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THE LUNG ASSOCIATION

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist & Sun/Tribune

Boards still working on improvement

From page 1.

ment all the more noteworthy is the fact, of all the students who were eligible to take the exam last February, only six were deferred or absent on the days the exams were written.

Aurora principal Linda Balaishis said the province's Education Quality and Accountability Office informed schools of their individual results several weeks ago, but they didn't know how their numbers compared to other schools until a week ago. Ms. Balaishis is quick to credit her staff, parents and the students for all their hard work.

"I think it's important that we look at our own results and our school popula-

tion and analyze the results from that perspective," she said.

To that end, Aurora is offering after-school literacy courses and in-class programs to help students retaking the test Oct. 23 and 24.

"Our school motto is 'Nothing but our best,' and it's something we constantly reinforce," she said.

Regionally, 82 per cent of Grade 10 public school students who took the test passed, compared to 75 per cent provincially.

"We are pleased that (our) students are doing significantly better than average at passing the government's test," said board chairperson Bill Crothers, "but we won't be completely satisfied

until 100 per cent ...are successful."

York Catholic District School Board students also performed above average, with 77 per cent of its students acing the exam. Elizabeth Crowe, chairperson of the Catholic board, said the focus is now on those students who didn't pass.

"The system is committed to further improving test scores on an annual basis and supporting students who have failed the test the first time through," she said.

Students can defer writing the test for a year if their ability to speak and write English isn't up to par, but all students, including those with special needs, must pass it to receive a diploma.

Last week, news of the test results reignited the debate about the value of mandatory tests, with some arguing the test might encourage those 32,000 students who failed to drop out in despair. Education Minister Elizabeth Witmer has said she'll consider developing an alternative curriculum and diploma for students who aren't heading for higher learning, a move supported by York Region's public school board.

THE SCORE

Results of the first provincially Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test in York Region. (Note: All scores are reported using the EQAO's "Method 2" results, meaning only students who wrote the tests are included in the results. Students who were eligible to write the test, but were deferred or absent on the day the test was given, are not included. Numbers indicate percentage of students at each school who passed both the reading and writing parts of the exam.)

York Region District School Board

- Aurora High School, 91
- Thornhill Secondary School, 90
- Markham District High School, 89
- Newmarket High School, 89
- Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, Aurora, 88
- Stouffville District Secondary School, 88
- Unionville High School, 88
- Langstaff Secondary School, Richmond Hill, 87
- Westmount Collegiate Institute, Thornhill, 87
- Alexander Mackenzie High School, Richmond Hill, 85
- Bayview Secondary School, Richmond Hill, 84
- Thornlea Secondary School, Thornhill, 84
- Richmond Hill High School, 83
- Dr. John M. Denison Secondary School, Newmarket, 81
- Middlefield Collegiate Institute, Markham, 80
- Markville Secondary School, Markham, 79
- Sir William Mulock Secondary School, Newmarket, 79
- Vaughan Secondary School, 79
- King City Secondary School, 78
- Woodbridge College, 74
- Huron Heights Secondary School, Newmarket, 73
- Keswick High School, 73
- Milliken Mills High School, Markham, 71
- Sutton District High School, 67
- Maple High School, *
- Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School, Markham, *

York Catholic District School Board

- St. Augustine Catholic High School, Markham, 84
- St. Elizabeth Catholic High School, Thornhill, 83
- St. Robert Catholic High School, Thornhill, 83
- Cardinal Carter, Aurora, 82
- Brother Andre Catholic High School, Markham, 81
- Sacred Heart Catholic High School, Newmarket, 80
- Father Bressani Catholic High, Woodbridge, 74
- Father McGivney Catholic High, Markham, 71
- Holy Cross Catholic Academy, Woodbridge, 70
- Our Lady of the Lake Catholic High, Keswick, 67
- St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School, Maple, 67
- St. Theresa of Lisieux High, Richmond Hill, *

* School opened in September.

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