

# School board officials pleased with test results

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Craigien said, adding there has always been mild fluctuations in the results from year to year.

"What we have to do now is look at the details because that's what gives us more of an understanding on how our students are doing."

Public Board Chairperson Bill

Crothers said he and his colleagues will "look at the results and see where the emphasis needs to change to improve learning."

"We're the best in the Greater Toronto Area and we're up there with the best in the province. We're pleased and our parents should be pleased."

Catholic school board curriculum and assessment superintend-

ent Barbara Bodkin said the combined Grade 3 and 6 students' 19 per cent improvement in the tested areas can be attributed to successful programs such as guided reading and math journals.

"We don't use the results to shame or blame. We know there are areas to improve and there are areas to celebrate so we're pleased with what we're seeing," said

Bodkin.

She noted the board's low exemption rate provides an accurate picture of student achievement and keeps the board accountable to parents and school communities.

Although inroads have been made this year, Bodkin admits work still needs to be done to improve male achievement in reading.

"It's a worldwide phenomenon and it's one we'll continue to look at," she said, adding a conference with international dignitaries will be held in upcoming months to address the problem.

School boards are expected to release individual school-by-school test results by the end of the month and to review and analyze the results by January.



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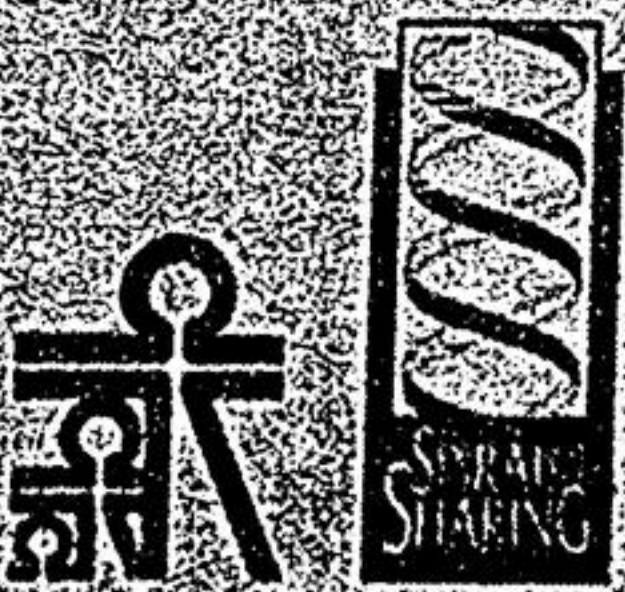
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