

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2011 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 24 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING GST

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LEARNING

Schools don't sweat annual report cards

Six from Stouffville area in top third of province

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Six of Whitchurch-Stouffville's elementary schools placed within the top third of the Fraser Institute's annual report card for 2010.

But school officials aren't taking the results too seriously.

"Ultimately, the data that is being (used to) produce (the report was) not intended to rank one school against another," said Ross Virgo, manager of public affairs and communication for the York Region District School Board.

The rankings are based on the grade 3 and 6 EQAO (education, quality and accountability office) tests in reading, writing and math.

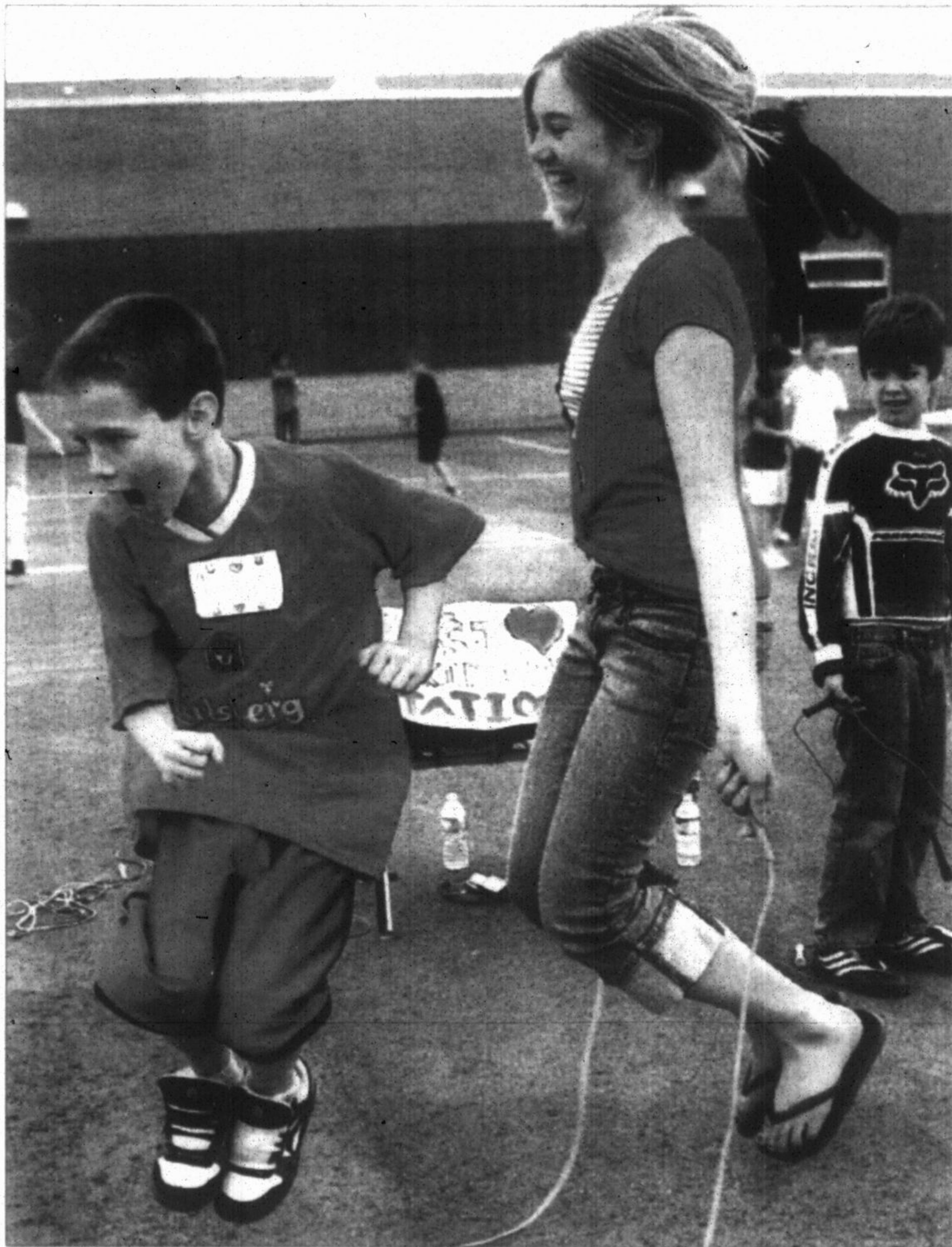
"There are so many factors that go into a school experience," said Rob Dixon, principal at Harry Bowes Public School.

Harry Bowes ranks 508 out of 2,733 Ontario public and Catholic elementary schools and scored an overall ranking of 7.5 out of 10. A rating of six is the provincial average, according to the Fraser Institute.

In 2009, the first year for the school to be ranked by the Fraser

See **PRINCIPAL**, page 10.

SKIPPING SCHOOL



STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

Spring weather arrived in time for Liam McCartney, 12, and Erica Romaniuk, 13, to jump together during the Jump Rope for Heart/Hoops for Heart fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation at Whitchurch Highlands Public School Tuesday.

SOCCER FACILITY PITCHED

Indoor, outdoor fields would go up in Beacon Hill business park

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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An indoor soccer facility with an outdoor field may be built in Stouffville's Beacon Hill Business Park on the northeast corner of Hoover Park and Sandiford drives.

An application to build the Stouffville Sportplex Sport Recreation Centre was submitted to the town March 9 by Trinistar Corp. of Vaughan, which is a division of the M.A.M. Group.

The proposal calls for one full-sized indoor soccer field that can convert to four junior fields; one dedicated training and junior indoor soccer field and an associated full-sized outdoor field for seasonal use.

The entire property is about 14 acres in size, however, the proposal shows the sports complex utilizing about 2.88 acres.

The proposal indicates the lands to the immediate east of the potential sportsplex, which are also owned by Trinistar, are being contemplated for development.

When Trinistar was contacted by The Sun-Tribune, we were told the project was in its early preliminary stages and there were no operational commitments at this time.

Mark Kozak-Holland, president of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club, did not want to comment, citing the need for more information. The club had 1,500 players last year. Mayor Wayne Emmerson did not return a request for an interview by The Sun-Tribune.

Local soccer enthusiasts have cited the need for indoor facilities for many years. They now use school gymnasiums or go out of town for games during the winter.

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