

December 18, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In September 2013, York Region District School Board will open Phoebe Gilman P.S., a new Junior Kindergarten – Grade 8 elementary school in your community on Harvest Hills Blvd. As shared at the public meeting at the school on November 27, 2012, the Board is recommending that Poplar Bank P.S. transition to become a full French Immersion school beginning in September 2013. As a result of this new direction, the students in the English language program will attend the new school, Phoebe Gilman P.S. On November 28, a survey was distributed and asked for English program parental input on how to best transition students in this program to the new school.

School staff received 220 out of the 229 surveys that were distributed. The results were tabulated resulting in 73 per cent of respondents voting for the following:

Option 1 – All English language students move to Phoebe Gilman P.S. for September 2013.

Based on the results of each grade, Option 1 was that only viable option for future programming.

Today, this information has been shared with parents, your school council, and Poplar Bank staff. Principal Kim Walke will also share this information with all Poplar Bank P.S. students later this week. In addition, a new school meeting for parents is planned for spring 2013 to answer any questions from our parent community regarding the transition.

If your child is currently enrolled in the English program at Poplar Bank P.S., you do not need to register them at Phoebe Gilman P.S. English program students will automatically have their student records sent to the new school. In addition, a new Kindergarten information session for parents will also be held in spring 2013 for Phoebe Gilman P.S. families. For more information, please visit the YRDSB website at www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca or contact the Poplar Bank school office.

Thank you to all families who submitted your survey. If you have any questions, please speak to your principal Kim Walke at Poplar Bank PS by calling 905-953-8995.

Sincerely,



Steven Reid
Superintendent of Schools