



PHOTO/PAUL FAWCETT

Principal Jake Vriend and Grade 1 teacher Rachele Nieboer confer in one of the bright and spacious classrooms in the new home of Stouffville Christian School at Springvale Church on Stouffville Road.

## New schools welcoming students

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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It's a brand new school year at a brand new, old school.

At the conclusion of the 2008-09 school year, Whitchurch Highlands Public School was demolished and a new, larger building was constructed, which opens Tuesday morning.

"It's amazing. It's very spacious and bright," said school principal Arnis Pukitis.

The new school is 40,000 square feet in size, compared to the original building's 32,000 square feet and linear versus circular.

"You can see down the hall now," Mr. Pukitis said. "(In the old building) when you were walking down the hall you were always going around the corner."

The original school was built in 1968 at Warden Avenue and Bloomington Road and its design was considered revolutionary at the time because its hallways were in a large circle around the gym with classrooms radiating out from the hallways.

Another new feature to the school is the two discov-

ery centres for the junior and intermediate students.

Each centre is equipped with about 10 computers and separated from the classrooms by glass so teachers can supervise those at the computers and in the classroom at the same time.

Students were bused to the former Orchard Park Public School in Stouffville for classes last year.

Starting this month, Whitchurch Highlands is one of three local schools to provide all-day kindergarten.

Whitchurch Highlands is not the only local school with a new home.

After three years at EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church, Stouffville Christian School is moving to a permanent home in Springvale Baptist Church.

The school, which goes up to Grade 8, is also celebrating its 30th anniversary. Its focus is on academic and athletic excellence.

The move will accommodate the private school's increasing enrollment.

A dedication service for the new facility is planned for later this fall.

Prior to taking up residency in EastRidge, the school was located in Altona, just east of Stouffville.

COMING UP

## Life of our forefathers might surprise you

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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Between Blackberry buzzes, carpooling the kids to hockey practice and games or dance lessons and recitals, not to mention the traffic jams, we often wish we could go back a couple hundred years to when life was much simpler.

Or was it?

On Sept. 25 the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum in Vandorf will hold a History Hands-On day that will give people a glimpse into the daily lives of our forefathers and you might be surprised at what you find.

"I think we tend to romanticize the older time, but when you see the work of preparing the fabric, not even creating the clothes, that went into it, the work was pretty non-stop for the family members," said Stephanie Foley, curator of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum.

The kitchen will be filled with apples visitors will be able to help turn into tasty treats - without the aid of boxed batters or high-powered mixers.

Quilting, with a needle and thread, will be available for people to try as well as preparing the wool for clothing, which includes brushing and spinning.

And there will be a dye pot people can dip their samples into for a bit of colour. Back in the day, before fabric colours came in every hue imaginable and in a box from the drug store, they were made from roots, berries, onion skins, barks and flowers.

"(There was) lots of experimenting to find the colour they wanted," Ms Foley said.

In the school house, examples of tests from the early 1800s will

be on display.

"Some of them are pretty interesting because they use terminology we don't use anymore," Ms Foley said.

For example, weight used to be measured in pecks and bushels, while distance was marked in rods and chains.

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Another History Hands-On event will take place Oct. 23 with the kitchen theme being pumpkins.

Rug-hooking, rope-making and old-fashioned games such as Fox and Geese, checkers and Nine Men Morris will be available for all to try.

"We're generally not open on the weekends during the school year so this provides (area residents) an opportunity to visit us when they're not at work," Ms Foley said.

Admission to the events is free. Both exhibitions run from noon to 4 p.m. on their respective dates.

For more information, go to [www.townofws.com/museum.asp](http://www.townofws.com/museum.asp)

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