



# 2011/12 School Year



## Grade 8 Students

## Choice between Ventura Park PS or Wilshire ES

York Region District School Board



## Why is the board considering this move?

- *Parents have requested that they be surveyed about moving their children to Wilshire for the final year.*
- *The board supports the children remaining at Ventura Park PS or moving to Wilshire ES, based on parental input.*



# Benefits to Grade 8 Students?

## Moving:

- ◆ Attending a school with more students
- ◆ Attending a school with regular track programming
- ◆ Potential for larger rotary program



## Remaining at Ventura Park PS:

- ◆ Graduation from a school where they have spent most of their Junior/Intermediate school years
- ◆ Less disruption and adjustment required – students know the school rules, routines, etc.
- ◆ Students are the leaders in the school



How many portables will be required at Wilshire ES if the grade 8 cohort return for 2011/12 and if so, will grade 8 students be assigned to portables?

- *Six portables will required for 2011/2012*
- *Three portables are connected to the increase of population generated by the grade 8 cohort*
- *It has not been determined which grade(s) will be housed in the portables*

- ◆ What is the projected population at Wilshire ES if the grade 8 students return?

Wishire ES	2010	2011	2011
Capacity: 476	470	508	584
		excluding Gr 8	including Gr 8

- What is the projected population at Ventura Park PS if the grade 8 students remain at the school?

Ventura Park PS	2010	2011	2011
Capacity: 631	414	470	549
		excluding Gr 8	including Gr 8



- What will the rotary program look like at each of the schools?
  - *Partial Rotary at both schools will be utilized*
  - *Programs such as Gym, Science, Art, Drama and Music could be offered on a rotary basis*
- Will teachers at Ventura have qualifications in the various subject areas to deliver a full rotary program?
  - *Yes, teachers at Ventura Park PS will have the necessary qualifications to deliver a rotary program*

## What will be the access to facilities at each school?

### ◆ Gymnasium?

- *Wilshire ES: gym will be scheduled twice a week*
- *Ventura Park PS: gym will also be scheduled twice a week*

### • Science labs?

- *Wilshire ES: Science classes may take place in regular homerooms, as the Science lab is used as a classroom*
- *Ventura Park PS: Science classes will take place in a Science Lab*





Should grade 8s move to Wilshire, what resources will move with them to support the grade in their new location? Will they have enough textbooks, literacy resources, science equipment / math manipulatives, etc.? Will library resources/books be transferred to Wilshire to support the grade 8s?

- *Library Resources at Ventura Park PS will be culled and sent down to Wilshire ES*
- *If there are other items required, they will be purchased*



## How will special education students be accommodated?

- *The Board will allocate SERT staffing to the school according to student needs*

## What will the Music programme look like for the grade 8s?

- *Wilshire ES: One class set of Instrumental instruments currently exists. If grade 8 joins, we would have to schedule home practice (i.e., Mondays – gr 6, Tuesdays – gr 7, Wednesday – gr 8, etc.)*
- *Ventura Park PS: delivers a music programme through an ensemble format (they have keyboards, guitars and many small instruments )*



Are there enough lockers at Wilshire E.S. to accommodate the grade 7 and grade 8 students?

- *Yes, there are 150 lockers. If grade 8 students are housed in the school and not in portables, all grade 8 students will have a locker*

Will grade 8 students have lockers at Ventura Park PS?

- *Yes, there are ample .*



## Will grade 8 students be required to remain on-site during lunch if they move to Wilshire ES?

- *The current practice at Wilshire ES is that students either stay at school for lunch every day or they go home for lunch every day. This practice will continue.*
- *Wilshire ES has lunch time intramurals and programs in place and students are engaged in positive leadership lunch time activities*



Given the additional population at Wilshire, what impact will this have on playground access and use for grade 8 students?

- *Wilshire ES has a large tarmac and field area and the additional students will fit comfortably within the existing space, even when portables are added to the site.*
- *Ventura Park PS has ample tarmac and field space*
- *Even with additional students at each school there is no need to stagger or change recess and lunch times*

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## How will Ventura teachers be able to support the coaching of sports teams and provide for extracurricular activities?

- *Ventura Park PS has been successful at forming and coaching school teams for all sports except Cross Country. Next year, with just grade 8's they anticipate that they will once again be able to form school teams*
- *Currently at Ventura Park PS primary and intermediate teachers are assisting in coaching school teams and this is expected to continue*



Should the grade 8 students remain at Ventura, what connections to Wilshire can be made so that the grade 8s can have opportunities to connect with a bigger group of intermediate students?

- *There are always possibilities to coordinate connections between Wilshire ES and Ventura Park PS for the Intermediate students. (i.e. special presentations (bully prevention, performing arts, etc.)*





How will the emotional needs of the students be met in each of the school locations?

- *Both Wilshire ES and Ventura Park PS retain the services of a social worker from Jewish Family Services*



## What happens to the Ventura Park teachers if the grade 8 population moves to Wilshire E.S.?

- *Teachers will not automatically move to Wilshire ES if the grade 8 students move. There will be surplus teachers declared at Ventura Park PS as a result of the diminishing English population.*
- *The Board is required to follow the process outlined in the ETFO collective agreement.*



## What will be the parent survey process?

- *A survey letter will be sent home on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010, with the request that it be returned on December 3, 2010.*
- *The survey question is simple. Parents will be asked to survey one statement of the other:*

*I prefer my child and his/her cohort of students remain at Ventura Park P.S. for the 2011/12 school year.*

**OR**

*I prefer my child and his/her cohort of students move to Wilshire E.S. for the 2011/12 school year.*

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## What will be the parent survey process? – cont'd

- *The survey results will be posted on the Board's web site.*
- *The Board will follow the preference of current grade 7 parents*
- *In the event that not a strong preference is clearly stated, Board staff including the Superintendent of Schools, School Administrators and Planning Services will make the final decision.*



## TITLE 2

Additional questions?



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for life in our changing world community.*