

Catholic school board tops in Ontario

**St. Justin Martyr,
St. Angela Merici
first in EQAO testing**

BY ROY GREEN
Staff Writer

Though they're at the opposite ends of the most recent EQAO scores, the principals of two Woodbridge schools agree on one thing: there are many factors contributing to the results of the annual tests from the Education Quality and Accountability Office.

While a strong partnership between parents and the school is a major factor, according to Ada Marchesini, principal of St. Angela Merici Catholic School, it is just one reason the school did so well in tests conducted last spring. The school was first among separate board schools in Grade 6 tests and third place in Grade 3 tests.

"There is a very, very strong relationship with the home," Ms Marchesini said this week. "We strive toward excellence and the message students get is that we

expect excellence both at home and in school. But there are other variables; so many I couldn't begin to list them all."

Just blocks away, at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School new principal Tom Sheedy is putting the final touches on an action plan designed to lift the school from last place in the Grade 3 panel and 73rd place in the Grade 6 scores.

"We were impacted big time by a high number of ESL and special education students, but there are a lot of other factors and they must all be analysed," Mr. Sheedy said. "We have already presented the results

of the analysis to the parent council and they had no idea of the complexity of factors."

Overall, the York Catholic board's Grade 3 average of 71 and Grade 6 average of 72 was tops in Ontario.

The board is encouraged by those numbers, according to Patricia Preston, superintendent of curriculum.

"Although it's hard to generalize, we can see a nice, strong foundation," Ms Preston said. "Many of our schools that struggled at the beginning (of the EQAO process) have moved up. And we now have a program to identify schools that were

struggling."

Students are graded on a scale of one to four, with four being the highest, in reading, writing and math. Scores reflect the percentage of students who achieve at least a level three, which is defined as "knowledge, understanding and application of skills" in each subject.

In the tests conducted last spring, 100 per cent of St. Angela Merici's Grade 6 students reached at least a level three in reading, 96 per cent did so in writing and 98 per cent did so in math, for an overall average of 98.

At the Grade 3 level, students

scored 94 in reading, 88 in writing and 92 in math for an average of 91.

Grade 3 students at St. Catherine of Siena scored 24 in reading, 34 in writing and 38 in math for an average of 32. At the Grade 6 level, the scores were 61 in reading, 58 in writing and 29 in math for an average of 49.

Of 76 Catholic schools in the region, 45 were at or above the board average of 71 at the Grade 3 level and 19 were below the provincial average of 62.

At the Grade 6 level, 45 were at or above the board level of 72 and 12 fell below the provincial average.

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 excluded.

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

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

Board raises \$216,000 in one day for tsunami relief

In just one day, York Region's Catholic schools raised \$216,000 for tsunami victims in southeast Asia.

The York Catholic District School board declared Jan. 7 tsunami disaster relief day. It didn't take long before backpacks full of loonies, twonies and cash were being hauled into school offices across the board.

"I knew we were a caring and charitable school board but the amount of giving and show of concern for victims of such devastation and disaster is remarkable," said Catholic board director of education, Susan LaRose, adding the money was raised across 88 schools.

One of them, St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Richmond Hill made a special donation.

Grade 4 student, Kyle Stevens celebrated his 10th birthday Jan. 9. The next day, he walked into school with a blue envelope and handed his principal \$360 of birthday money.

"I did a double take. I thought it was from his class," principal Ellen Walters recalled. "He's a very quiet, unassuming kid and he made that decision on his own and we're really proud of him."

"He represents what we're trying to achieve with all the kids; a very generous but unassuming way of being."

— Amy Lazar

Rank/school Reading Writing Math AVG

Grade 3

1 St. Justin Martyr, U	98	97	100	98
2 St. Patrick, SCH	100	94	98	97
3 St. Angela Merici, W	94	88	92	91
4 St. Anne, RH	90	88	93	90
5 St. Emily, W	82	89	92	88
6 Canadian Martyrs, N	93	77	90	87
7 All Saints, U	83	83	92	86
8 St. Michael, TH	82	83	93	86
9 Our Lady of Grace, A	75	85	96	85
10 Holy Name, KT	87	73	94	85
11 St. Patrick's, M	75	96	82	84
12 St. Rene Goupil-St. Luke, TH	79	79	94	84
13 St. Paul, N	90	67	94	84
14 St. Monica, M	85	85	80	83
15 St. Agnes of Assisi, W	84	79	86	83
16 St. Joseph the Worker, TH	84	77	88	83
17 Corpus Christi, RH	66	85	95	82
18 St. Francis of Assisi, W	72	74	98	81
19 Our Lady Help of Christians, RH	76	86	81	81
20 Sir Richard W. Scott, M	76	80	87	81
21 St. Anthony, TH	85	78	78	80
22 St. Joseph, RH	71	80	90	80
23 John XXIII, U	67	73	100	80
24 Mother Theresa, M	63	91	86	80
25 Our Lady of Good Counsel, EG	89	61	89	80
26 St. Charles Gamler, RH	71	80	87	79
27 St. Benedict, U	76	83	78	79
28 Kateri Tekakwitha, M	73	72	89	78
29 St. Edward, M	74	77	83	78
30 St. Mary, KT	77	70	86	78
31 St. John Bosco, W	74	76	82	77
32 St. Matthew, U	75	81	75	77
33 St. Mary Immaculate, RH	77	70	83	77
34 St. Stephen, W	75	73	81	76
35 Good Shepherd, EG	77	66	85	76
36 Our Lady of Peace, MA	70	77	77	75
37 St. Peter, W	65	71	88	75
38 San Marco, W	72	80	69	74
39 St. Bridgid, WS	72	72	76	73
40 St. Joseph, M	56	81	79	72
41 Father John Kelly, MA	68	72	75	72
42 Our Lady of the Rosary, V	64	75	75	71
43 St. Francis Xavier, M	60	88	64	71
44 Our Lady of Hope, RH	64	58	86	69
45 Our Lady of Annunciation, RH	68	76	63	69
46 Notre Dame, N	64	66	75	68
47 Blessed Trinity, MA	58	75	70	68
48 St. Nicholas, N	57	70	76	68
49 St. Mark, WS	64	55	82	67
50 Light of Christ, A	58	63	79	67
51 St. Margaret Mary, W	60	67	73	67
52 Father Henri Nouwen, RH	57	72	69	66

Rank/school Reading Writing Math AVG

Grade 6

53 St. David, MA	58	72	66	65
54 Pope John Paul II, RH	74	65	56	65
55 Holy Jubilee, MA	60	67	65	64
56 Divine Mercy, MA	56	58	75	63
57 St. Elizabeth Seton, N	61	49	79	63
58 Christ the King, RH	44	67	74	62
59 Immaculate Conception, W	51	71	63	62
60 St. Gregory The Great, W	51	67	67	62
61 St. Joseph, A	61	67	55	61
62 Our Lady of Fatima, W	55	67	60	61
63 St. Clement, W	39	57	84	60
64 St. Vincent de Paul, M	53	71	56	60
65 St. Gabriel The Archangel, W	53	61	63	59
66 Bishop Scalabrini, TH	58	63	54	58
67 St. Thomas Aquinas, K	55	59	61	58
68 St. John Chrysostom, N	47	70	56	58
69 St. Clare, W	57	60	55	57
70 Holy Family, TH	48	58	65	57
71 Holy Spirit, A	46	59	58	54
72 St. Andrew, W	46	55	56	52
73 St. Bernadette, SU	54	50	50	51
74 Prince of Peace, K	41	43	69	51
75 St. James, MA	35	67	42	48
76 St. Catherine of Siena, W	24	34	38	32
Board average	66	72	76	71
Provincial average	58	61	68	62

Rank/school Reading Writing Math AVG

25 Holy Family, TH	76	79	82	79
26 Christ the King, RH	81	77	78	79
27 Corpus Christi, RH	83	74	79	79
28 St. Gregory The Great, W	88	77	71	79
29 Our Lady Help of Christians, RH	81	81	73	78
30 Immaculate Conception, W	73	75	85	78
31 Light of Christ, A	75	75	79	76
32 Bishop Scalabrini, TH	77	64	87	76
33 St. Mary, KT	84	70	74	76
34 Mother Theresa, M	76	74	76	75
35 San Marco, W	79	66	81	75
36 Father John Kelly, MA	70	81	74	75
37 Father Henri Nouwen, RH	71	72	80	74
38 Blessed Trinity, MA	87	72	62	74
39 St. Clement, W	75	67	77	73
40 St. Rene Goupil-St. Luke, TH	73	59	87	73
41 Our Lady of the Rosary, V	69	70	79	73
42 St. Peter, W	70	63	84	72
43 St. Edward, M	70	71	75	72
44 Kateri Tekakwitha, M	69	73	73	72
45 Our Lady of Hope, RH	77	77	61	72
46 St. Thomas Aquinas, K	74	66	74	71
47 Canadian Martyrs, N	70	72	70	71
48 St. Joseph, RH	75	70	67	71
49 Sir Richard W. Scott, M	73	69	69	70
50 Notre Dame, N	71	64	72	69
51 St. Emily, W	72	58	77	69
52 St. John Bosco, W	71	63	73	69
53 St. Clare, W	66	74	66	69
54 Our Lady of Grace, A	67	82	55	68
55 Our Lady of Fatima, W	65	74	60	66
56 Our Lady of Peace, MA	68	69	62	66
57 St. Mark, WS	70	64	63	66
58 St. Mary Immaculate, RH	71	60	64	65
59 Our Lady of Good Counsel, EG	70	62	62	65
60 St. Bernadette, SU	65	66	62	64
61 Holy Spirit, A	68	59	63	63
62 St. Nicholas, N	59	66	65	63
63 St. Joseph, A	66	64	59	63
64 St. Anne, RH	66	52	63	60
65 St. Margaret Mary, W	65	50	63	59
66 Good Shepherd, EG	55	61	60	59
67 St. Gabriel The Archangel, W	55	71	50	59
68 Our Lady of Annunciation, RH	64	51	59	58
69 St. Bridgid, WS	57	59	57	58
70 St. David, MA	53	53	60	55
71 St. James, MA	57	62	45	55
72 Holy Jubilee, MA	48	45	56	50
73 St. Catherine of Siena, W	61	58	29	49
74 Divine Mercy, MA	45	55	38	46
75 Prince of Peace, K	52	43	42	46
76 St. Andrew, W	47	49	40	45
Board average	73	71	73	72
Provincial average	61	57	61	60

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