



# ST. JAMES SCHOOL

Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board

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October 1, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

## **Re: Grade 3 and Grade 6 EQAO Assessment results**

You will find attached to this letter, your child's Individual Student Report (ISR) from the Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division (Grades 1 – 3) or Junior Division (Grades 4 – 6), 2008-2009. On the back of the report, you will see results of the school compared to the Board and to the Province.

The staff is encouraged and pleased by the assessment results at our school because they indicate that our instructional direction is, indeed, leading to positive student growth. However, we are also committed to continual improvement of our instruction. EQAO assessments are directly based on curriculum expectations and the data helps to inform teaching practices and to serve as a catalyst for improving student achievement.

It is important to understand that these province-wide assessments are only one piece of the puzzle. It provides a snapshot of student achievement based on performance on a specific assessment unit at each of the grade levels. It is meant to enrich and broaden the information on student performance and progress that teachers collect through the year.

Test results should not be used to compare students or schools. Just as you cannot rank athletic teams on the outcome of one game, it would be inappropriate to rank students based on one assessment. Such comparisons are not statistically supportable because assessment results can only be interpreted accurately and meaningful in light of contextual information about student backgrounds and school programs. **Regular assessments conducted in the classroom remain the fundamental method of assessing and supporting students throughout their education.**

Another purpose of the Assessments is to identify areas requiring focused attention for improvement at the Board and school levels. Our School Improvement Team will now begin detailed analysis of the results we have received. Each school is to report its results to its community and outline the actions that will be taken in response to the assessment data. As expected, school-based contextual information will be essential in the analysis and the development of meaningful recommendations for improvement. The school council will review the assessment results and the proposed action plan once it is developed.

If you have any questions in regards to our results, please contact the school. Further information on the Assessments can be found on the EQAO website – **<http://www.eqao.com>**.

Respectfully,

Joanne Lombardi, Principal