

# Markham grades 3, 6 top testing in York

## School at loss to explain top marks

BY MITCHELL BROWN  
Staff Writer

Maybe there's something in the cupcakes.

Doug Grant, principal of St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School in Markham, is at a loss to explain what makes his school any different from others in the region.

"Certainly, it's a small school and that helps to create a homey atmosphere," he said, referring to the school's relatively small population of 320 students. "Not that a large school can't be homey, but it's easier when I'm able to know every student by their first name."

He's proud of his school's music program and noted its running club boasts a large number of participants, but the same could be said for several other schools, he said.

*We do a lot of things at the school to encourage literacy and numeracy, but we don't consider ourselves out of the ordinary in that regard.*

He also pointed with pride to the school's regular cupcake sales, where students and their parents take turns baking cupcakes, selling them for 25 cents apiece to the rest of the school and giving the proceeds to charity, again, something very similar to what other schools in the region do every week.

Indeed, if there is a secret to how his Grade 6 students scored the region's top marks on the most recent provincial reading, writing and math tests, no one is talking.

Of the 3,700 Grade 3 and 3,600 Grade 6 York Catholic District School Board students who participated in tests last May, students at St. Justin Martyr, CES and St. Patrick CES, both in Markham, scored well enough to move to the head of the class.

A full 100 per cent of the Grade 3 students at St. Justin passed the reading test, 94 per cent passed the writing portion and 100 per cent passed the math test, while St. Patrick's Grade 6 students achieved 93, 100 and 100 in the same subjects, respectively.

"We do a lot of things at the school to encourage literacy and

numeracy, but we don't consider ourselves out of the ordinary in that regard," Mr. Grant said, referring to the book clubs and bring-a-book slumber parties held in the gym.

Parents are generally pleased to see high marks on these tests. Mr. Grant said, as evidenced by the warm reception they received at a recent school council meeting.

However, he cautions them to consider the scores from the Education Quality and Accounting

Office as just one of several indicators of how schools are doing, a sentiment with which EQAO chairperson Jerry Ponikvar can agree.

"Educators should continue to analyse EQAO achievement and contextual data — for instance, data on student attitudes toward reading, languages spoken at home and whether or not pupils attended preschool — and develop strategies that target areas and groups in need of additional support and improve-

ment," Mr. Ponikvar said.

"There are many factors involved in good improvement planning," he added, including adequate resources, well-trained teachers, parental involvement and school board policies.

This past spring, about 141,000 Grade 3 and 145,000 Grade 6 students across the province took part in the latest round of testing by the EQAO, an arm's-length government agency that monitors student

achievement.

Students taking the EQAO tests were graded on a scale of one to four, with four being the highest and three meaning the child "usually demonstrates" expected knowledge, understanding and application of skills pertaining to that particular subject.

The scores reflect the percentage of students in a particular school that achieved at least a level three on the test.

## THE RESULTS

These scores indicate how each York Catholic school performed on grades 3 and 6 testing last year for reading, writing and math. Students were graded on a scale of one to four, with four being the highest.

The numbers reflect the percentage of students who finished at levels three and four. Percentages were averaged for ranking purposes. Level three is the provincial standard.

Scores are reported using EQAO's Method 2 results, meaning only those 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.

Statistics compiled by the York Region Newspaper Group, using information provided by the York Catholic District School Board.

Rank/school	Reading	Writing	Math	AVG
<b>Grade 3</b>				
1) St. Justin Martyr, U	100	94	100	98
2) St. Patrick, M	100	94	94	96
3) St. Angela Merici, W	96	88	100	95
4) St. Francis of Assisi, W	100	83	100	94
5) Our Lady of Grace, A	89	86	94	90
6) St. Joseph, RH	83	92	92	89
7) St. Agnes of Assisi, W	80	86	86	84
8) St. Rene Goupil, TH	79	84	89	84
9) St. Joseph the Worker, TH	81	76	93	83
10) Canadian Martyrs, N	77	81	89	82
11) St. Patrick, KT	78	78	88	81
12) Our Lady of Peace, MA	71	75	96	81
13) St. Mary Immaculate, RH	76	79	83	79
14) St. Benedict, M	78	73	84	78
15) Blessed Trinity, MA	75	78	81	78
16) St. Michael, TH	76	76	80	77
17) St. Bridget, WS	76	66	89	77
18) Good Shepherd, N	76	68	86	77
19) Kateri Tekakwitha, M	67	85	78	77
20) St. Catherine of Siena, W	81	72	75	76
21) St. Joseph, M	67	80	80	76
22) Our Lady of the Rosary, C	78	70	74	74
23) St. Paul, N	72	65	85	74
24) Our Lady of Fatima, W	62	72	87	74
25) Light of Christ, A	71	75	74	73
26) Bishop Scalabrini, TH	63	87	68	73
27) St. Mary, KT	81	55	82	73
28) St. Vincent de Paul, M	62	87	69	73
29) St. Anthony, TH	67	74	70	70
30) St. Mark, WS	64	75	72	70
31) Our Lady of Annunciation, RH	72	74	63	70
32) Our Lady of Good Counsel, EG	76	62	71	70
33) St. Matthew, U	62	72	75	70
34) Holy Jubilee, MA	60	72	73	68
35) St. Gabriel The Archangel, W	65	70	70	68
36) St. Charles Garnier, RH	63	63	77	68
37) St. Edward, M	67	69	67	68
38) Holy Spirit, A	66	70	64	67
39) John XXIII, U	59	66	75	67
40) Notre Dame, N	64	65	69	66
41) St. Monica, M	58	83	57	66
42) St. Clement, W	60	57	63	66
43) St. Peter, W	68	56	70	65
44) Corpus Christi, RH	62	69	62	64
45) Father John Kelly, MA	53	67	72	64
46) St. Andrew, W	59	68	65	64
47) San Marco, W	60	60	69	63
48) St. Joseph, A	57	64	68	63
49) Christ the King, RH	51	65	72	63
50) St. Stephen, W	64	64	60	63

Rank/school	Reading	Writing	Math	AVG
51) St. Emily, W	59	68	57	61
52) St. Nicholas, N	65	73	46	61
53) St. Clare, W	56	68	59	61
54) Sir Richard W. Scott, M	54	65	63	61
55) Father Henri Nouwen, RH	59	70	52	60
56) St. Thomas Aquinas, K	57	78	42	59
57) Mother Theresa, M	59	62	54	58
58) Holy Family, TH	40	69	60	56
59) St. David, MA	53	67	49	56
60) All Saints, M	46	57	63	55
61) St. Anne, RH	50	65	51	55
62) St. John Bosco, W	53	62	50	55
63) Our Lady Help of Christians, RH	44	69	48	54
64) St. Elizabeth Seton, N	54	45	60	53
65) St. Gregory The Great, W	43	64	52	53
66) Our Lady of Hope, RH	54	57	46	52
67) St. Francis Xavier, M	43	65	49	52
68) Prince of Peace, K	41	55	59	52
69) St. Margaret Mary, W	47	65	38	50
70) Holy Name, KT	41	59	47	49
71) St. James, MA	51	57	34	47
72) Divine Mercy, MA	40	48	44	44
73) Immaculate Conception, W	33	45	48	42
74) St. Bernadette, G	24	48	40	37
75) St. Luke, TH	22	44	22	29
Board average	63	70	69	67

## Grade 6

Rank/school	Reading	Writing	Math	AVG
Provincial average	53	59	60	57
1) St. Patrick, M	93	100	100	98
2) St. Angela Merici, W	100	88	100	96
3) John XXIII, U	96	92	96	95
4) St. Vincent de Paul, M	96	89	93	93
5) St. Justin Martyr, U	89	89	93	90
6) Kateri Tekakwitha, M	90	85	95	90
7) Mother Theresa, M	91	88	88	89
8) St. Clement, W	89	85	83	86
9) All Saints, M	81	76	93	83
10) St. Agnes of Assisi, W	84	84	82	83
11) St. Michael, TH	79	81	87	82
12) St. Rene Goupil, TH	73	87	87	82
13) Canadian Martyrs, N	80	73	91	81
14) Father Henri Nouwen, RH	85	77	82	81
15) St. Edward, M	80	80	83	81
16) St. Francis of Assisi, W	82	68	93	81
17) Christ the King, RH	77	88	77	81
18) St. Monica, M	82	82	76	80
19) Good Shepherd, N	90	79	70	80
20) St. Anthony, TH	77	75	86	79
21) St. Bridget, WS	82	76	79	79
22) Our Lady of Good Counsel, EG	82	59	95	79
23) St. Matthew, U	71	82	79	77
24) St. Charles Garnier, RH	84	66	81	77
25) St. Mary, KT	84	67	79	77
26) Notre Dame, N	76	73	76	75

Rank/school	Reading	Writing	Math	AVG
27) St. Francis Xavier, M	69	79	77	75
28) Corpus Christi, RH	70	75	77	74
29) St. Benedict, M	71	61	90	74
30) St. Elizabeth Seton, N	74	74	73	74
31) St. Joseph, RH	81	77	60	73
32) St. Gabriel The Archangel, W	74	79	64	72
33) St. Mary Immaculate, RH	76	73	67	72
34) Sir Richard W. Scott, M	73	71	71	72
35) Our Lady of Grace, A	76	76	56	69
36) St. Patrick, KT	80	48	80	69
37) Our Lady Help of Christians, RH	80	72	55	69
38) Our Lady of Annunciation, RH	73	73	61	69
39) St. Gregory The Great, W	72	65	70	69
40) St. Joseph, M	73	66	66	68
41) St. Peter, W	64	62	79	68
42) Light of Christ, A	63	74	67	68
43) St. Anne, RH	77	70	57	68
44) Our Lady of Peace, MA	73	73	57	68
45) St. Emily, W	65	67	70	67
46) Holy Family, TH	69	62	69	67
47) St. Stephen, W	79	52	69	67
48) Holy Name, KT	59	66	72	66
49) St. David, MA	63	71	63	66
50) Our Lady of Fatima, W	68	63	62	64
51) St. Bernadette, G	69	56	65	63
52) St. Joseph the Worker, TH	62	71	57	63
53) St. Paul, N	68	62	60	63
54) St. Mark, WS	80	44	64	63
55) San Marco, W	60	60	67	62
56) Blessed Trinity, MA	61	64	61	62
57) Father John Kelly, MA	63	65	57	62
58) Holy Spirit, A	61	64	58	61
59) Bishop Scalabrini, TH	64	57	61	61
60) Divine Mercy, MA	59	60	53	57
61) St. Joseph, A	55	55	62	57
62) Our Lady of Hope, RH	65	61	44	57
63) St. Catherine of Siena, W	55	50	64	56
64) Prince of Peace, K	57	55	51	54
65) Holy Jubilee, MA	64	57	41	54
66) St. Margaret Mary, W	54	57	50	54
67) Our Lady of the Rosary, C	45	60	55	53
68) Immaculate Conception, W	56	56	44	52
69) St. Nicholas, N	51	54	49	51
70) St. John Bosco, W	47	53	53	51
71) St. Clare, W	49	61	40	50
72) St. James, MA	44	59	47	50
73) St. Thomas Aquinas, K	48	50	42	47
74) St. Luke, TH	36	64	36	45
75) St. Andrew, W	42	41	28	36
Board average	71	69	69	70
Provincial average	58	57	56	57

LEGEND: A - Aurora, C - Concord, EG - East Gwillimbury, G - Georgina, K - Keswick, KT - King Township, M - Markham, MA - Maple, N - Newmarket, RH - Richmond Hill, TH - Thornhill, U - Unionville, V - Vaughan, WS - Whitchurch-Stouffville, W - Woodbridge

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