

Grade 10 Bishop Reding high school students score high in literacy testing

Bishop Reding Secondary School students score 2 per cent above Catholic school board average and whopping 17 per cent above provincial results

Bishop Reding Secondary School passed with flying colours.

Recently-released school-by-school results of the 'trial administration' testing of Grade 10 students revealed that the Milton high school had a successful completion rate of 78 per cent.

This is slightly higher than the Halton Catholic District School Board's 76 passing per centage — which was well above the provincial mark of 61.1 per cent.

The testing was conducted by Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), and will become mandatory for graduating starting next year.

"The (Halton) board is very pleased with the above-average achievements of our grade 10 stu-

dents in this 'trial administration' of the Provincial Literacy Test," said the board's Director of Education Fred Sweeney.

"These results clearly validate the board's commitment to the development of the critical reading and writing skills that our graduates possess.

"Our students and staff are to be highly commended for their continuing commitment and enthusiasm in embracing the new provincial curriculum and expectations. At the Halton Catholic District School Board, our staff develop self-directed, responsible lifelong learners who demonstrate God-given potential."

Added the board's Superintendent of Education Diane Rabenda, "The fine results by our students and staff on this assessment result from a variety of

factors.

"We believe that the development of critical literacy skills, starting in the early years and nurtured throughout the student's academic career, through the collaborative efforts of school, home and church, combined with a consistent board emphasis on basic learning skills, the provision of appropriate learning resources and continued staff development are collectively accountable for these outstanding achievements."

While celebrating this success, Ms Rabenda was quick to note that the EQAO assessment results will be used to provide assistance to those students who didn't successfully complete the test this fall.

"Teachers will work with these students and their parents to use feedback from the test and from the students' daily classroom work in order to develop strategies for improving reading and writing skills," she said.

The results listed above are based on Method 1 testing. Method 2 results show Bishop Reding scored an 80 per cent successful completion rate.

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Speeding, tailgating and running red lights are examples of aggressive driving that put everyone at risk.

But the public's participation in Road Watch can help deal with dangerous drivers, says Jan Mobray of the Milton Road Safety Committee.

She urges citizens to complete a Road Watch report form the next time they see someone driving aggressively. Forms must be returned to the Halton Regional Police on Childs Drive.

"A letter will be sent to the driver stating that a witness saw your vehicle on such and such a day doing the following, along with the colour of the car and the license plate," Ms Mowbray said.

"The letter will say with the efforts of trying to keep Milton safer we're asking for your co-operation in driving accordingly within the community."

If a driver is sent a letter twice in the same year, a police officer might call the driver's residence. If a driver receives three letters in the same year, an officer might visit the driver's home.

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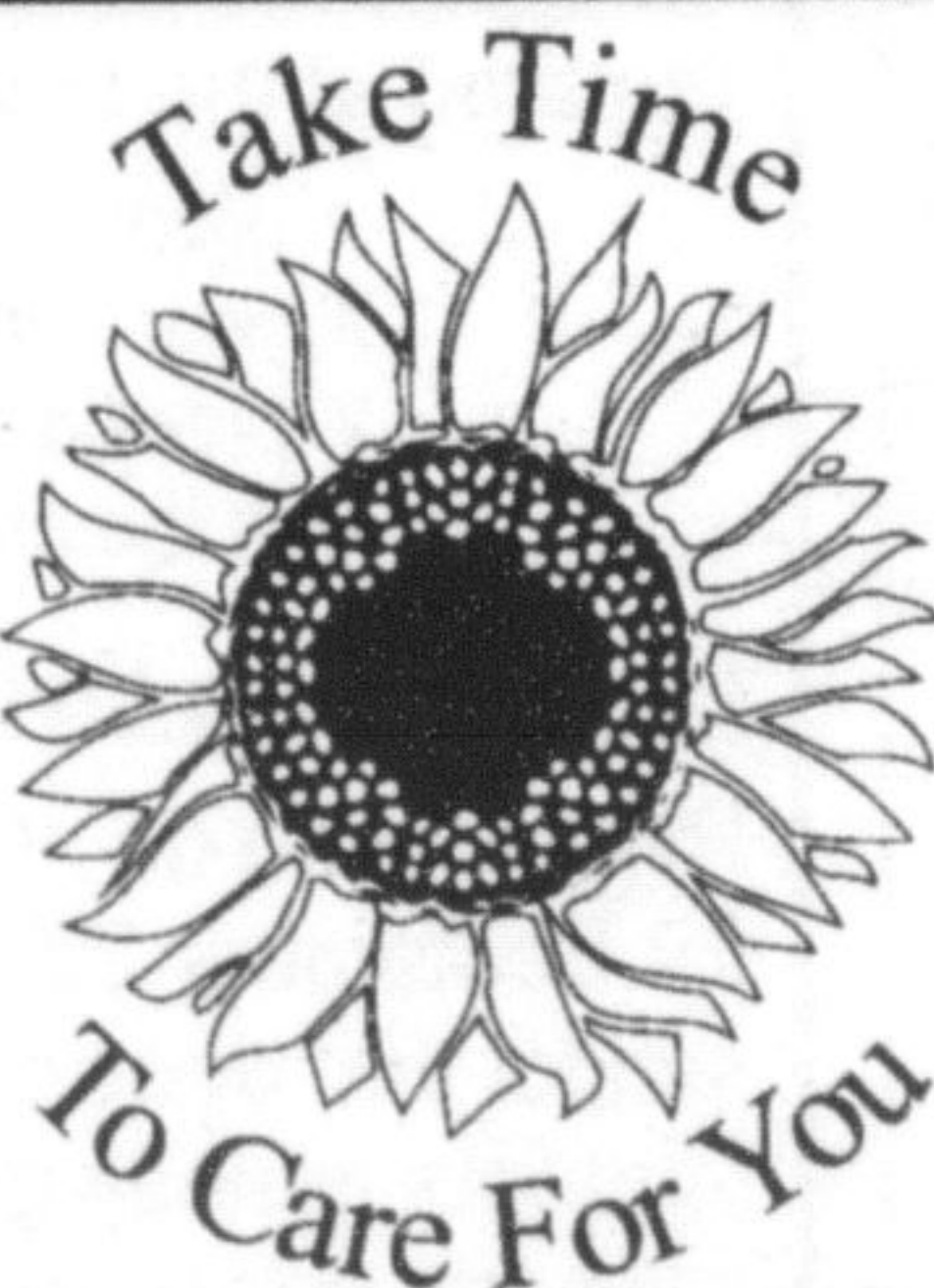
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