

## EQAO results for grades 3 and 6

By Dawn Brown

Results from the Ontario Education and Accountability office (EQAO) show Halton District School Board Students are out performing the provincial average. Assessments were completed in the 2013-2014 school year for both grades three and six in reading, writing and mathematics.

While 76% of Halton District School Board grade three students tested in reading achieved the provincial standard (P.S.) — level 3 and 4, or a B grade and above — results from local schools varied. 89% of students tested at Limehouse Public School attained the P.S., well above the provincial average of 70%. However, only 63% at McKenzie Smith Bennett (MSB) Public School and 61% of Robert Little Public School students attained the P.S.

In grade three writing 93% of Limehouse students achieved the P.S., surpassing the provincial average of 78%. 75% of MSB students and 70% of Robert Little students achieved the P.S.

However, in grade three mathematics 78% of Limehouse students

and 77% MSB students were able to achieve the P.S. and surpass the provincial average of 67%. 62% of Robert Little students were able to attain the P.S..

At the grade six level reading, 72% of MSB students achieved the P.S., just slightly below the provincial average of 79%, and 75% in writing compared to the 78% provincial average. In grade six math, MSB's score lags at 40% well below the provincial average of 54%. However The Halton District School Board's grade six mathematics score decreased by two percent with 61% of students achieving the P.S..

"Although Junior Math scores declined by two percentage points, the gap widened between Halton District School Board and the province in 2013-14," stated David Euale, Director of Education for the Halton District School Board. "We recognize and acknowledge there are challenges in Mathematics. We have implemented a three-year plan for effective math instruction that provides a minimum 300 minutes per week of Math for Kindergarten to Grade 8 students."

*The Halton Catholic District School Board students are performing well compared to the provincial average, but there is concern regarding junior math scores.*

St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School's grade three students, 57% achieved the P.S. in reading, 59% in writing and 61% in math—below the provincial averages of 70%, 78% and 67%.

However, 78% of grade six students at St. Joseph attained the P.S., only one percentage point less than the provincial average of 79%. In writing 83% of grade six students attained the P.S. compared to the 78% provincial average, and 57% in math, again achieving higher than the provincial average of 54%.

Director of Education, Paula Dawson, stated, "The most recent EQAO results show that although our students continue to do well in comparison to the P.S., our overall scores have dipped in the Junior Division Math Assessments. There is some work to be done."

## EQAO results for grades 9 and 10

By Dawn Brown

Acton District High School showed a slight drop from the previous school year's results in the grade nine math and grade ten literacy assessments released from the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) on September 24th. Over all, Halton District School Board students performed higher than the provincial average in grade nine academic and applied math, and on the Grade ten Ontario Secondary Literacy Test (OSSLT).

With a provincial average of 85% of students achieving the provincial standard (P.S.) — level three and four, or a B grade or above — in Academic Math, 82% of students achieved the P.S. at Acton DHS compared to 92% in the 2012-13 school year. In applied math 52% of students attained the P.S. compared 58% from the previous school year. Of the 648 Halton District School students in Applied Math, 56% achieved the P.S., an overall increase of nine percentage points.

"It is important to note that 85% of our Grade 9 students met the provincial standard," said David Euale, Director of Education for the Halton District School Board. "Our teachers and program staff continue to focus on math instruction at both the elementary and secondary levels."

Regarding the grade ten OSSLT, 82% of students at ADHS tested achieved the P.S. compared to last year's 83%. Overall, 90% of Halton District School Board students achieved the standard compare to the provincial average of 83%.

"As literacy is a measured criteria for graduation, it is reassuring to know that 90% of our students have achieved this standard on their first attempt at the test," adds Euale. "In addition to the success on the first attempts at the test, results indicate that an additional 314 students achieved the standard on their second attempt. This means that in the Grade 10 cohort, 97% of Halton students have met the literacy standard."

*Students from The Halton Catholic District School Board also outperformed the provincial average.*

At Christ The King Catholic Secondary School, 91% of students tested in Academic Math achieved the P.S. — three percentage points higher than last year's 88%. However in Applied Math there was a noticeable drop this year as 59% of students test attained the P.S. compared to 72% in 2012. For the grade ten OSSLT, 91% of students were successful in achieving the P.S.

"While this is encouraging, we know that there is always room for growth," Director of Education, Paula Dawson said. "The success of our students is not measured merely in terms of test scores, and EQAO results are just one indication (or measure) of student achievement that we will continue to use to identify strategies that enhance student learning across our district."

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## TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

### ACTON LION'S INDOOR POOL RE-OPENS OCTOBER 18

The advertised closure until September 30 has been extended due to the changeroom and washroom renovation being completed by the Halton Board of Education.

The start of fall programs at the Acton Pool has been delayed as follows:

- Swimming lessons begin Saturday, October 18 and will run for 9 weeks.
- All aqua fitness programs begin the week of October 20 and will run for 9 weeks.
- Fall recreational swimming begins Saturday, October 18.

If you have any questions about fall aquatic programs at the Acton Lion's Indoor Pool, please call our Program Hotline at 905-873-2601, x2275.

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