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PLYWOOD REMOVED AND SCHOOL RE-OPENED

KELOWNA - Plywood was pulled off the windows of Anne McClymont Primary in Kelowna this morning to celebrate the official re-opening of the school that will accommodate full-day kindergarten in the Central Okanagan school district, announced Kelowna-Mission MLA Steve Thomson.

The school was temporarily closed in 2009 due to declining enrolment and the opening of the new Chute Lake Elementary school. With full-day kindergarten beginning in September 2011, the Central Okanagan school district is re-opening Anne McClymont Primary to create more learning spaces for students.

Quotes:

Kelowna-Mission MLA Steve Thomson -

"I have many fond memories of this school as I attended here when it was known as Okanagan Mission Primary for Grades 1-3. I am excited that the district is able to reuse this space for full- day kindergarten."

Education Minister Margaret MacDiarmid -

"I'm delighted this community is re-opening a school that has served thousands of young students over the last six decades. Investing in early learning supports the future of our province by preparing our students with the tools they need for success in school and later in life."

Central Okanagan board chair Rolli Cacchioni -

"We are so excited to see this school re-open in September 2011. The Province worked with us to meet our needs as a district for more student spaces in the Okanagan Mission area and we know the school will be a wonderful place for students to learn and grow."

Additional background:

* Approximately 115 students will attend Anne McClymont Primary when it re-opens.

* The total cost of re-opening the school is part of the \$144.5-million capital investment for full-day kindergarten.

* Approximately \$288,000 will be used towards repairs and upgrades to the interior of the school, refurbishing the playground area, buying new

furniture and equipment for classrooms, and renovating the gymnasium floor and bike racks to encourage healthy lifestyle choices.

* The Central Okanagan school district will receive 15 modular classrooms, which will be installed at 11 school sites.

* They will also receive an eight-classroom addition at Shannon Lake Elementary to accommodate students in the fall of 2011.

Links:

Watch B.C.'s new modular classrooms being built and see how the Province is creating learning spaces for full-day kindergarten at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/capitalplanning/fdk_modular/.

For more information on full-day kindergarten visit: http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/fdk/

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