

Parental involvement boosts EQAO rank

Most York Catholic students top average

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Staff Writer

St. Andrew Catholic School in Woodbridge was not at the very top of the rankings in this year's EQAO tests.

But the provincewide standardized tests showed something even more important. Dramatic improvement.

Since the 2001-2002 school year, the school had been consistently below average in all categories, but this year, every category saw improvements of 30 per cent.

Last year, only 38 per cent of the school's Grade 6 students were at the provincial standard or better. This year, that figure is 90 per cent.

Also last year, 46 per cent of St. Andrew students were at the provincial standard in Grade 6 writing.

This year, it's 76 per cent. Principal Elena Naccarato, who is new to the school, said the scores were what she expected.

She attributed the improvements to a strong parent community who volunteer for reading programs and support school initiatives, as well as a new approach to math.

Nelson mathematics, now part of the curriculum at the school, is a more language-based way to teach elementary students and scores have improved since the school adopted that approach, Ms Naccarato said.

"With all our teachers working together with our parents' help, we can achieve these goals," Ms Naccarato said.

'It's a really good combination of things. All of our teachers are on the same page and they have a shared vision.'

— St. Justin Martyr Catholic School principal Christine Kwiatkowski

The work isn't finished, however. "Maintaining what we've achieved is our main goal," Ms Naccarato said.

Stressing the EQAO scores are not the only gauge for student improvement, Ms Naccarato said the scores will be used to see what areas can be improved.

And improvement is the name of the game, even at St. Justin Martyr Catholic Elementary School, where students earned top marks in the York Catholic District School Board.

The Unionville school's grades 3 and 6 students have consistently mastered the tests, with 90 per cent meeting or exceeding the provincial standard every year since 2001.

This year, in Grade 3 reading, 95 per cent are at the provincial standard or higher, in writing 98 per cent of the students are at the provincial standard or better, and in math 100 per cent of the students are at the provincial standard or better.

The Grade 6 score was equally impressive with 96 per cent meet-

ing standards in reading, 95 per cent in writing and 93 per cent in math.

The scores are well above both the provincial and board averages for the same subjects but principal Christine Kwiatkowski insists there is no magic to the scores.

"It's a really good combination of things. All of our teachers are on the same page and they have a shared vision," she said.

Despite stellar scores, the job isn't finished, Ms Kwiatkowski stressed.

"It's never good enough. While

'With all our teachers working together with our parents' help, we can achieve these goals.'

— St. Andrew Catholic School principal Elena Naccarato

we celebrate the scores, we have kids in level 3 and we want to take a look and see what we can do to elevate them to level 4," she said.

According to EQAO testing, students who are at level 3 are meeting the provincial standard and

students at level 4 are above the provincial average.

Taking a closer look at the numbers, there are students below the provincial standard and the next task is to try and bring those students up to the provincial level as well, Ms Kwiatkowski said.

A common pattern is girls are outscoring boys in reading and writing by large margins.

At St. Justin Martyr the gap is smaller, something Ms Kwiatkowski attributes to a concentrated effort to find reading material more appealing to boys.

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, TH - Thornhill, V - Vaughan, W - Woodbridge, WS - Whitchurch-Stouffville

Rank/school	Reading	Writing	Math	AVG
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Grade 3

1 St. Justin, Martyr, M	95	98	100	98
2 St. Patrick, SCH	96	96	96	96
3 St. Emily, W	93	96	93	94
4 Canadian Martyrs, N	86	89	92	89
5 All Saints, M	81	91	90	87
6 Kateri Tekakwitha, M	85	91	85	87
7 St. Michael, TH	79	91	88	86
8 St. Angelica Merici, W	84	80	91	85
9 St. Gregory, W	69	92	95	85
10 Our Lady of Annunciation, RH	85	82	85	84
11 St. Richard W. Scott, M	80	89	80	83
12 St. Patrick, M	78	89	81	83
13 St. Paul, N	79	83	86	83
14 Our Lady of Good Council, EG	84	68	95	82
15 Our Lady of Good Grace, A	80	80	86	82
16 St. John Chrysostom, N	81	83	79	81
17 St. Joseph, M	71	82	89	81
18 St. Monica, M	76	86	82	81
19 Our Lady Help of Christians, RH	81	79	79	80
20 Pope John Paul II, RH	81	81	79	80
21 St. Joseph the Worker, TH	82	80	78	80
22 Good Shepherd, N	78	83	76	79
23 Our Lady of the Rosary, V	74	80	82	79
24 Light of Christ, A	74	77	82	78
25 St. Anne, RH	72	74	85	77
26 St. Benedict, M	66	83	80	76
27 Our Lady of Fatima, W	66	80	81	76
28 St. Andrew, W	70	79	76	75
29 St. Francis of Assisi, W	78	75	72	75
30 St. Bridget, WS	76	71	76	74
31 St. Clement, W	68	79	74	74
32 Immaculate Conception, W	65	78	75	73
33 St. Anthony, TH	69	72	79	73
34 St. James, MA	69	80	71	73
35 Holy Name, KT	60	80	76	72
36 St. Gabriel, W	59	76	80	72
37 Christ the King, RH	61	72	81	71
38 Our Lady of Peace, MA	64	77	72	71
39 St. Matthew, M	73	65	75	71
40 St. Rene Goupil-St. Luke, TH	68	76	68	71
41 St. Agnes of Assisi, W	69	73	69	70
42 St. Nicholas, N	62	64	83	70
43 Our Lady of Hope, RH	59	75	73	69
44 St. John Bosco, W	59	80	68	69
45 St. Mark, WS	65	75	65	68
46 Corpus Christi, RH	59	68	75	67
47 St. Edward, M	51	74	74	66
48 St. Joseph, A	63	63	72	66
49 St. Joseph, RH	63	67	67	66
50 St. David, MA	64	68	62	65
51 Father Henri Nouwen, RH	57	75	59	64
52 Holy Family, TH	53	78	60	64

Rank/school	Reading	Writing	Math	AVG
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Grade 6

53 Mother Teresa, M	58	68	66	64
54 St. Catherine of Siena	54	65	73	64
55 St. Francis Xavier, M	53	75	65	64
56 St. Peter, W	55	65	73	64
57 Father John Kelly, MA	58	71	60	63
58 St. Mary, KT	58	74	58	63
59 St. Mary Immaculate, RH	58	54	76	63
60 St. Stephen, W	63	67	60	63
61 Divine Mercy, MA	49	70	63	61
62 Notre Dame, N	60	63	60	61
63 St. Clare, W	58	63	60	60
64 Blessed Trinity, MA	49	63	58	57
65 Prince of Peace, K	45	52	73	57
66 Holy Jubilee, MA	55	70	43	56
67 St. Charles Gamler, RH	56	46	63	55
68 St. Elizabeth Seton, N	50	50	66	55
69 St. Vincent de Paul, M	48	68	50	55
70 St. Margaret Mary, W	44	60	54	53
71 Holy Spirit, A	57	47	53	52
72 San Marco, W	39	57	55	50
73 Bishop Scalabrini, TH	41	47	59	49
76 St. Thomas Aquinas, K	44	40	51	45
Board average	66	73	72	68
Provincial average	59	61	66	62

Rank/school	Reading	Writing	Math	AVG
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26 St. Patrick, KT	85	71	76	77
27 St. Emily, W	75	75	77	76
28 Father Henri Nouwen, RH	78	71	75	75
29 Our Lady Help of Christians, RH	75	76	73	75
30 St. Francis Xavier, M	75	70	79	75
31 St. Monica, M	72	74	78	75
32 St. Mathew, M	76	72	74	74
33 St. Stephen, W	73	76	73	74
34 Corpus Christi, RH	74	70	74	73
35 Notre Dame, N	75	70	74	73
36 St. Bridget, WE	73	73	73	73
37 St. Francis of Assisi, W	78	72	68	73
38 Divine Mercy, MA	71	76	70	72
39 Our Lady of Grace, A	77	62	77	72
40 St. Clare, W	76	74	65	72
41 St. Clement, W	72	66	78	72
42 St. Joseph the Worker, TH	71	70	74	72
43 St. Paul, N	69	67	81	72
44 Kateri Tekakwitha, M	60	80	71	70
45 Our Lady of Fatima, W	72	70	67	70
46 St. Lady of the Rosary, V	75	73	63	70
47 Pope John Paul II, RH	70	65	75	70
48 Our Lady of Peace, MA	74	65	68	69
49 St. Mary Immaculate, RH	73	69	65	69
50 St. Thomas Aquinas, K	74	66	66	69
51 Our Lady of Good Council, EG	74	56	74	68
52 St. Richard Scott, M	74	70	61	68
53 St. David, MA	68	71	63	67
54 St. Rene Goupil-St. Luke, TH	62	66	72	67
55 Good Shepherd, N	74	67	57	66
56 Immaculate Conception, W	71	74	49	65
57 St. Margaret Mary, W	80	67	49	65
58 St. John Bosco, W	77	57	57	64
59 St. Mary, KT	73	64	55	64
60 Light of Christ, A	65	57	67	63
61 St. Catherine, W	68	61	61	63
62 St. Nicholas, N	64	64	50	59
63 Holy Spirit, A	63	55	53	57
64 Our Lady of Hope, RH	64	49	59	57
65 St. Charles Gamler, RH	54	63	54	57
66 St. Joseph, RH	59	52	61	57
67 St. Mark, WS	53	57	60	57
68 San Marco, W	58	61	50	56
69 Father John Kelly, MA	56	56	52	55
70 St. Peter, W	53	62	49	55
71 Blessed Trinity, MA	57	58	46	54
72 Holy Family, TH	46	65	51	54
73 Holy Jubilee, MA	55	62	42	53
74 St. James, MA	51	54	51	52
75 St. Bernadette, G	58	55	33	49
76 Prince of Peace, K	45	40	45	43
Board average	74	71	71	72
Provincial average	63	59	60	61

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