

RENOVATION STATION

FAQS about Cashell's Renovation

Stay up to date with the latest news about Cashell's renovation and our upcoming move to North Lake Center, a holding school, in January 2008! I'll share regular updates with you, and I encourage you to ask questions so that you'll have all the information you need to feel comfortable about our move. PLEASE DON'T LISTEN TO OR SPREAD RUMORS ABOUT WHAT IS OR IS NOT HAPPENING WITH THE MOVE. Life will be stressful enough without getting people unnecessarily upset. Moving always presents a challenge, but when the prize is a brand new facility, we're ready for it!

~Maureen Stamoulis~

Cashell is being renovated and moving to the North Lake Center...how come no one told me about that?

Sorry we've kept you out of the loop! I have only been talking about it at every PTA meeting and public forum for the last three years. It's finally arrived! Cashell is actually not being renovated – it's going to be torn down completely, and a beautiful new school will be built on the current site. But I liked the title RENOVATION STATION so that's what I'm calling it.

When will this take place?

We are scheduled to move OUT of Cashell during Winter Break, and we'll meet again at North Lake at the beginning of January. We will be at North Lake from January 2008 through August 2009 – a year and a half.

What's this North Lake Center? Are we going to be sharing a building with another school?

North Lake Center is the former North Lake Elementary School, which was closed a number of years ago due to declining enrollment. Since that time it has served as a "holding" school for schools undergoing renovation or modernization. Right now it houses College Gardens ES, which will move out in December into their brand new school. So, we won't share the building with anyone. We'll be the sole occupants for the next 18 months.

Where is North Lake? How do I get there?

It is located on Bauer Drive in the Flower Valley neighborhood. To get there from Cashell: Go left out of the parking lot to Emory Lane. Turn right on Emory to Muncaster Mill Road. Go left on Muncaster Mill Road to Rte. 28 (Norbeck Rd.). Turn Right on Norbeck Rd. to Bauer Drive. Turn Right on Bauer Drive to the school on your right at 15101 Bauer Drive. You might want to take a Sunday drive past the school. I would avoid weekday mornings, because Rte. 28 is a parking lot!

THAT FAR!!! How will my children get to school?

Actually, at any other time of day besides rush hour, it only takes about 12.5 minutes to reach North Lake. All of the Cashell students will ride on a school bus to get there – and the walkers are VERY excited about that! Contrary to one rumor already going about, parents will NOT drop their children off at Cashell to be bussed to North Lake. REMEMBER...there will not be a Cashell...it will be a construction site! Transportation

will develop bus routes with stops in each neighborhood just as they do now. We will have a parent meeting in November with the Office of Transportation, and they will review bus routes and schedules with you at that time.

What about Bar-T? Will they be moving to North Lake, too?

We are bringing all our Bar-T friends with us! In fact, College Gardens also has a Bar-T program, so Bar-T already knows the facility and is ready to move right along with us.

Will we get to see the building ahead of time?

Dr. Dupont, the principal of College Gardens, has been very helpful and gracious in helping us plan our move. We will be scheduling a PTA meeting at North Lake sometime in November. We'll have a chance to tour the building then. Stay tuned for the details!

Is it true we get the whole month of December off for the move?

NO...NO...AND NO!!! School will close ONE DAY EARLIER in December (Thursday, December 20th) and open ONE DAY LATER in January (Thursday, January 3, 2008). Basically, the teachers will have one extra day to pack up their classrooms and one extra day to set up their new classrooms.

But I am so sad to leave Cashell...are we going to do anything special?

I'm glad you asked that question! We are sad, too – most of the time. We are NOT sad when the office AC dies in the middle of a heat wave, or the heat fails just as things get cold. But...We are going to do several things to bid FAREWELL TO CASHELL. On September 29th from 9 AM to Noon, we will have a DIG UP AND DONATE DAY. This is your chance to grab a lovely hosta or azalea for your garden. It's easy...you dig it up and give us a donation for our Landscape Fund for the new school! On Sunday, December 2, from 2-4 PM, we'll have an Open House and invite new friends and old to visit the building and say goodbye. At 3PM we'll make a big circle around the building and give it a hug. If you have any other ideas for a special sendoff, please share them with me!

Anything else?

THE BEST NEWS IS THAT THE NEW SCHOOL WILL HAVE A GYM!!

WOW! This sounds like a lot of work. How can I help?

We will need many, many volunteers for all these activities, from digging up plants to helping teachers pack and unpack. Ellen Dunn, Jennifer's mom, has offered to help me coordinate everyone and everything. If you can help in any way, please contact her at 301-570-3544.

Stay tuned for more updates...and remember...if you haven't heard it from me...it's probably not true!

Maureen Stamoulis