

# Reading scores on the rise among local Grade 3 students

Halton Hills schools were a part of a provincial-wide trend that saw reading scores improve dramatically over last year in province-wide testing of Grade 3 students.

Thirteen of 16 local schools matched or improved their reading scores when the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) released results of the tests conducted in May. The tests focus on three subject areas—reading, writing and math.

Province-wide, 59 per cent of students met or exceeded the provincial standard in reading, up from 53 per cent last year. Both local school boards also saw a big jump. The Halton District Catholic School Board increased five per cent over last year to 66 per

cent while the Halton District School Board improved seven per cent to 63 per cent.

Both boards were also above the provincial averages in writing (61 per cent) and math (66 per cent). The HCDSB had 71 per cent meet the provincial standard in writing and 72 per cent in math. The HDSB had 63 per cent meet the standard in writing and 69 per cent in math.

"The children are really moving along and always achieving," said HCDSB Halton Hills trustee Irene McCauley. "We're very lucky in Halton Hills to have excellent teaching staff and principals. Every year the plans and objectives they have in place have resulted in us getting excellent scores."

Reading scores also represented the biggest increase in testing of Grade 6 stu-

dents with 63 per cent meeting the provincial standard, an increase of five per cent. The local boards again mirrored this with the HCDSB increasing seven per cent to 73 and the HDSB climbing six per cent to 68.

Overall, both boards showed increases of at least four per cent in every subject area. And again, both boards topped the provincial averages (58 per cent in writing and 60 per cent in math) in the other two subject areas. The HCDSB had 69 per cent meet the standard in writing and 72 per cent in math. The HDSB had 62 per cent of students meet the standard in writing and 63 per cent in math.

"The results show the strategies and programs have really helped kids," said Ethel Gardiner, the HDSB trustee

for Halton Hills. "It shows we're moving in the right direction in all areas."

In Grade 3 testing, eight of 16 local schools topped the provincial average in all three subject areas: Brookville, George Kennedy, Harrison, Pineview, Silver Creek, St. Brigid, St. Catherine, St. Francis. Four schools (George Kennedy, Glen Williams, Robert Little and Silver Creek) showed improvement in all three subject areas.

In Grade 6 testing, four schools were above the provincial average in all three subject areas: Brookville, Holy Cross, St. Brigid, St. Catherine. Three schools improved in all three subject areas: Brookville, McKenzie Smith-Bennett and St. Francis.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

*'We're very lucky in Halton Hills to have excellent teaching staff and principals.'*

—HDCSB Trustee Irene McCauley



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