

Halton District School Board

	GRADE 3			GRADE 6			GRADE 9	
	Reading	Writing	Math	Reading	Writing	Math	Academic Math	Applied Math
Board	69	74	77	78	74	66		
Province	62	70	71	72	70	61		
Limehouse	72	94	83	NA	NA	NA		
MSB	53	67	82	53	56	37		
Robert Little	48	48	58	NA	NA	NA		
							Acton District High School	61
							Board	52
							Province	40

Percentage of students achieving at Level Three or higher (Equal to a "B" or higher)

Disappointing EQAO results at Acton schools

There are some "disappointing" numbers in the recently released EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office) Grade three and six test results and Grade nine Academic math results in Acton schools. The results of mandatory tests written each spring across the province provide a snapshot of students' literacy and math skills.

At Robert Little School, where the Grade three reading, writing and math results are below both the Halton District School Board and provincial results, and down from last year, Principle Bob Tadman said the numbers are "disappointing."

"It's not a matter of making excuses - it's another piece of information that we use that makes us reflect on how we are doing our job," Tadman said. The results report the percentages of students who performed at Level one, equal to a D or lower, Level two, a C, Level three, a B - which is the provincial benchmark - and Level four, or an A.

Individual student numbers show that many

students are almost at a Level three, and Tadman said the goal is to "bump" them up by determining what they need to learn and best way to give them the instruction.

While the numbers aren't great, Tadman said he is "very heartened" by the work the teachers are doing and their level of commitment working together to improve student learning. While there is a gender gap at both the provincial and Board levels, with girls scoring higher than boys, the reverse is true at Robert Little where the Grade three boys outperformed the girls.

It is the second year Robert Little has been designated an OFIP (Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership) school by the province which provides extra cash for professional learning for teachers, resources, literacy and numeracy coaches and release time for training to improve student achievement. Robert Little is a so-called "School in the Middle" indicating many of its Level two students are on the verge of Level three results.

Tadman said it is "frustrating" that the additional help is not apparent in the results and for educators who know that the EQAO results don't tell the whole story of a student's success. "Is it a fair representation? No, it isn't. Is a good piece of evidence? Yes, especially when you see a trend," Tadman said.

At McKenzie-Smith Bennett School Principal Sharon French is "disappointed" with the Grade three EQAO reading and writing results which are below the Board and provincial levels. The Grade three math results jumped 13 per cent from last year, topping both the provincial and Board.

In Grade six, the MSB results were lower than the provincial and Board numbers in reading, writing and math - numbers that French called "stable" and include a five per cent increase in Level three writing from last year.

French said MSB was also designated as a "School in the Middle" and she said it is frustrating to focus hard last year to bring them along with

help from a Board literacy consultant, yet not see the results in higher numbers. She noted that MSB has two self-contained classes for special programming and those students' results are factored in to the results, even if they are unable to write the tests and count as a zero.

French said they would look at those individual results to see if Level two-plus kids can be moved along, and they will encourage parents to support student learning.

A student survey - which French said also has "disappointing" results found that only 10

per cent of Grade three students and six per cent of Grade six students read with a parent daily. Thirty-seven per cent of Grade threes and 48 per cent of Grade sixes never read with a parent. Sixty-three per cent of the Grade three students watch four or more programs on TV after school, and 45 per cent of Grade six students watch more than two hours of TV after school.

French said the girls "solidly" outperformed the boys in reading, writing and math in both Grades three and six, a trend that has developed over the past five years at MSB.

At Acton High School where Grade nine math students are required to write an EQAO test, the percentage of Applied math students performing at Level three was higher than at the provincial and Board, but the Grade nine Academic results were below both the provincial and Board results.

Principal Darlene White said they are "very pleased" with the Applied results which show their training and learning strategies worked. Next steps include math coaches from the Board working in the classroom with the teachers and students to improve learning.

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