

Wednesday, March 22,2006

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 10 Students:

The **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)** will be administered across the province on the **morning of Wednesday, March 29, 2006**. All students who were registered in Grade 9 in September 2000 or thereafter and who are working toward a secondary school diploma will be required to successfully complete the OSSLT as part of their diploma requirements. This test is designed to determine whether or not students have acquired the reading and writing skills that are essential for their success in high school and beyond. The administration of the test will take three and a half hours, including time for breaks and instructions. The test is designed to give students enough time to demonstrate the full range of their knowledge and skills.

The following outlines our plan to help the students practice and prepare for the test. On March 21st, they received tips and instructions on how to read and write the test. In addition, on March 22nd, students spent the day reading and writing examples of questions from a sample test. On March 23rd, the teachers will take up the questions from the day before. On March 27th, students will receive specific instructions regarding the protocol and procedures for the test.

Support is available to students with special needs or students who are enrolled in either an English as a Second Language (ESL) or an English Literacy Development (ELD) credit course. Under certain conditions, a student's participation in the test may be deferred or a student may be exempted from the test. Please refer to the *Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals, and Exemptions* for details on the support that is available. This guide is available on EQAO's Web site at www.eqao.com. You can also get further information from the school.

Participating students will receive an Individual Student Report (ISR) from EQAO to let them know whether or not they were successful on the test. Successful students and their parents will be reassured that these students are "on track" in their literacy skill development. Unsuccessful students will receive detailed feedback on their strengths and areas where they need to improve. This report will assist the school in providing the necessary help. Students who are unsuccessful on the test will have the opportunity to retake it during future administrations.

Your support will help. Please reschedule any appointments that conflict with the test schedule. Students should also come to school on time, well rested, and encouraged to do their best. We recognize that some students find testing stressful; however, there should be no surprises for students on this test. The school will provide information the students need and answer questions they have before the test starts.

Together, parents and teachers can create positive attitudes and promote student success on the OSSLT.

Sincerely,

Ms. N. Vaitonis
Principal