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Grade 3's score well; Grade 6 students below average Mixed results from provincial testing

Five of eight schools in the Halton Hills area finished below the provincial average in all three subject areas in Grade 6 testing.

However, local schools fared much better in Grade 3 testing, with the results of seven of 14 schools above the provincial average in all three subjects. Another four schools were above the average in two subjects.

Each of the four local Halton District School Board schools with Grade 6 were below the average in all three subject areas. But Halton District School Board chair and Halton Hills Trustee Ethel Gardiner said the local Grade 6



ETHEL GARDINER

tests are not a concern.

"If you look at the big picture (the whole board) instead of individual schools we're well above the provincial average," she said. "If it was a case that we were consistently down year after year then it would be a concern."

Gardiner said each school has an action plan to improve achievement. In that regard, one of the schools showed improvement in all three subject areas, two improved in two subjects and the other improved in one subject.

The tests were conducted last spring with 773 students at 14 schools (both Catholic and public) taking part in the Grade 3 tests and 707

students in eight schools participating in Grade 6 tests.

Results of the tests are divided into four levels. Students at level four are considered to be exceeding the provincial standard, level three is meeting the standard, level two is approaching the standard and level one is below the standard.

Province-wide 50 per cent of students met the standard (level three and four) in Grade 3 reading tests. Fifty-two per cent met the standard in writing and 61 per cent met the standard in math.

In Grade 6 testing, the percentages meeting the standard were 54 per cent in reading, 52 per cent in writing and 54 per cent in math.

Highlights of the Grade 3 testing included:

- Seven schools finished above the provincial average in all three subjects (Brookville, George Kennedy, Harrison, McKenzie-Smith Bennett, Pineview, Robert Little, St. Brigid).

- Five schools showed improvement over last year's results in each subject (George Kennedy, Glen Williams, McKenzie-Smith Bennett, Park, Robert Little).

- Four schools were below the provincial average in reading (Glen Williams, Joseph Gibbons, St. Francis and St. Joseph).

- Four schools were below the provincial average in writing (Joseph Gibbons, Park, St. Francis and St. Joseph).

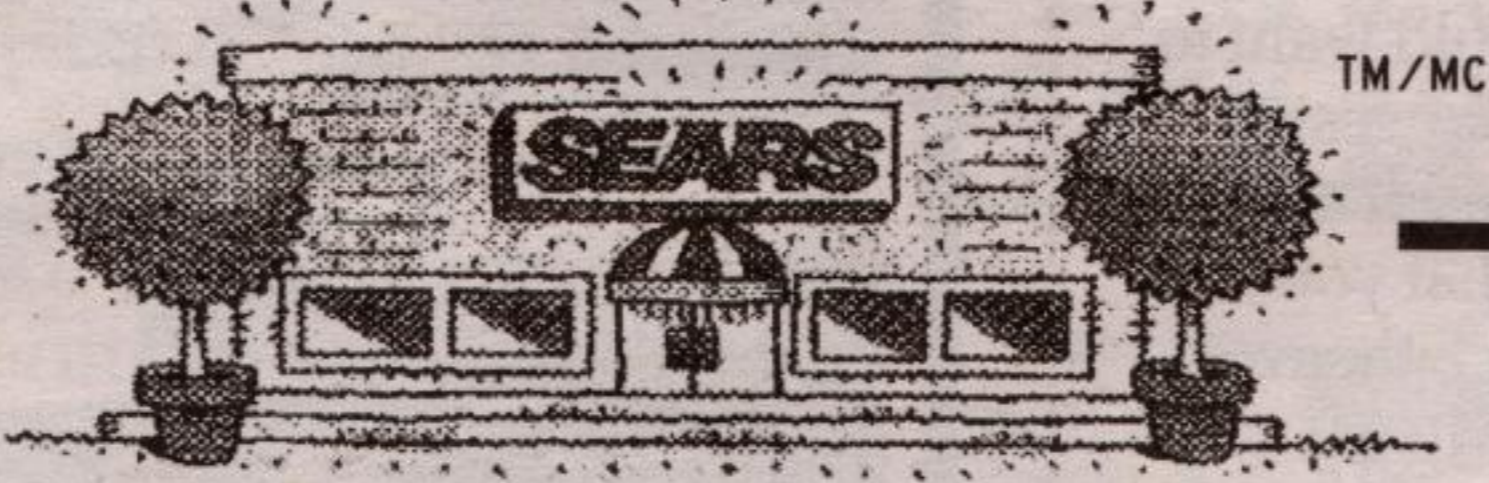
- Four schools were below the provincial average in math (Limehouse, Holy Cross, St. Francis and St. Joseph).

Grade 6 test highlights included:

- Two schools finished above the provincial average in all three subjects (St. Brigid and St. Joseph).

- Two schools equalled or improved over last year's results in each subject (Centennial, St. Joseph).

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



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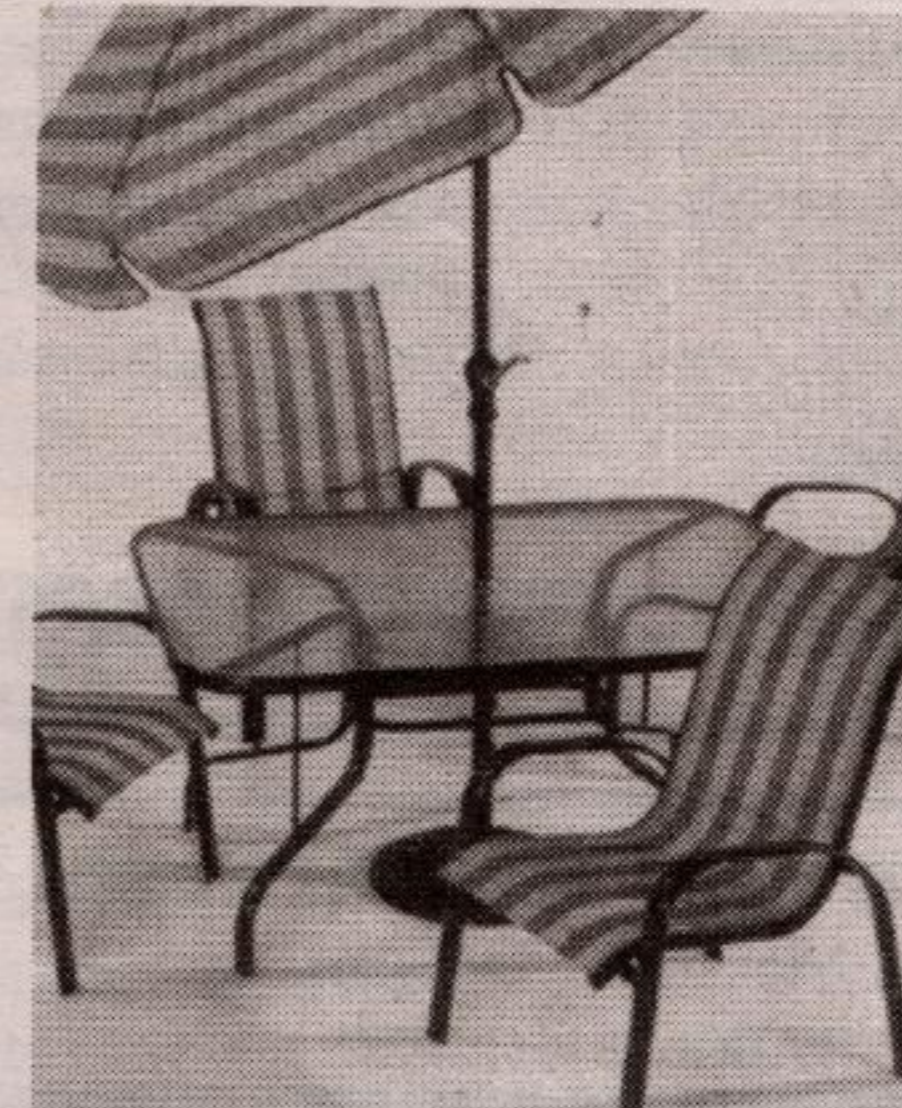
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