

EDUCATION: Public board releases Grade 3 test results

Most local students above average

Ballantrae takes top honours among Markham and Stouffville schools

BY MIKE ADLER
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"On paper, third graders at Ballantrae Public School outperformed all others in eastern York Region on provincial tests last year.

The single Grade 3 class at the Stouffville school came closest in the public board's east district, on average, to seeing every child meet the province's expectations for reading, writing and math.

But principal Kathy Kobelski, though she's proud of the 36 children who took the test, said the results are only one measure of how the school is doing.

"It's not the be-all and end-all of how a student would progress," she said. "You can't compare one group of kids with another group of kids."

At Milliken Mills Public School, where the averaged percentage of good or better results was the lowest in the east, the principal was unapologetic. "The staff here are dedicated people and the students are second to none," Lynn Ravesi said.

Local principals like Ravesi stressed the testing was different, and done in very different conditions, than testing the year before.

But even considering the differences, many schools were more successful last year at getting students to score at Level 3, the



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Ballantrae Public School principal Kathy Kobelski (right) with the Grade 4 class and teachers Rosanne Cliff and Joan Hazlewood, which did very well on the Grade 3 tests last year.

new provincial standard, or higher.

One of the most notable, not surprisingly, was Ballantrae, where, Kobelski said, the teacher took particular care to prepare students for the test's writing portion.

The percentage scoring at Levels 3 and 4, only at 36 for the previous test, shot up to a

92 — the highest in York Region.

The group also recorded an 80 per cent higher-level achievement in math, up 50 per cent from the year before.

Whitchurch Highlands Public School, also in Stouffville, made gains almost as impressive: its percentage of third graders

writing at Level 3 or better, for example, jumped to 84 from 34.

At Parkview Public School in Unionville, where higher-level scores averaged highest among the Markham schools, principal Beverley Lee credited the "partnership" between the parents, teachers and students.

An impressive 86 per cent of the Parkview students reached the top two levels in math, compared to a respectable 61 the year before.

Another school that had concentrated on writing, Coppard Glen in Milliken Mills, boasted 85 per cent of its students at higher levels, up from 52 the previous year.

Coppard Glen's school community is very supportive and its students are keen to learn, principal Glyn Bancroft said.

Although Milliken Mills Public School came in well below the regional and provincial averages, Ravesi said she was proud of student achievement in writing. Lower percentages of students, however, reached Levels 3 or 4 in the reading and math categories. She said the school introduced the board's Reading Recovery program in Grade 1 last year and is planning parent workshops on reading and tutoring of younger children by older students next year. "We'll use the information (from the test) wisely to improve learning for our students," she said.

SCHOOL-BY-SCHOOL COMPARISON

About the numbers

These scores indicate how each public elementary school performed on the Grade 3 testing last year for reading, writing and math.

Students were graded on a scale of one to four, with most falling in levels two and three.

The numbers reflect the percentage of students who finished at levels three and four.

Those percentages were then averaged for ranking purposes. Level three is the provincial standard for Grade 3 students.

Rank/school	Reading	Writing	Math	AVG	Rank/school	Reading	Writing	Math	AVG	Rank/school	Reading	Writing	Math	AVG
1) Flowerville, TH	89	88	100	95	37) Central Park, M	64	67	65	65	72) Queensville, EG	58	36	57	50
2) E.J. Sand, TH	86	92	100	93	38) Bayview Glen, TH	60	73	62	65	73) H.G. Bernard, RH	50	62	37	50
3) J.L.R. Bell, N	96	91	89	92	39) Buttorville, M	52	62	81	65	74) O.M. MacKillop, RH	47	48	54	50
4) Rosedale Heights, TH	87	83	83	84	40) Maple Leaf, N	68	51	73	64	PROVINCIAL AVERAGE	48	52	48	49
5) Mount Albert, EG	91	84	75	83	41) Westminster, TH	70	69	51	63	75) Highgate, M	44	62	42	49
6) Bayview Fairways, TH	81	78	90	83	42) Wilshire, TH	72	52	66	63	76) Armitage Village, N	40	53	55	49
7) Thornhill, TH	80	78	90	83	43) Ramer Wood, M	64	75	49	63	77) Kleinburg, KT	25	67	50	47
8) Ballantrae, ST	75	92	80	82	44) Brownridge, TH	61	71	56	63	78) Yorkhill, TH	51	51	39	47
9) Deer Park, K	85	67	94	82	45) Joseph Gibson, MA	56	69	63	63	79) Sutton, SU	47	31	62	47
10) Parkview, U	83	72	86	80	46) Pine Grove, W	59	63	65	62	80) James Robinson, M	58	48	31	46
11) Doncrest, RH	83	72	85	80	47) King City, KT	64	67	56	62	81) Prince Charles, N	41	52	43	45
12) Baythorn, TH	88	77	74	80	48) Crossland, N	56	64	67	62	82) R.L. Graham, K	44	54	38	45
13) Pleasantville, RH	86	81	72	80	49) Henderson Avenue, TH	64	58	64	62	83) Glen Shields, C	47	49	40	45
14) Rogers, N	81	57	98	79	50) Denne, N	66	51	66	61	84) Franklin Street, M	40	53	41	45
15) Whitchurch Highlands, ST	77	84	75	79	51) Johnsvie Village, TH	59	66	56	60	85) Orchard Park, ST	43	56	33	44
16) Willowbrook, TH	83	73	79	78	52) Charlton, TH	59	55	64	59	86) Parkland, M	40	55	36	44
17) Coppard Glen, M	67	85	82	78	53) Summitview, ST	57	67	54	59	87) Black River, SU	35	47	47	43
18) Stuart Scott, N	88	72	72	77	54) Park Avenue, EG	59	57	62	59	88) Morning Glory, P	45	41	42	43
19) Silver Pines, RH	75	71	84	77	55) Nobleton, KT	62	50	65	59	89) Oak Ridges, RH	39	43	42	41
20) Edward Crowley, M	80	74	75	76	56) Jersey, K	59	53	64	59	90) Glen Cedar, N	36	37	50	41
21) George Street, A	81	65	78	75	57) Randall, M	57	65	53	58	91) Aurora Heights, A	34	47	42	41
22) Sixteenth Avenue, RH	66	73	85	75	58) William Armstrong, M	56	58	56	57	92) Highview, A	42	49	31	41
23) Woodbridge, W	84	71	69	75	59) Walter Scott, RH	58	51	59	56	93) Milliken Mills, M	28	48	29	35
24) Bayview Hill, RH	71	78	73	74	60) Aldergrove, U	52	65	50	56	94) Reesor Park, M	40	40	38	39
25) Roy H. Crosby, M	75	54	92	74	61) Sharon, EG	65	32	68	55	95) W.J. Watson, K	28	42	40	37
26) Coledale, M	72	67	81	73	62) Kettleby, KT	56	72	34	54	96) Bogart, N	26	40	35	34
27) Ashton Meadows, M	70	66	80	72	63) Armadale, M	50	54	58	54	97) Lake Wilcox, RH	22	27	37	29
28) Holland Landing, EG	72	77	65	71	64) Schomberg, KT	65	55	41	54	98) Keswick, K	0	0	0	0
29) Stonehaven, N	75	61	75	70	65) Wilclay, M	53	55	53	54					
30) Charles Howitt, RH	70	64	77	70	66) Glad Park, ST	60	37	63	53					
31) Unionville, U	64	68	78	70	67) Crosby Heights, RH	61	47	50	53					
32) Regency Acres, A	67	71	64	67	68) Devins Drive, A	51	59	47	52					
33) Stormoway Crescent, TH	73	70	58	67	69) Ross Doan, RH	50	48	59	52					
34) Meadowbrook, N	73	64	64	67	70) Lakeside, K	41	42	69	51					
35) German Mills, TH	66	67	66	66	71) Wells Street, A	42	58	52	51					
36) William Berczy, U	57	77	63	66										

LEGEND: A - Aurora, C - Concord, HL - Holland Landing, KT - King Township, K - Keswick, M - Markham, MA - Maple, N - Newmarket, RH - Richmond Hill, S - Sharon, SCH - Schomberg, ST - Stouffville, SU - Sutton, TH - Thornhill, U - Unionville.

Statistics compiled by the Markham Economist & Sun and Stouffville Tribune with information provided by the public school board.

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