

Boards 'encouraged' by EQAO results

KIM ARNOTT
Special to The IFF

Halton students are continuing to exceed provincial averages on standardized reading, writing and math tests.

Both the Halton Catholic and public school boards have now released the results of last year's Ontario Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) tests.

Test results show that Grade 3, 6 and 9 students with both boards are more consistently achieving the provincial standards than students across the province.

"I am encouraged by the continued hard work, commitment and dedication of both our staff and students," said Michael W. Pautler, director of education for the Halton Catholic District School Board.

Each spring, students in Grades 3 and 6 are tested on reading, writing and math skills, while Grade 9 students undergo a math assessment.

Students are graded from Level 1 to 4, with Level 3—roughly a B grade—identified as the provincial standard.

On the Grade 3 reading tests, 72 per cent of Halton Catholic students and 67 per cent of public school board students met that standard. The provincial average was 61 per cent.

In Grade 3 writing, 75 per cent of Catholic students and 68 per cent of public students performed at Level 3 or higher. The provincial average was 66 per cent.

Grade 3 math saw 80 per cent of Catholic students and 71 per cent of public students meet the provincial standard, compared to an Ontario-

wide average of 68 per cent.

On the Grade 6 reading assessment, 73 per cent of Catholic students and 67 per cent of public students achieved Level 3 or higher. The provincial average was 66 per cent.

In Grade 6 writing, 75 per cent of Catholic students and 68 per cent of public students achieved the standard. The provincial average was 67 per cent.

Grade 6 math saw 73 per cent of Catholic students and 64 per cent of public students meet the standard. The provincial average was 61 per cent.

On the Grade 9 math assessment, 80 per cent of Catholic students and 82 per cent of public students taking an Academic program achieved Level 3 or higher. The provincial average was 76 per cent.

In the Applied program, 41 per cent of Grade 9 Catholic students and 46 per cent of public board students achieved the provincial standard. The provincial average was 34 per cent.

"Our commitment is to see continued positive growth in our Grade 3, 6 and 9 scores," said Ruth Peden, associate director of education for the Halton District School Board.

"In Halton public schools, we have a large percentage of students at or above the provincial standard. However, we will never be complacent when it comes to looking for ways to improve."

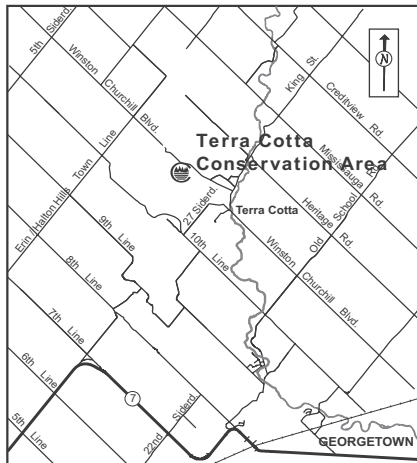
School-by-school EQAO results for the Halton District School Board can be found at www.haltondsb.on.ca while results for the Halton Catholic District School Board can be found at www.hcdsb.org.

Terra Cotta-Silver Creek Conservation Areas 'Friends of Terra Cotta' Information Session & Management Plan Launch

Credit Valley Conservation has completed the development of a Management Plan for the Terra Cotta and Silver Creek Conservation Areas. The Management Plan brings many exciting changes for these Conservation Areas including the re-opening of Terra Cotta Conservation Area and the opportunity for local residents to become involved in a newly created "Friends of Terra Cotta" group.

The Terra Cotta-Silver Creek Conservation Areas are ecologically important areas, home to diverse communities of flora and fauna and rare species. They are also a key educational and recreational resource, drawing visitors from a wide area in Peel and Halton Regions.

Members of the public are invited to join us in a celebration of the completion of the Management Plan, and for presentations on how the Management Plan will benefit Terra Cotta Conservation Area and on how you may become involved in the newly created "Friends of Terra Cotta" fundraising group. This group will be vital to the re-opening of this Conservation Area.



Management Plan Launch & 'Friends of Terra Cotta' Information Session

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

- 6:00-7:00 BBQ LAUNCH PARTY
- 7:00-7:30 Presentations
- 7:30-8:00 Question and Answer Period

Terra Cotta Conservation Area
14451 Winston Churchill Blvd, Terra Cotta

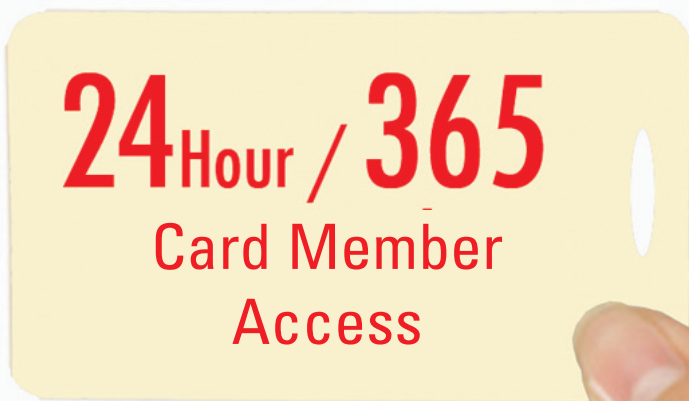
If you are planning to attend or are interested in learning more about the "Friends of Terra Cotta" group, please contact:

shardwar@creditvalleyca.ca

www.creditvalleyca.ca



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