

# Region's students above average in provincial EQAO results

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Students across York Region continue to beat the provincial average when it comes to standardized tests.

York Region District School Board Grade 3 students, 70 per cent achieved the provincial standard in reading, 80 per cent in writing and 81 per cent in mathematics compared to the provincial averages of 62, 70 and 71 per cent.

Of the Grade 6 students, 79 per cent met the provincial standard in reading, 80 per cent in writing and 73 per cent in mathematics while the provincial averages stand at 72, 70 and 61 per cent.

For the Grade 9 mathematics assessment, 90 per cent of secondary students in the academic stream and 44 per cent of students in the applied stream met or exceeded the provincial standard compared to the provincial averages of 82 and 40 per cent.

"Our focus continues to be on preparing students for success in life and are proud to see that our efforts are paying off in positive assessment outcomes," public school board chairperson Diane Giangrande said. "The board uses EQAO data and evaluation methods to monitor progress and implement continuous improvement in our schools."

Of all York Catholic District School Board Grade 3 students, 67, 82 and 78 per cent of students met the provincial standard in reading, writing and mathematics. Of those

in Grade 6, 77, 81 and 68 per cent met the standard.

The Grade 9 mathematics assessment, 47 per cent in the applied stream and 89 per cent in the academic stream were successful.

"We know these impressive results are because of the collaborative work of our elementary and secondary principals, teachers, staff, students, parents, senior administration and board personnel," Catholic board chairperson Elizabeth Crowe said. "Our students are consistently achieving results above the provincial average and we know the tremendous effort it takes to continue to improve."

The scores of schools under Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud also continue to see improvements with 69, 80 and 70 per cent of Grade 3 students and 82, 79 and 83 per cent of Grade 6 students met the provincial average.

Of the Grade 9 students, 36 per cent in the applied stream and 70 per cent in the academic stream reached the standard in the mathematics assessment.

"Annual school and board plans factor in results from EQAO testing, public board superintendent of curriculum and instructional services Beate Planche said. "Over the next few weeks, teachers and school administrators will evaluate specific assessment data to identify areas for further improvement within our schools."

To view the full report or the results of individual schools, visit [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).

## Diapers, pet waste banned from bin?

What you're tossing in the green bin is causing problems that lead to 80 per cent of the region's organic waste ending up in landfill since July.

The only two facilities the region uses to turn green bin waste into compost have been shut down for two months due to odour issues and the Environment Ministry thinks diapers and pet waste are the culprits.

Several other GTA municipalities have banned diapers and pet waste from the green bin.

For now, Toronto and York Region allow it. But that may change, regional chairperson Bill Fisch told the environmental services committee Wednesday.

"We're going to be in for some very difficult times if we don't grasp and deal with

these problems," he said.

Problems can be attributed to the way the two facilities are designed, built and operated and not so much about diaper and pet waste, regional environment commissioner Erin Mahoney said.

Both London-based Orgaworld and Welland's Universal Resource Recovery are retrofitted facilities, she pointed out.

Regional manager of solid waste operations Ron Gordon said there are other implications.

If pet waste and diapers are removed from green bins, they go into garbage bags, making it harder to maintain bi-weekly trash pickups and complicating waste processing at Vaughan's Dongara pellet plant.

The region is building its own plant, to be shared with Dufferin County, which is to open in 2013.

-David Fleischer

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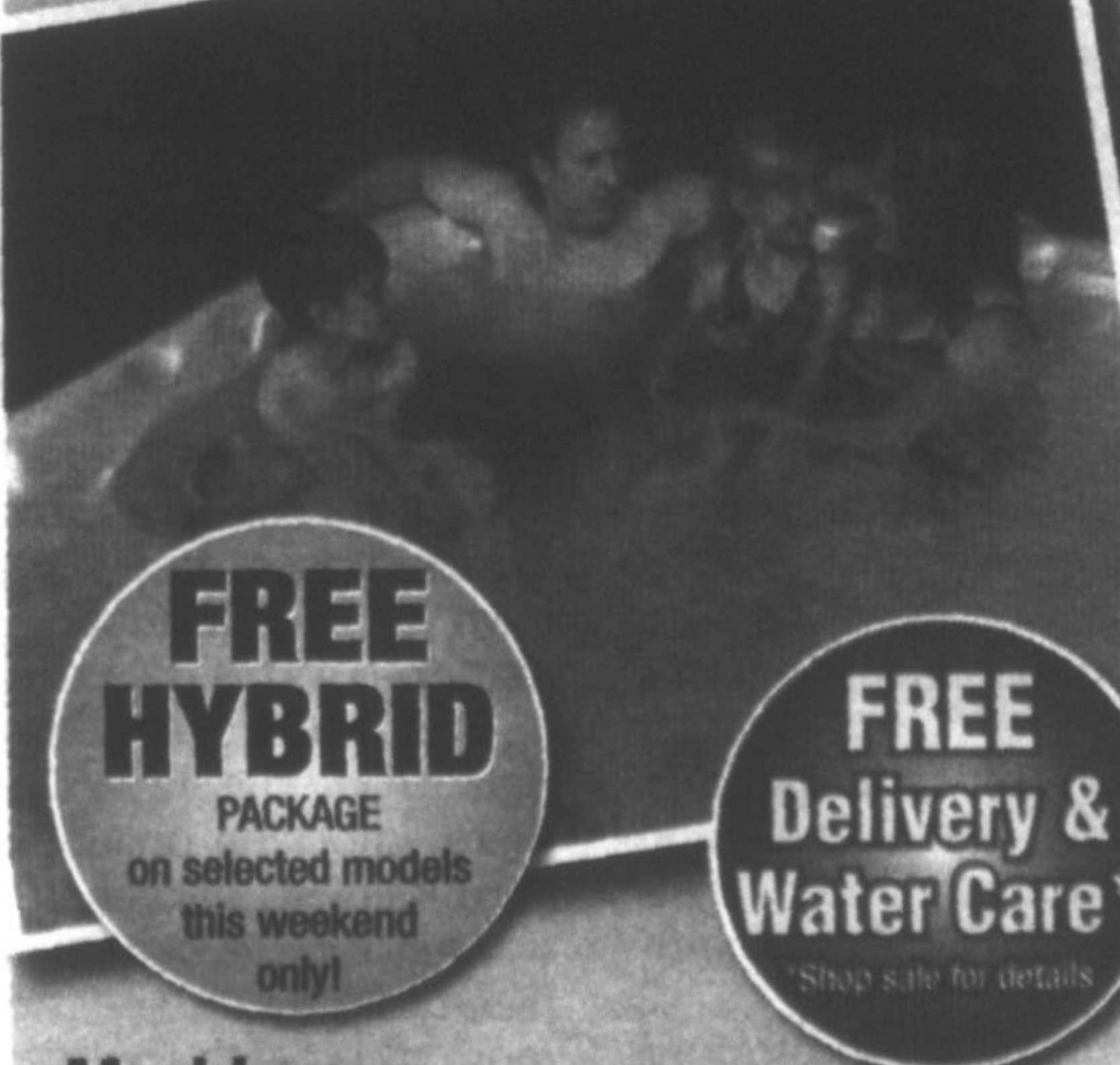
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