

EQAO Newsletter and Information Update

Grade 6

March 23, 2015

What is EQAO?

The Education Quality and Accountability Office is an agency of the Ontario government. In Elementary schools, the testing takes place in Grade 3 and Grade 6. More information can be found at: www.eqao.com

Why?

Information collected gives insight into student achievement and the quality of publicly funded education in the province. This data drives improvement through research and practice.

When?

This school year, the testing dates are:
Monday, May 25th to Friday, June 5th, 2015

This does not mean they will be writing the test every one of these days, but the test must be administered within these dates.

Where?

Students will write the assessment in their own classroom, at their own desks, with their regular teacher. The rest of the school day remains the same.

How?

The test is divided into 3 booklets (2 Language, 1 Mathematics).

Each booklet is divided into 2 sections (6 sections in total) and it is expected that grade 6 students will be able to complete each section in approximately 1 hour.

Each section will be made up of multiple choice questions and open response.

Student answers are scored according to how they meet preset criteria based on the Grade 6 expectations. A level is given based on the overall performance. Students are not graded or compared to one another, but to a standard level of achievement.

At school

Most of what we do every day at school is in some way preparing students for the EQAO test because it is based on our curriculum.

In addition to that, we are doing questions from past booklets, so we can get familiar with the format – multiple choice and open response. We are also comparing our work to the EQAO leveled examples so we can see for ourselves what we need to improve on and where we are already doing well.

One of the biggest challenges seems to be carefully reading the questions and understanding exactly what we are being asked to do. As a result, we have been focusing on questions in Mathematics that ask us to “Show your work” and “Explain your thinking”. We will continue with “Justify your thinking”, and then move on to similar types of questions in the Language booklets.

Look for examples of practice test questions coming home. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me through the agenda or leave a phone message at 416-396-6205.

At home

#1 – Read. Encourage your children to read at home every day. Good readers, read a lot and good readers can read and understand Math questions.

#2 – Talk, go to the Library, watch documentary shows about people, the environment and events around the world. General knowledge always makes for good conversation and it helps give children ideas and experiences in which they can connect new learning to.

Additional information and sample questions may be found on our school web site: <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/dorsetpark> > click on **EQAO**

Mr. van Sloten

Grade 6 Teacher