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Elementary Students Begin New Chapter at Gift Lake Learning Centre

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Northland School Division No. 61 (NSD61) is pleased to announce the beginning of a new chapter when it comes to education in Gift Lake. The Gift Lake Learning Centre officially welcomed students for the first time since construction began in May, 2013. The \$15.5 million facility was made possible through a partnership between the Gift Lake Métis Settlement, the Government of Alberta, Northern Lakes College and NSD61. The new school will be the new home for Early Childhood Services (ECS) to grade 9 students, a Head Start program, Daycare, Northern Lakes College Outreach Campus, multi-purpose section and an extended family area. Donna Barrett, Superintendent of Schools, says she is pleased to see elementary students continue their education in a new school.

“This facility was made possible through partnership and community engagement,” said Barrett. “There is still work to be completed inside and outside the building but we are pleased to move forward after challenging circumstances with the old school.”

Barrett adds that junior high students will move to the new school as soon as possible.

“Once the junior high wing is ready, we will announce a date to move junior high students back to Gift Lake,” said Barrett. “Currently, junior high students attend school at the Northern Lakes College Campus in Grouard. They have been there since Gift Lake School was closed. Elementary students were relocated to Atikameg School following the closure in 2014 and spent over half of this year in temporary portable units in Gift Lake.”

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