

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Wednesday, June 14, 2006**

**Subject: Board OSSLT Results**

From: Bob Perreault – Communications Officer  
(613) 258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 (ext. 206)

**CATHOLIC DISTRICT  
SCHOOL BOARD OF  
EASTERN ONTARIO**



Box 2222, 2755 Hwy. 43  
Kemptville, Ontario K0G 1J0

## **CDSBEO Maintains Strong Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test Results and Continues to Exceed Provincial Results**

*(For release June 14, 2006)*

**Kemptville** - The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO) is pleased to share provincial, Board, and individual school results for the 2006 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). Students registered in Grade 10 across the province wrote the Test, which is administered in March by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). Students who were not successful in the October 2003 or October 2004 administrations of the OSSLT, or who were absent or deferred, were also eligible to write the Test.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) determines whether a student has achieved the provincial standard in reading and writing. The Test is based on The Ontario Curriculum across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9.

A total of 1023 CDSBEO students wrote the 2006 Test for the first time. The total participation level for first time participants was 96%.

The Board is very pleased to see that the gender gap has narrowed to only 4% in favour of girls. This can be attributed partly to the emphasis the Board has placed on providing high interest reading materials for boys at all grade levels.

### **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test FIRST TIME ELIGIBLE STUDENTS**

<b>MARCH 2006</b>	<b>Province 2006</b>	<b>Board 2006</b>
<b>Successfully completed the OSSLT</b>	84%	86%

#### ***Board Results Reflect Staff and Student Dedication***

Director of Education Ann Perron said the results reflect a strong and dedicated effort on behalf of CDSBEO staff and students. Ms. Perron stated, "Although we are very proud that our Secondary School Literacy Test results have exceeded the provincial success rate, we will continue to support

our students and build their confidence as they prepare for workplace, college and university destinations."

**March 2006 – Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test - CDSBEO  
Individual School Results (First Time Eligible) (Participating Students)**

<b>School</b>	<b>Successful Mar. 2006</b>
Notre Dame CHS - Carleton Place	83%
St. Francis Xavier CHS - Hammond	81%
St. John CHS - Perth	88%
St. Joseph's CSS - Cornwall	81%
St. Mary CHS - Brockville	89%
St. Matthew CLC - Cornwall	Supp*
St. Michael CHS - Kemptville	96%
Holy Trinity CSS - Cornwall	80%
St. Thomas Aquinas CHS - Russell	94%
St. Luke CHS - Smiths Falls	Supp*
<b>CDSBEO Board Total</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>Province</b>	<b>84%</b>

Supp\* - Information is suppressed when the number of respondents is very low to protect against disclosure of personal information associated with individual students.

***Significant Increases at St. Thomas Aquinas CHS in Russell and Holy Trinity CSS in Cornwall***

***St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School***

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School has seen a significant improvement of 14%, from 80% in October of 2004 to, 94% in March of 2006.

Principal Richard James commented on the improvement and stated, "The staff and students of St. Thomas Aquinas are very pleased with our recent EQAO Literacy results. We attribute our success to the hard work of our students and staff along with the support of Senior Administration and the ongoing efforts of our Board's Curriculum Department."

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School's Literacy Team has worked diligently to promote literacy across the curriculum beginning with Grade 7 classes. The school Literacy Team works

collaboratively with the school's Special Education Team as both of these departments share a common vision of student success "one student at a time."

Principal James added, "We also extend our gratitude to our parent community for its continued support of all academic pursuits and the celebration of student success. Parent involvement is a key component of these results."

### **Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School**

Holy Trinity Principal Brian Landry was also very happy with the results of his school. "We are extremely pleased at the OSSLT results for Holy Trinity."

Mr. Landry said that timing played a key role. "Last year we opened our doors for the first time in September and six weeks later students were writing the Test. This year, the Test was administered in March, so we were able to spend quality time preparing students."

To achieve the better results, Holy Trinity CSS organized a literacy committee to put together a package covering all curriculum areas. The school's staff took time with the students to ensure that they understood the testing process and types of questions that would be asked.

Mr. Landry added, "Making a 10% jump in one year says a lot for our dedicated and committed teaching staff and the hard work of our students."

### **Overall Results**

Results for 'previously eligible students' indicate that of 238 students writing the OSSLT a total of 62% were successful. A total of 82% of eligible students took part in the Test. Students not meeting the OSSLT requirements have the option of fulfilling the requirement by enrolling in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course.

## **March 2006 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test - CDSBEO Individual School Results (Previously Eligible Students)**

SCHOOL	SUCCESSFULLY Completed the OSSLT March 2006
Notre Dame CHS - Carleton Place	*Supp.
St. Francis Xavier CHS - Hammond	*Supp.
St. John CHS – Perth	73%
St. Joseph's CSS - Cornwall	61%
St. Mary CHS – Brockville	53%
St. Matthew CLC - Cornwall	*Supp
St. Michael CHS - Kemptville	94%
Holy Trinity CSS - Cornwall	44%
St Thomas Aquinas CHS - Russell	85%
St. Luke CHS - Smiths Falls	47%
<b>CDSBEO</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>Province</b>	<b>55%</b>

Supp\* - Information is suppressed when the number of respondents is very low to protect against disclosure of personal information associated with individual students.

## ***Next Steps***

Principal of Curriculum Charlotte Rouleau stated, “We remain committed to supporting ‘at risk students’ with appropriate remedial help from Student Success leaders and school literacy teams. Such remediation will be guided by individual student data provided by EQAO.”

On-going CDSBEO strategies include EQAO awareness and preparation, after school homework clubs, resources and workshops for grade 7, 8, and 9 teachers that will promote best practices in reading and writing instruction, balanced literacy, and literacy across the curriculum to help students struggling with literacy skills.

Ms. Rouleau added, “We take great pride in maintaining the success rate of our students, and we are grateful for the support of our dedicated teachers who continue to sustain and support those efforts”.

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 41 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 15,000 students.

***Learning and Growing Together in Christ***

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*(For more information, please contact your local school principal,  
or contact Principal of Curriculum, Charlotte Rouleau, at 1-800-267-7136 ext 377)*