

# Grades 3 and 6 provincial test results show interesting trends

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Girls posted better results than boys in Halton public school results, a phenomenon which also occurred across the province.

Rankin said she'd be looking at this trend with provincial officials and seeing what strategies and resource materials can be implemented.

Results will be examined and discussed with principals and staff, said the superintendent. "The infor-

mation doesn't provide us with answers, but it helps us ask some good questions," said Rankin.

More than 3,100 Grade 3 students and 2,900 Grade 6 students at Halton public schools took the tests.

Halton's Catholic District School Board officials feel test results show their increased emphasis on language and mathematics is paying off.

The board's Grade 3 and 6 students posted above-average results in provincial assessments, including

major improvements in math by Grade 3 students.

"The board is very pleased our students and teachers are continuing to achieve above the provincial results," said the board's director, Fred Sweeney. "The results from this year's Grade 6 assessment will be used as a benchmark for staff to assess and evaluate strategies for student improvement."

This is the first year Grade 6 students have taken the tests, which are administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office. It's the third year of assessments for Grade 3 pupils.

Sweeney cited improvements by Grade 3 students over the 1998 results as particularly impressive.

Grade 3 students reaching the highest levels (3 and 4) increased by more than 20 per cent in math and three per cent in language arts.

He said the results validate staff's work in helping students develop their full potential.

After analyzing EQAO results from 1998, the board took several measures, said Diane Rabenda, superintendent of curriculum.

These actions included purchasing new language and math textbooks, program materials with relevant software, action plans for improvement and teacher resources to address areas requiring further development."

"It would appear these initiatives have positively influenced the results reported during this recent round of assessment," said Rabenda.

She noted the board has also appointed a math consultant to focus on assessment with respect to the provincial testing and helping teachers meet needs of the children.

"Parents and teachers will be able to analyze this information to help them further refine their school action plans for further improvement and to monitor students' progress," she noted.


A total of 1,767 Grade 3 students and 1,436 Grade 6 students at all 29 of the Catholic board's elementary schools participated in the tests.


—By Dennis Smith, special


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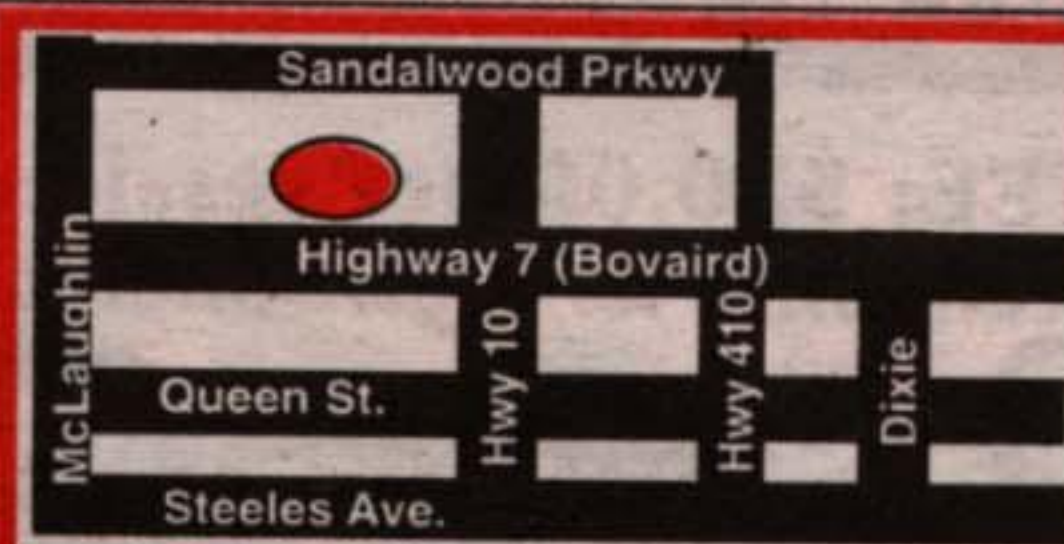
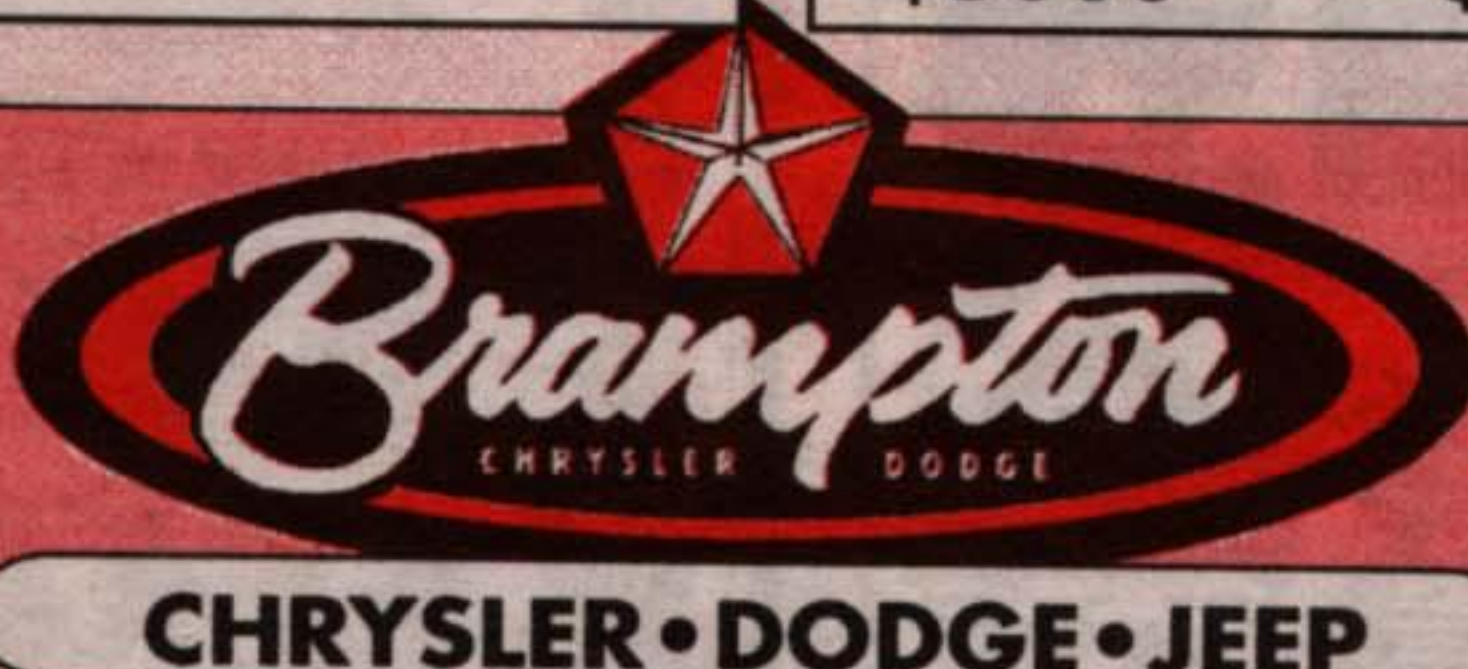
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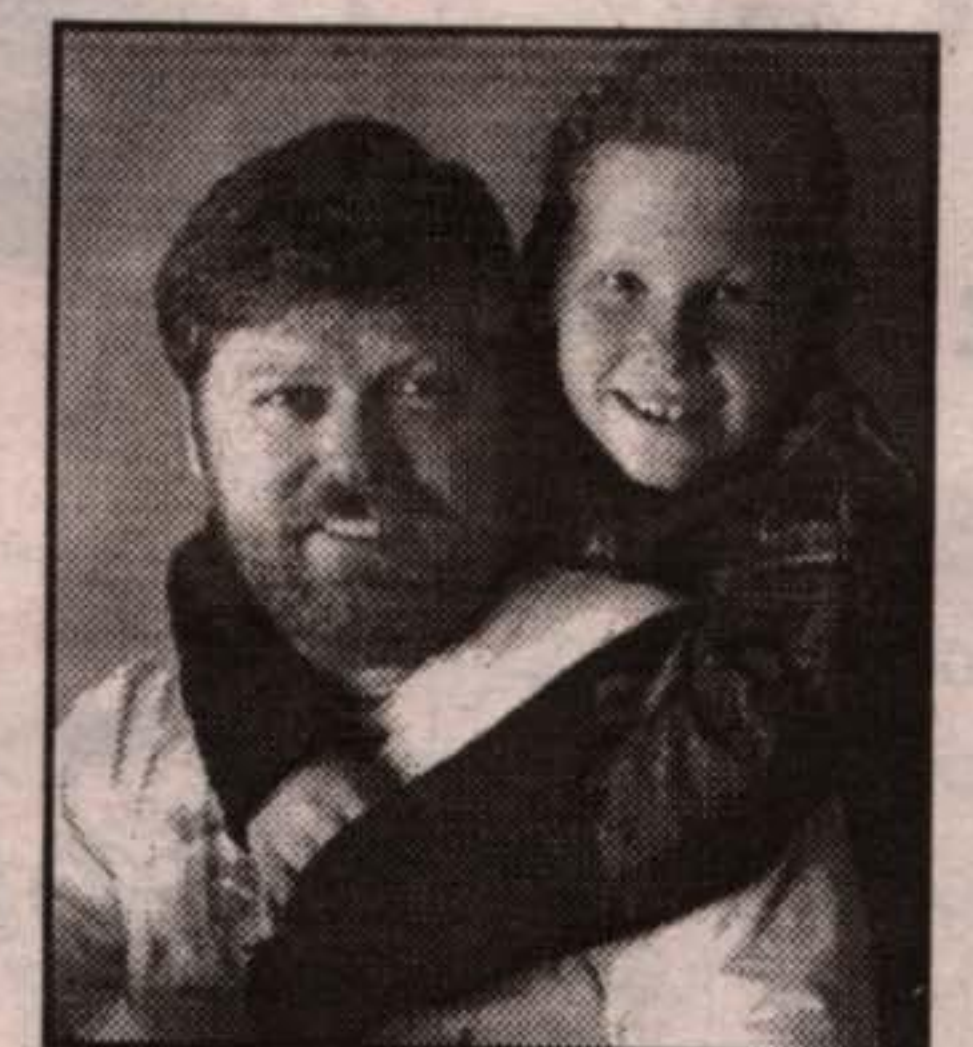
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