



September 15, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade Three Students at Givins/Shaw PS:

Each year the Toronto District School Board examines ways in which to make our specialized programs more accessible and equitable.

One of the Intensive Support Programs (ISP's) that has been given particular attention is the one for students who have met the criteria for the exceptionality of Giftedness. In the TDSB, the Gifted Program begins in Grade 4. As much as there are many factors involved in determining whether a student will meet the criteria for the gifted exceptionality, a key component of the decision stems from the student's results on the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT). The CCAT is not curriculum-based but focuses more on areas of the student's learned reasoning abilities.

This year, as a way of ensuring that all students in the TDSB in Grade 3 have the possibility of being considered for the Gifted Program, every student will have the chance to complete the first step of the CCAT. Depending upon results of step one, the student may be given the opportunity to complete the subsequent steps to determine whether or not they would meet the necessary criteria. Eventually, this could lead to an offer of placement for a gifted program in the 2017/18 school year.

Throughout the process, parents would be contacted by the school in order to ensure that all information is shared as transparently as possible.

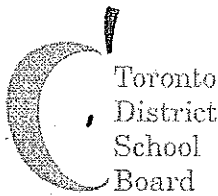
Across the TDSB, all grade 3 students will have the opportunity to complete step one of the CCAT between the dates of September 26 – 30 , 2016. The CCAT will be administered in three separate half hour sessions. If you wish your child to participate, please just complete the attached consent form and return it to your child's home room teacher. We ask that all consent forms be returned no later than Monday, September 19, 2016. Once we have received all the forms, we will determine the specific dates and times for the administration of the test at Givins/Shaw. The staff at Givins/Shaw will emphasize with the students that the intention of this test is to provide a better understanding of the manner in which they think and should not be the cause of any concern whatsoever.

Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dan Taylor'.

Dan Taylor

Principal



School Name: Givins/Shaw Public School

Date: September 2016

Dear Grade 3 Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

**Re: Consent for Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT)**

We are requesting consent for your son/daughter to take the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test, a standardized group test of ability.

The results of this test will be used by school personnel to gain a better understanding of your child's needs. Central staff may also use test results to establish a basis for the evaluation of existing programs and assist in planning appropriate curriculum and instructional programs at the system level. Individual test results will be treated confidentially and any data used for purposes of reporting to the public will be done generically without disclosure of identifying information.

This test will be administered by school personnel and will not involve anyone from outside the school.

Would you please indicate on the bottom portion of this form your consent for this testing of your child, and return it to me as soon as possible. A copy of the results will be placed in your child's Ontario Student Record.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Yours truly,  
*Dan Taylor*  
Dan Taylor

Principal

**Consent for Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do  / do not  give consent for my

Son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_ to take the Canadian Cognitive

Abilities Test (CCAT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of The Education Act and will be used for the purpose of registering appropriate authorization for the student's participation in CCAT testing. Test results may be used at a system level for evaluation and development purposes. If you wish to review the results, please contact the principal of the school.

"This document contains important information. Please take it to someone who can read English or to your School Office so that they can arrange for an interpreter or translation."