. The construction schedule for St. Evan was compressed due to the timing of the funding announcement, procurement requirements and finalization of all required Ministry and municipal approvals. As a result, the construction schedule was compressed from the typical 11 months to eight months in an attempt to deliver the school in time for the start of the new school year. Unfortunately, the compressed construction schedule has provided no opportunity for error and no ability to make up for any delays which occurred since the start of the project.

What does it mean to 'form a school'?

When a school is formed, it means that students, staff and administration come together and operate as a distinct school entity, regardless of whether or not they are located on their permanent school site. With respect to St. Evan, the school will operate with its own teachers, principal and administrative staff housed in one or more alternate buildings until the St. Evan school building is open.

Where will St. Evan students attend school until their permanent location is ready?

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be located at St. Rita Catholic Elementary School (30 Summer Valley Drive, Brampton) and students in Grades 4 to 8 will attend St. Leonard Catholic Elementary School (185 Conestoga Drive, Brampton) adjacent to St. Leonard Catholic Church.

Why were St. Rita and St. Leonard selected to host St. Evan students?

A number of options were explored in developing a contingency plan to host St. Evan students. There was no viable option available to host the St. Evan community in one location without a significantly long bus ride. In addition, there would be limited access to the gymnasium and library, and limited parking for staff and visitors. Combining all of St. Evan with another school community would also require a number of portables on the school site, which would significantly impact the availability of outdoor play space.

Will St. Evan students be in combined classes with St. Rita or St. Leonard students?

No. As noted above, St. Evan will be formed with its own classes and teachers. There will be limited interaction between St. Evan students and the host school students.

Will St. Evan have administration and support staff on-site at St. Rita and St. Leonard?

Yes. Administration and support staff will be located at both St. Rita and St. Leonard for the duration of the host period.

What about start/end times?

Start time for St. Evan School is 8:15 am and end time is 2:45 pm. The start and end times for St. Rita and St. Leonard will remain the same. St. Rita will start at 9:15 am and end at 3:45 pm. St. Leonard will start at 8:30 am and end at 3:00 pm.

When will St. Evan open?

It is anticipated that the school will be ready for occupancy when students and staff return after the Christmas break.

What about recess and the use of the gymnasium?

Due to the earlier start and end times for St. Evan, all events will be offset from those of St. Rita and St. Leonard. Recess and the use of the gymnasium will take place at times when the students from St. Rita and St. Leonard are in their classes.