



This is the newsletter of the Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) program, a partnership of the Settlement Sector, School Boards and Citizenship and Immigration Canada. There are nine SWIS programs in Ontario: SEPWR -Waterloo Region, SWISH - Hamilton, MSEP - Peel Region, SEPT- Toronto English, PIDEF-Toronto French, SEPYR-York Region, ALM -Ottawa French, MLO- Ottawa English , SWISEW-Windsor and SWIS Niagara.

For previous SWIS Newsletters, follow the links at [www.Settlement.org/edguide](http://www.Settlement.org/edguide)

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## Newcomer Orientation Week 2008 Forty Sites Across Ontario



This summer, there will be Newcomer Orientation Week programs in forty schools from Windsor to Ottawa. See the back for a complete list.

The NOW program orients students to the people and activities that can help them settle in their new school. It includes a 'passport' activity to learn the layout of the building, skits about the challenges of school in a new country, a visit to the local library, and an introduction to the sources of help and support in their school.

A key feature of NOW is the leadership role of Peer Leaders, students who were newcomers in previous years. Last year, in the NOW pilot, the Peer Leader training was centralized in Toronto but this year it will be held locally from August 18 to 21 in Windsor, Hamilton, Ottawa, Kitchener/Waterloo and four sites in the Greater Toronto Area.

Teachers and settlement workers play a support role in the NOW program. They facilitate the leadership of the Peer Leaders and help with the logistics of running the program.

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### Middle School Pilot - Welcome and Information for Newcomers

Camilla Sr. PS (Peel District School Board) is the site for a middle school orientation program for parents and students who are new to Canada. The Welcome and Information for Newcomers program will take place on Thursday, August 28 from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm. Camilla students are in grades 6, 7 and 8.



The leadership role of the WIN Peer Leaders will be a little different than in the NOW program. Their role will be to explain and demonstrate school routines. To help them learn these roles, there will be a one-day training on August 27.

WIN Continued

In the morning, there will be separate programs for parents and students. They will come together for a light lunch and a passport activity in the afternoon.

For students, the WIN activities include demonstrations of the routines for lockers, daily physical education, washrooms and change rooms. Students will also complete the All About Me self-profile and learn about the extra-curricular activities in the school.

For parents, the WIN activities include settlement information, learning about the ESL program, communication expectations, the school agenda and inclement weather routines.

In the afternoon, using their WIN passport, families will move around the school, learn about key school services and programs, and have their passport stamped at each site.

The planning committee is made up of representatives ICNSS, the Peel Board, three teachers from the school and the SWIS Provincial Coordinator. More information about WIN will be posted at [www.settlement.org/NOW](http://www.settlement.org/NOW)

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NOW continued

Some schools anticipate 15 newcomer students and others expect as many as 45. The ratio of teachers to newcomer students is 1 to 15. At least two settlement workers will be at each site.

As suggested in the 2007 evaluation of NOW, each program is developing a plan for a parent component. For more info on NOW, see [www.settlement.org/NOW](http://www.settlement.org/NOW)

The NOW sites are:

Toronto (20)

Catholic Crosscultural Services - Winston Churchill, Jean Vanier\*, Norman Bethune, Albert Campbell,

Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office - Marc Garneau, Monarch Park, Greenwood,

Centre for Info & Comm. Services- George S Henry, George Vanier, A Y Jackson, Victoria Park, Earl Haig,

Culturelink 5-St Mary's, Central Tech, Central Commerce,

North York Community House- Downsview, CW Jeffreys, North Albion Collegiate,

Jewish Family & Child Service - Northview, Newtonbrook

Peel (8)

InterCultural Neighbourhood Social Services - Lincoln M. Alexander, T.L Kennedy, Port Credit, Glenforest, Father Micheal Goetz,

Brampton Multicultural Community Centre - Bramalea, Central Peel, St Edmund Campion

Hamilton (5)

SISO - Sir John A MacDonald, Barton, Cathedral\*, Sir Allan McNab, Glendale,

KW (2)

KWYMCA - St Mary's, Forest Heights

York Region (2)

CCSYR St. Elizabeth's S.S., Milliken Mills

Windsor (2)

NCCE -Catholic Central, Forster

Ottawa (1)

OCISO Glebe Collegiate