



February 12, 2007

## Grade expectations Local school board scores perfect 10

By LAURA CZEKAJ, SUN MEDIA

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A day after it was announced that La Source school in Orleans received a perfect 10.0 mark on the Fraser Institute's annual school rankings, director of education Lise Bourgeois was noting how this proves that the board is doing something right.

In fact, the board has gotten it right twice -- this is the second year in a row that a school from the board has received top marks from the Vancouver-based think tank. Last year, the west-end French-Catholic Terre des Jeunes came in tops, not only Ottawa-Carleton but the entire province.

### LA SOURCE TOPS

This time around, La Source is among 37 elementary schools in Ontario to receive the highest ranking on the report card.

"I think this is the result of all the focused strategies we have put in place for helping students have good results or progress," said Bourgeois.

La Source is partially modelled after the Montessori method, which focuses on personalized learning.

The French Catholic board has been making its mark -- and bucking the declining enrolment trend experienced at provincial elementary schools -- largely by offering unique, customized education delivery models.

"With all those more focused strategies, it's paying off," said Bourgeois.

"I think our personnel are also working as a collective group where the student is not the student of only one teacher, but is the student of a whole professional team that will do what we need to do to have all the kids progress in their learning."

Out of the 37 top-ranked schools, three are in Eastern Ontario: La Source, Winston Churchill in Kingston and Saint-Jean-Baptiste in l'Orignal.

The majority, 24, are in the Greater Toronto area.

UNIMPRESSED

Rob Campbell, chairman of the public school board, was unimpressed with the rankings, saying they are narrow in their view and don't truly reflect the nature of the school or the learning that is going on there.

"I think that reports like this tend to play on parent anxieties, which I think is unfortunate," he said.

"But I don't attach very much credibility to reports such as this."

The report card rates 2,812 English and French, public and separate elementary schools and a few private schools in Ontario based on nine key indicators derived from province-wide tests of reading, writing, and mathematics skills administered by the province's Education Quality and Accountability Office.

The annual report card, complete with individual school rankings is available at [www.fraserinstitute.ca](http://www.fraserinstitute.ca).

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#### FACT BOX BLUE

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1. La Source in Orleans
2. Katimavik in Kanata
3. Devonshire Community in Ottawa
4. L'Etoile-de-l'Est in Orleans
5. First Avenue in Ottawa
6. Lamoureux in Ottawa
7. des Pins in Gloucester
8. Jean-Paul II in Stittsville
9. Woodroffe Avenue in Ottawa
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# Grade expectations

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BLAIR GABLE/SUN

Lise Bourgeois, director of education for the French Catholic School Board, stands outside Orleans' La Source, which received perfect marks in the Fraser Institute's annual rankings. It was the second year in a row one of the board's schools has scored 10.

# Ottawa Sun

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## School board plans to drop 'Carleton'

It's been nearly a decade since school boards in the city amalgamated, but both the separate and public boards still cling to the Ottawa-Carleton component of their respective names.

But that may very well change for the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board, which is currently awaiting

approval from the Ontario Ministry of Education to change their name to Ottawa Catholic School Board.

### Modern name

"The new name is forward thinking and modern, honouring the whole region surrounding Ottawa and reflecting the amalgamated city,"

said James McCracken, director of education, in a summary of board decisions dated Oct. 24, 2006.

With the possibility of a new name comes a new logo, which has been created and was approved at the last school board meeting. The logo will be phased in on new publications and printed

projects.

When ministry approval is given for the new name, the board will start posting the revamped logo on buildings and on its website.

No one from the school board was available to comment yesterday.

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board has also

contemplated a name change by dropping the "Carleton," but opted against it as an unnecessary cost.

The matter last came before the board in October 2005. At the time, those in opposition to the motion said it would widen the rift between rural and urban dwellers.

— Laura Czeka

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# Schools put to the test

## Rankings figure heavily as registration week begins

**LAURA CZEKAJ**  
Sun Media

Tara McCue's decision on where her son attends junior kindergarten this September will depend heavily on how well the school has performed on provincial standardized tests and in a newly released school ranking.

As the Bells Corners mom weighs her son's schooling options, the Fraser Institute has released its school report card, giving her yet another method of evaluation, in addition to results from the Ontario Education Quality and Accountability Office.

"That was a big deciding factor," says McCue.

McCue has specific criteria when selecting a public school

for her son, Ethan, who is 3 ½.

While McCue lives within the boundaries of Bayshore Public School, she works in Kanata and her son's daycare provider is in Stittsville. For convenience sake, she was looking for a school in Kanata that also provides an early entry point French immersion program.

### Down to 3

Aided by the school rankings and EQAO, she has whittled down her options to Roch Carrier, Katimavik and W.O. Mitchell.

"All three of them actually have very good results, as far as their testing goes," she says.

McCue is not alone. Many parents use rankings to not only choose a place to enrol

their children, but to keep an eye on performance levels at their existing school, says Peter Cowley, director of school performance studies at the Fraser Institute.

The rankings will likely come in handy as school boards start accepting kindergarten registrations this week and student transfers the following week.

In-demand schools have even taken measures to avoid the annual parent campouts at the schools so they can register their children for the limited spots available.

Lisgar Collegiate Institute has set up an online transfer pilot project that, for a two-day period, will accept student transfers from outside its boundaries for the coming

school year.

The electronic transfers will only be accepted on Feb. 19 and 20. From Feb. 21 to March 2, transfers will be accepted at the schools main office. More information is available on the school's website at [www.lisgar.ca](http://www.lisgar.ca).

Camping out to secure a coveted spot has become

an annual tradition at area schools noted for their academic strengths or programs.

### Space restrictions

"That does go on at a small number of our schools and each school at this point seems to be handling their situation in a different way," says public board chairman Rob

Campbell.

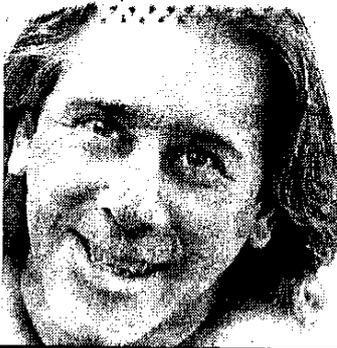
According to board policies, a student can apply for an out-of-boundary transfer to the school of their choice under the Student Transfer Policy. However, the process is subject to whether there are spaces left at the school.

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# Mario BOULIANNE

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## Plus de 130 000 \$ en bourses

La Fondation de La Cité collégiale a fait les choses en grand la semaine dernière en remettant le plus grand nombre de bourses d'études de son histoire.

Un total de 131 250 \$ en bourses a été réparti entre 170 étudiants inscrits dans 70 programmes d'études au collège.

Au fil des ans, la Fondation a constitué plusieurs fonds de dotation grâce à la générosité de nombreux donateurs de la région.

Ce sont les intérêts qu'engendrent ces fonds qui permettent

le financement des bourses accordées aux étudiants. Le montant total des fonds de dotation recueillis s'élève aujourd'hui à un peu plus de 3,8 millions \$.

À ce jour, la Fondation a remis plus de 1200 bourses d'études, pour un total de 565 000 \$.

## L'E.S.P.'rit d>Show

La troupe de musique francophone L'E.S.P.'rit d>Show de l'École secondaire catholique de Plantagenet présente une série de spectacles les 2 et 3 mars à 20 h, à la cantine de l'école.

## Qu'est-ce qu'un bon gang ?

Drôle de question que je vous pose ce matin.

Sachez que je ne suis pas le premier à la poser puisque les organisateurs du concours d'écriture de la Semaine de la prévention de la criminalité ont demandé aux élèves de 6<sup>e</sup> année des écoles primaires de la région d'y répondre.

Les policiers communautaires de Gatineau et de la MFC des Collines ainsi que les dirigeants du Service Action Communautaire Outaouais (SACO) ont choisi le texte de **Myriam Joseph**, de l'école du Sacré-Coeur de Masson-Angers.

Le texte de Myriam lui a valu le premier prix du concours soit un vélo, des billets pour voir les Olympiques de Gatineau ainsi que des chèques-cadeaux du restaurant Toscanos.

Voici le texte écrit par Myriam :

*Qu'est-ce qu'un bon gang ?*

*Dans la vie, il y a deux sortes de gang; le bon et le moins bon. Je vais te parler de celui que j'ai choisi.*

*Un bon gang, c'est un groupe d'amis qui se respecte et qui accepte les différences des autres. Les membres d'un bon gang sont tous fidèles et savent garder des secrets confidentiels. Ils comprennent tes choix, tes décisions. Ils ne taxent et n'intimident pas les autres, et ils ne consomment pas d'alcool, ni de drogues. Même si certaines personnes qui consomment, sont parfois gentilles, il faut faire attention. Un bon gang n'est pas violent envers les autres de son entourage. Les personnes d'un bon gang ne te jugent pas et ne jugent pas ce que tu fais. Si tu aimes certaines choses qu'ils aiment moins ou pas du tout, ils te comprendront et ils te protégeront contre les autres, non violemment. Pour respecter les autres et se respecter soi-même. Choisissez UN BON GANG!!!*

Il y a plein de bon sens dans ce texte. Plusieurs d'entre nous devraient s'en inspirer, ne trouvez-vous pas ?

Ce concours en est à sa 5<sup>e</sup> édition et permet de stimuler la créativité des jeunes, qui est en soi une forme de prévention de la criminalité. De plus, les intervenants du SACO et les services policiers s'en servent pour prendre le pouls des jeunes concernant la criminalité dans les écoles primaires.

Le deuxième prix de ce concours a été remporté par **Joanicka Cyr**, de l'école L'Équipage de Val-des-Monts et le troisième prix est allé à **Samuel Plourde**, de l'école Rapides-Deschênes d'Aylmer.



Sur la photo, **Louis Gagnon**, de l'école L'Équipage; **Philippe Duarte**, du SACO; **Bruno Joseph**, police de Gatineau; **Martin Fournel**, police de la MRC des Collines; **Jacques Ferland**, de l'école du Sacré-Coeur ainsi que les gagnants **Myriam Joseph**, **Samuel Plourde** et **Joanicka Cyr**.

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Comme l'indique le nom du spectacle, c'est une «renaissance» pour le groupe qui en est à sa 7<sup>e</sup> saison, mais la première sous la direction de **Mélanie Roy**, qui prend la relève du jeune retraité **Donald Poliquin**.

Le groupe fera renaître les grands succès des palmarès francophones depuis les années 50.

Le concept du spectacle de cette année présentera quelques «medleys» en plus de plusieurs classiques et chansons contemporaines.

Les billets pour les spectacles offerts au public les 2 et 3 mars sont en vente présentement.

On peut en savoir plus en visitant le site Web au [www.espritdshow.com](http://www.espritdshow.com), section musique, ou vous pouvez laisser un message au 613-673-5124 poste 405.

## France en spectacle

Entendre et voir **France Maisonneuve** une dernière fois avant la sortie de son premier album. Voilà ce que je vous souhaite pour la St-Valentin.

La Gatinoise sera en spectacle samedi au Café des artistes de Buckingham.

Vous aurez ainsi l'occasion d'avoir un aperçu de ce que France nous offrira sur son premier opus qui devrait sortir au printemps.

Pour la fête des amoureux, il n'y a rien de plus envoûtant que la voix de France Maisonneuve. C'est un spectacle à voir et à entendre en bonne compagnie.

Les billets sont vendus sur place pour la somme de 10\$ et vous pouvez réserver par courriel à [productionfraka@videotron.ca](mailto:productionfraka@videotron.ca).

## De jeunes entrepreneurs

L'esprit d'entrepreneuriat règne à l'école secondaire catholique d'Embrun.

Les élèves de la 10<sup>e</sup> à la 12<sup>e</sup> année ont récemment participé à un concours d'élaboration de plans d'affaires dans le cadre de leurs études.

Le produit final était le fruit des apprentissages de plusieurs cours: entrepreneuriat, marketing, informatique et construction.

Ce sont les créateurs de la compagnie **Turning Leaf Gazebos** qui ont impressionné le jury local. **Julien Charron**, **Logan Boisvenu**, **Karl Clément** et **Olivier Sabourin** présenteront

le plan d'affaires de leur compagnie de gazébos à une compétition régionale sous peu.

Une victoire les mènera à la finale provinciale où ils pourraient remporter des prix totalisant 3000\$.

## Un projet plutôt « cool »

Chaque hiver, et ce depuis 10 ans, des jeunes de 9 à 13 ans de plusieurs quartiers du secteur Hull ont la chance d'apprendre les techniques du ski de fond dans le cadre du programme «Ski-Cool».

Ce projet communautaire a également un double objectif: celui d'inculquer le respect des autres à ces jeunes.

Récemment, lors d'une soirée spéciale à la maison communautaire **Matchmore**, les organisateurs ont tenu à honorer les personnes qui ont conçu ce projet en 1997.

Des certificats de reconnaissance ont été remis à **Pierre Trudeau**, **Roland Morin**, **Gilles Desjardins**, **Sœur Françoise Lavoie**, **Jean Villeneuve**, **Patrice Prud'homme** et **Sœur Réjeanne Therrien**.

Ce merveilleux projet en est un de partenariat auquel participent la Ville de Gatineau, le club de ski **Skinouk**, la **Keskinada Loppet**, le **Relais plein air** et les **Caisses Desjardins** du secteur Hull. Il desservit les jeunes des quartiers **Jean-Dallaire**, **Fournier**, **Sacré-Cœur**, **St-Jean-Bosco** et **St-Raymond-Vanier**.

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## La gourmandise d'Énergie

Les animateurs **Jean Bruyère** et **Renée Germain**, d'Énergie 104,1, invitent la population à déguster la queue de castor Yé Midi Kek Part dont la recette a été suggérée par leurs auditeurs. Cette gourmandise est disponible à la pâtisserie Queue de castor des Promenades de l'Outaouais pour la durée de Bal de neige. Tous les profits de la vente seront remis à la Fondation du CHEEO. La Queue de castor est assaisonnée de brownies, de guimauves fondant et de caramel.



## Un bel hommage pour Coco

**Jacques «Coco» Lemay** est de ces hommes d'exception qui ne comptent pas les heures qu'ils donnent pour aider les jeunes de leur communauté. Depuis 50 ans maintenant, M. Lemay œuvre auprès des jeunes hockeyeurs. Lors du passage des anciens joueurs du Canadien de Montréal à Rockland, celui qu'on appelle Coco a reçu un hommage qu'il n'oubliera pas. Il a été honoré par l'Association de hockey mineur de Rockland (AHMR), par Hockey Canada et par les Anciens du Canadien pour son dévouement au sein du hockey mineur de Rockland. Une bannière l'honorant a été hissée au plafond de l'aréna Jean-Marc Lalonde ainsi que d'autres cadeaux et marques de reconnaissance lui ont été remis. Sur la photo, Coco est entouré de **Jules Lavictoire**, président sortant du Ottawa District Hockey Association (ODHA); de **Richard Lalonde**, maire de Clarence-Rockland; de **Guy Lafleur**, du député **Jean-Marc Lalonde** et de **Jacques Charlebois**, président de l'AHMR.

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## Le Prélude présente *Richard Cœur de Lion*



La classe de 4<sup>e</sup> année de l'école élémentaire publique Le Prélude, à Orléans, présente la pièce médiévale *Richard Cœur de Lion*, le 27 février, à 19 h. La mise en scène et l'écriture du texte ont été confiées à l'enseignante du groupe, Joanne Lépine. Le tout est réalisé dans le cadre du programme scolaire en études sociales. La troupe invite d'ailleurs toute personne intéressée à venir assister à la pièce. Photo : Gracieuseté de Joanne Lépine.

# Ottawa Citizen <sup>1/2</sup>

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## La Source at top of the class in Fraser Institute report card

BY MARIA KUBACKI

Walk into a class at La Source elementary school in Orléans and you enter a realm of serene concentration.

The children are focused on their own work, not paying attention to anyone else.

They work at their desks or at the computer. Some are on the floor using "manipulatives" — blocks and other objects — to help them with their math. Some practise writing on the board while others line up to get help from the teacher.

La Source, which opened in 2003 in response to demand from parents, follows a personalized learning model, based in part on the Montessori principle of autonomy within a calm, structured environment.

It's one of two such schools in the French Catholic board, the Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française du centre-est. (The other is Lamoureux in the Bank Street and Heron Road area).

Children work at their own pace and choose their own activities from a "contract" — a weekly list of activities designed to fulfill Ontario curriculum requirements in math, reading and writing. When they're finished one activity, they cross it off the list and move on to another.

"My children adore the school," says Ginette Richard, who has a daughter in junior kindergarten and a

son in Grade 1 at La Source. "My daughter wants to come to school on Saturday and Sunday."

Students and parents aren't the only ones who think the French Catholic school is doing something right.

La Source is the top-ranking school in the Ottawa area, according to the Fraser Institute's new report card on elementary schools in Ontario.

Based on results of provincial reading, writing and math exams in Grades 3 and 6, La Source scored a 10 out of 10, tying for first place with 37 other schools in Ontario out of a total of 2,812 schools that participated in the survey.

Part of the school day at La Source consists of traditional instruction, with the teacher giving lessons in subjects such as social studies or religious education. Students also work in groups on projects.

But for the first hour of the morning and an hour after lunch, each child from junior kindergarten through Grade 6 gets to choose an activity from their contract, which lists their math and French activities for the week.

Lauran McKay, 7, is amazed that other schools make students do everything at the same time. Her older brother went to a different school before coming to La Source and told her how things work elsewhere. "His teacher was the one who chose the activities," she says. "And he was always the first one to finish so he had to wait up for the others."

Consequently, he was bored. Here, things are different. "You can just keep going and going," she says, beaming.

But the students are not just left to their own devices. While the children are working on a

specific activity, they see the teacher at least three times.

"The teacher can identify problems right away and solve

them," says Mélanie Courtemanche, who teaches a combined Grade 1 and 2 class. "She can do a mini-lesson with that child alone according to their style of learning."

Repetition is part of the process. When learning a letter, for instance, children might trace it with their finger, make the shape out of modelling clay, cut out the letter and paste it into their workbook, write it on the board three times, and study words using that letter.

When they finish one exercise, they choose another. They quickly learn not to leave all their least-favourite activities until last, says Ms. Courtemanche. Students having trouble can take their time, while others may race ahead.

Eight-year-old Maxime René, in Ms. Courtemanche's class, has already finished Grade 2 and begun Grade 3 work.

"I like learning numbers, reading, learning new letters, sounds, doing new things — Grade 3 things," he says.

Ms. Courtemanche explains, "The child works at his or her own pace and during the two hours of individual work, they work in a silence that allows them to find themselves, a silence that allows them to encounter God."

Yet the personalized learning model is only one of the elements in the school's winning formula.

According to new research from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), parental involvement is a key factor in improving a school's scores on provincial Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) exams.

"Parents need to be involved in learning with their children,"

says OISE's Doug McDougall, lead investigator of the study.

"As a parent, you have to be there to make sure the homework is done, to help with reading," says Ms. Richard, who is president of the school council and volunteers in her children's classes.

The presence of parent volunteers in the school also helps the children's self-esteem, she says. "The children are proud and see that their parents value education."

Parents who send their children to La Source are by definition committed to the school and its personalized learning model.

"La Source is a school of choice," says Marie-France Ricard, superintendent of education at the Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française du centre-est. "Parents have chosen for their children to

come here because they believed the (personalized learning) approach was the best."

There is no busing available, so students who don't live within walking distance must have parents willing to drive them to the school.

Parents are also expected to sign off on a weekly report on their child's progress.

The impressive results at La Source also reflect the effective use of data (such as standardized test scores) to make decisions, another important factor in a school's success, according to the OISE study.

Ms. Ricard says at the French Catholic board, schools track the progress of every student and have a plan in place to help those who are falling behind.

From EQAO results, teachers and principals determine whether students are measuring up. If a child falls below provincial standards, the teacher finds out where the

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problem is, implements a strategy, and then reassesses within a few weeks. If it's not working, the teacher tries another approach.

The main thing is not to wait until the end of the year before finding out that a student is struggling or failing.

"We don't want to do an autopsy," says Ms. Ricard.

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## Report card day for Ottawa schools

The fifth annual Fraser Institute report card ranks 2,812 schools in Ontario based on standardized provincial Grade 3 and Grade 6 tests taken in 2005-2006.

The report card released today in the *Citizen* covers 172 elementary schools in Ottawa-Carleton. **Next week, the *Citizen* will feature the rankings of the remaining schools in Eastern Ontario.**

### THE SOURCE

The Fraser Institute, a think-tank based in Vancouver, supports free-market solutions to issues in public policy.

The test scores used in this exercise are compiled every year by the Ontario Education Quality and Accountability Office. The ratings and rankings are computed by the Fraser Institute. Because the rankings are based entirely on standardized testing, schools at which students do better, on the tests and have fewer students that fall below the provincial standard, will fare better in the Fraser Institute rankings.

### HOW THE RANKINGS WORK

The Fraser Institute assigns weighted values to each of nine factors or "indicators" in the provincial tests and rates them, out of 10, to determine each school's overall ranking.

- The first six indicators are based on the average EQAO scores in Grades 3 and 6 reading, writing and math. Each test is worth 8.3 per cent. The six tests are worth 50 per cent of the overall rating.
- The "gender gap," which accounts for the average difference in test scores between boys and girls, is another indicator. The narrower the gap, the better the rating. The Fraser Institute awards 10 per cent each for the gender gaps in reading and math.
- The final indicator, worth 30 per cent, is

based on the percentage of students who fail to meet provincial standards in the test. The EQAO ranks each test from levels 1 to 4. Only those tests scored at levels three and four meet the standard.

### A REMINDER

A school may be absent from the list if the EQAO does not release the test results for that particular school. The EQAO may withhold results, for example, if a class is small and too few students take the test.

### MOST IMPROVED SCHOOLS

Of the 172 area schools examined, these 4 showed the most improvement based on 2001/2002 and 2005/2006 overall ratings.

School	Change Rate
Regina Street	0.59
McGregor Easson	0.54
Terre des Jeunes Pavillon	
St Bonaventure	0.45
Our Lady of Victory	0.37

### DECLINING SCHOOLS

Of the 172 area schools examined, these 9 showed the most decline between 2001/2002 and 2005/2006 in overall ratings.

School	Change Rate
St George	-0.44
Pleasant Park	0.43
D. Roy Kennedy	-0.37
Connaught	-0.35
Queen Mary Street	-0.32
Charlotte Lemieux	-0.30
W.E. Gowling	-0.23
Rockcliffe Park	-0.16
Roberta Bondar	-0.12

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## How does your school stack up?

### IMPORTANT NOTES TO THE RANKINGS

"In this table, schools are ranked (on the left-hand side of the table) in descending order according to their academic performance as measured by the Overall rating out of 10 (shown on the right hand side of the table) for the school year 2005/2006. Each school's five-year average provincial ranking and Overall rating out of 10 are also listed. The higher the overall rating (out of 10), the higher the rank awarded to the school. Where schools tied in the overall rating, they were awarded the same

rank. Where less than five years of data was available 'n/a' appears in the table.

"Not all the region's elementary schools are included in the tables or the ranking. In some school districts that operate middle schools or junior high schools, the elementary schools may not enrol students in grade 6. Since the Report Card is based on the results of tests given in grades 3 and 6, these elementary schools cannot be included. In addition, schools at which fewer than 15 students were enrolled in each of these

grades are excluded. Private schools and First Nations operated, federally funded schools are not required to administer the EQAO tests. Since the results of these tests form the basis for this Report Card, only those schools that administer the EQAO tests could be included. Finally, also excluded are schools that did not generate a sufficiently large set of student data to enable the calculation of an Overall rating out of 10. The exclusion of a school from the report is not a judgment of the school's effectiveness.

# Ottawa Citizen 3/3

Date: FEB 10 2007

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Provincial Rank				Overall Rating		Provincial Rank				Overall Rating	
2005/2006	Last 5 years	SchoolName	City	2005/2006	Last 5 years	2005/2006	Last 5 years	SchoolName	City	2005/2006	Last 5 years
1	n/a	La Source	Orléans	10.0	n/a	634	277	W.O. Mitchell	Kanata	7.3	7.8
38	26	Katimavik	Kanata	9.9	9.4	634	668	Briargreen	Nepean	7.3	6.9
45	n/a	Devonshire Community	Ottawa	9.7	n/a	634	790	Adrienne Clarkson	Ottawa	7.3	6.7
68	40	L'Étoile de l'Est	Orléans	9.3	9.1	634	n/a	Saint-François d'Assise	Ottawa	7.3	n/a
75	29	First Avenue	Ottawa	9.2	9.3	689	163	Georges Étienne-Cartier	Ottawa	7.2	8.2
84	163	Lamoureux	Ottawa	9.1	8.2	689	790	McMasterCatholic	Ottawa	7.2	6.7
84	389	des Pins	Gloucester	9.1	7.5	689	790	Reine-des-Bois	Cumberland	7.2	6.7
84	n/a	Jean-Paul II	Stittsville	9.1	n/a	689	n/a	Marius-Barbeau	Ottawa	7.2	n/a
105	99	Woodroffe Avenue	Ottawa	8.9	8.6	742	108	Corpus Christi	Ottawa	7.1	6.2
105	192	Terre des Jeunes Pavillon	Ottawa	8.9	8.1	742	354	Divine Infant	Orléans	7.1	5.8
		St Bonaventure	Ottawa	8.9	8.1	742	n/a	St Jerome	Gloucester	7.1	n/a
126	n/a	de Kanata	Kanata	8.8	n/a	803	420	Sainte-Bernadette	Gloucester	7.0	7.4
145	138	Roger-Saint-Denis	Kanata	8.7	8.3	803	865	St Monica	Nepean	7.0	6.6
159	57	Elisabeth Bruyère	Kanata	8.6	8.9	803	978	Fallingbrook Community	Ottawa	7.0	6.4
159	517	Osgoode	Osgoode	8.6	7.2	852	559	La Vérendrye	Gloucester	6.9	7.1
159	727	Séraphin-Marion	Ottawa	8.6	6.8	852	727	St Martin de Porres	Kanata	6.9	6.8
178	306	W. Erskine Johnston	Kanata	8.5	7.7	852	n/a	Abraar	Ottawa	6.9	n/a
202	347	des Voyageurs	Gloucester	8.4	7.6	910	347	Chapel Hill	Orléans	6.8	7.6
233	192	Sainte-Geneviève	Ottawa	8.3	8.1	910	420	Broadview	Ottawa	6.8	7.4
233	226	Georges Vanier	Kanata	8.3	8.0	979	464	l'Odyssee	Orléans	6.7	7.3
233	n/a	Saint-Joseph d'Orléans	Orléans	8.3	n/a	979	668	St Philip	Richmond	6.7	6.9
256	128	Knoxdale	Nepean	8.2	8.4	979	790	St Augustine	Ottawa	6.7	6.7
284	163	Holy Spirit	Stittsville	8.1	8.2	979	1041	Roland Michener	Kanata	6.7	6.3
284	192	Stephen Leacock	Kanata	8.1	8.1	1036	517	St Catherine	Metcalfe	6.6	7.2
284	517	St Elizabeth Ann Seton	Nepean	8.1	7.2	1036	668	Castlefrank	Kanata	6.6	6.9
319	138	St Anne	Kanata	8.0	8.3	1036	1041	St Gregory	Nepean	6.6	6.3
319	163	St Leonard	Manotick	8.0	8.2	1119	138	Pleasant Park	Ottawa	6.5	8.3
319	668	St Isidore	Kanata	8.0	6.9	1119	1479	Manordale	Nepean	6.5	7.3
319	790	St Michael (Corkery)	Carp	8.0	6.7	1119	865	St Bernard	Ottawa	6.5	6.6
319	1663	McGregor Easson	Ottawa	8.0	5.3	1119	1354	St Michael (Fitzroy)	Fitzroy Harbour	6.5	5.8
365	113	Mutchmor	Ottawa	7.9	8.5	1119	1479	Manordale	Nepean	6.5	5.6
365	389	Arc-en-ciel	Orléans	7.9	7.5	1119	1719	Le Trillium	Vanier	6.5	5.2
365	727	Guardian Angels	Stittsville	7.9	6.8	1119	1860	Blossom Park	Gloucester	6.5	4.9
365	n/a	Jack Donohue	Kanata	7.9	n/a	1190	611	Holy Redeemer	Kanata	6.4	7.0
396	192	Jeanne-Sauvé	Orléans	7.8	8.1	1190	790	St Francis of Assisi	Orléans	6.4	6.7
396	277	Convent Glen	Orléans	7.8	7.8	1190	1108	Huntley Centennial	Carpion	6.4	6.2
396	389	Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha	Orléans	7.8	7.5	1190	1108	St Patrick	Nepean	6.4	6.2
396	420	St Clare	Orléans	7.8	7.4	1190	1231	Holy Cross	Ottawa	6.4	6.0
428	163	Rockcliffe Park	Ottawa	7.7	8.2	1190	1354	Century	Nepean	6.4	5.8
428	347	St James	Kanata	7.7	7.6	1190	n/a	Berrigan	Nepean	6.4	n/a
428	559	Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau	Nepean	7.7	7.1	1262	790	Good Shepherd	Gloucester	6.3	6.7
428	727	Parkwood Hillis	Nepean	7.7	6.8	1262	919	Henry Larsen	Gloucester	6.3	6.5
428	1817	Regina Street	Ottawa	7.7	5.0	1262	1170	Holy Family	Ottawa	6.3	6.1
475	138	St George	Ottawa	7.6	8.3	1262	1231	Glen Cairn	Kanata	6.3	6.0
475	163	Des Sentiers	Orléans	7.6	8.2	1262	1424	John Young	Kanata	6.3	5.7
475	464	Dunlop	Ottawa	7.6	7.3	1333	1041	Stonecrest	Woodlawn	6.2	6.3
516	113	Le Prélude	Orléans	7.5	8.5	1333	1170	Our Lady of Fatima	Ottawa	6.2	6.1
516	389	St John the Apostle	Nepean	7.5	7.5	1333	1288	Trillium	Orléans	6.2	5.9
516	668	St Luke (Nepean)	Nepean	7.5	6.9	1333	1354	Our Lady of Peace	Nepean	6.2	5.8
575	306	des Pionniers	Orléans	7.4	7.7	1395	668	Hopewell Avenue	Ottawa	6.1	6.9
575	420	Monsignor Paul Baxter	Nepean	7.4	7.4	1395	978	Castor Valley	Greely	6.1	6.4
575	464	Elmdale	Ottawa	7.4	7.3	1395	n/a	Torbolton	Woodlawn	6.1	n/a
575	517	St Marguerite d'Youville	Ottawa	7.4	7.2	1464	865	Bridlewood Community	Kanata	6.0	6.6
575	668	Orleans Wood	Gloucester	7.4	6.9	1464	2109	Cambridge Street Community	Ottawa	6.0	4.2
575	919	Pope John XXIII	Nepean	7.4	6.5	1529	1108	St Mary	Gloucester	5.9	6.2
575	978	Montfort	Ottawa	7.4	6.4	1529	1479	Riverview Alternative	Ottawa	5.9	5.6
575	n/a	de la Découverte	Cumberland	7.4	n/a	1529	n/a	St Andrew	Nepean	5.9	n/a
634	113	Francojeunesse	Ottawa	7.3	8.5	1584	919	Dunning-Foubert	Orléans	5.8	6.5
1584	1108	St Rita	Nepean	5.8	5.2	1584	1170	Meadowlands	Nepean	5.8	5.1
1584	1231	Maple Ridge	Orléans	5.8	5.0	1584	1547	R. Byrns Curry	Ottawa	5.8	5.5
1584	1547	Our Lady of Victory	Ottawa	5.8	4.4	1584	2058	Our Lady of Wisdom	Ottawa	5.6	4.4
1726	919	Leslie Park	Nepean	5.6	6.5	1726	1599	Vincent Massey	Ottawa	5.6	5.4
1726	1599	Metcalfe	Metcalfe	5.6	4.4	1726	2058	Metcalfe	Metcalfe	5.6	4.4
1838	1108	St. Theresa	Cumberland	5.4	n/a	1838	1108	Our Lady of Wisdom	Orléans	5.4	6.2
1902	347	Sainte-Marie	Gloucester	5.3	7.8	1838	n/a	St. Theresa	Cumberland	5.4	n/a
1902	1288	John Paul II	Gloucester	5.3	5.9	1902	347	Sainte-Marie	Gloucester	5.3	7.8
1902	1547	Robert Bateman	Ottawa	5.3	5.5	1902	1288	John Paul II	Gloucester	5.3	5.9
1902	1599	Alta Vista	Ottawa	5.3	5.4	1902	1547	Robert Bateman	Ottawa	5.3	5.5
1902	n/a	Hilson Avenue	Ottawa	5.3	n/a	1902	1599	Alta Vista	Ottawa	5.3	5.4
1947	978	Terry Fox	Orléans	5.2	6.4	1902	n/a	Hilson Avenue	Ottawa	5.3	n/a
1947	2183	Lady Evelyn Alternative	Ottawa	5.2	3.9	1947	978	Terry Fox	Orléans	5.2	6.4
1999	1170	D. Roy Kennedy	Ottawa	5.1	6.1	1947	2183	Lady Evelyn Alternative	Ottawa	5.2	3.9
2034	668	Elgin Street	Ottawa	5.0	6.9	1999	1170	D. Roy Kennedy	Ottawa	5.1	6.1
2034	1424	A. Lorne Cassidy	Stittsville	5.0	5.7	2034	668	Elgin Street	Ottawa	5.0	6.9
2034	2058	Elizabeth Park	Gloucester	5.0	4.4	2034	1424	A. Lorne Cassidy	Stittsville	5.0	5.7
2076	1976	Gabrielle-Roy	Gloucester	4.9	4.6	2034	2058	Elizabeth Park	Gloucester	5.0	4.4
2076	2322	Arch Street	Ottawa	4.9	3.1	2076	1976	Gabrielle-Roy	Gloucester	4.9	4.6
2173	1354	St Thomas More	Ottawa	4.7	5.8	2076	2322	Arch Street	Ottawa	4.9	3.1
2207	1479	Greely	Greely	4.6	5.6	2173	1354	St Thomas More	Ottawa	4.7	5.8
2207	1773	Sawmill Creek	Gloucester	4.6	5.1	2207	1479	Greely	Greely	4.6	5.6
2236	2019	Charles H. Hulse	Ottawa	4.5	4.5	2207	1773	Sawmill Creek	Gloucester	4.6	5.1
2269	1479	Heritage	Cumberland	4.4	5.6	2236	2019	Charles H. Hulse	Ottawa	4.5	4.5
2269	1547	Carleton Heights	Ottawa	4.4	5.5	2269	1479	Heritage	Cumberland	4.4	5.6
2381	1902	Fitzroy Centennial	Kinburn	4.1	4.8	2269	1547	Carleton Heights	Ottawa	4.4	5.5
2413	2019	Roberta Bondar	Ottawa	4.0	4.5	2381	1902	Fitzroy Centennial	Kinburn	4.1	4.8
2413	2204	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Ottawa	4.0	3.8	2413	2019	Roberta Bondar	Ottawa	4.0	4.5
2441	1547	St Brigit	Ottawa	3.9	5.5	2413	2204	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Ottawa	4.0	3.8
2462	1479	Thomas D'Arcy McGee	Gloucester	3.8	5.6	2441	1547	St Brigit	Ottawa	3.9	5.5
2462	1773	Charlotte Lemieux	Ottawa	3.8	5.1	2462	1479	Thomas D'Arcy McGee	Gloucester	3.8	5.6
2462	1976	Churchill Alternative	Ottawa	3.8	4.6	2462	1773	Charlotte Lemieux	Ottawa	3.8	5.1
2516	n/a	Centennial	Ottawa	3.6	n/a	2462	1976	Churchill Alternative	Ottawa	3.8	4.6
2545	2109	Hawthorne	Ottawa	3.5	4.2	2516	n/a	Centennial	Ottawa	3.6	n/a
2604	2297	Manor Park	Ottawa	3.2	3.3	2545	2109	Hawthorne	Ottawa	3.5	4.2
2612	2297	St Elizabeth	Ottawa	3.1	3.3	2604	2297	Manor Park	Ottawa	3.2	3.3
2612	n/a	St Michael	Ottawa	3.1	n/a	2612	2297	St Elizabeth	Ottawa	3.1	3.3
2626	2204	Queen Elizabeth	Ottawa	3.0	3.8	2612	n/a	St Michael	Ottawa	3.1	n/a
2638	n/a	Queenswood	Orléans	2.9	n/a	2626	2204	Queen Elizabeth	Ottawa	3.0	3.8
2657	2019	Connaught	Ottawa	2.8	4.5	2638	n/a	Queenswood	Orléans	2.9	n/a
2657	2225	Prince of Peace	Ottawa	2.8	3.7	2657	2019	Connaught	Ottawa	2.8	4.5
2657	2322	St Luke (Ottawa)	Ottawa	2.8	3.1	2657	2225	Prince of Peace	Ottawa	2.8	3.7
2696	2365	Severn Avenue	Ottawa	2.5	2.6	2657	2322	St Luke (Ottawa)	Ottawa	2.8	3.1
2704	2336	Brother Andre	Gloucester	2.4	3.0	2696	2365	Severn Avenue	Ottawa	2.5	2.6
2704	2359	Grant Alternative	Ottawa	2.4	2.7	2704	2336	Brother Andre	Gloucester	2.4	3.0
2704	2380	York Street	Ottawa	2.4	2.3	2704	2359	Grant Alternative	Ottawa	2.4	2.7
2719	2336	Marie-Curie	Ottawa	2.3	3.0	2704	2380	York Street	Ottawa	2.4	2.3
2732	2336	W.E. Gowing	Ottawa	2.2	3.0	2719	2336	Marie-Curie	Ottawa	2.3	3.0
2785	2380	Queen Mary Street	Ottawa	1.4	2.3	2732	2336	W.E. Gowing	Ottawa	2.2	3.0
2788	2376	Robert E. Wilson	Vanier	1.3	2.4	2785	2380	Queen Mary Street	Ottawa	1.4	2.3
2789	2389	Pinecrest	Ottawa	1.2	1.8	2788	2376	Robert E. Wilson	Vanier	1.3	2.4
2797	2395	Assumption	Vanier	0.8	1.1	2789	2389	Pinecrest	Ottawa	1.2	1.8
2799	n/a	Christie	Ottawa	0.4	n/a	2797	2395	Assumption	Vanier	0.8	1.1

# Le Droit

Date: FEB 10 2007

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## L'Université d'Ottawa, siège canadien d'une bibliothèque virtuelle en sciences sociales

### Le Droit

Par le simple clic d'une souris, plus de 800 000 étudiants, chercheurs et professeurs de 70 universités canadiennes auront bientôt accès à une bibliothèque virtuelle des sciences sociales et humaines.

Ce réseau, qui sera géré à partir de l'Université d'Ottawa, est rendu possible grâce à une subvention de 19,1 millions \$ annoncée cette semaine par la Fondation canadienne pour l'innovation (FCI), un organisme du fédéral qui finance la recherche.

C'est par l'entremise du Réseau canadien de documentation pour la recherche (RCDR), dont les bureaux sont situés à l'Université d'Ottawa, que 70 universités au pays auront un accès, sur Internet, à une grande quantité d'information tirée de travaux de recherche menés au Canada et à l'étranger.

Un étudiant en psychologie qui prépare son doctorat pourra, par exemple, consulter une plus grande variété de documents à partir du Web à la bibliothèque de son université.

Chercheurs, professeurs et étudiants au Canada ont déjà accès à un réseau comparable dans les domaines de la science, de la technologie et de la médecine. Le

nouveau réseau touchera, cette fois-ci, aux sciences sociales et humaines, qui comprennent les communications, le droit, le commerce, l'économie et l'éducation.

Les sciences sociales et humaines regroupent plus de 50 % des chercheurs et des étudiants universitaires au Canada. Les 19 millions \$ permettront surtout d'acquérir le matériel qui se retrouvera sur le réseau, a expliqué Deb deBruijn, directrice générale du RCDR.

« On pourrait le voir comme une bibliothèque virtuelle. Au lieu d'acheter du matériel sur papier, nous voulons former des partenariats afin d'acquérir des documents numériques qui pourront être consultés sur Internet. Les universités ont déjà du matériel sur le Web, ce qui manque c'est une coordination de toutes informations. »

Le ministre de l'Industrie du Canada, Maxime Bernier, qui participait à l'annonce d'hier, a indiqué que le gouvernement conservateur s'appête à dévoiler, d'ici la fin mars, sa stratégie pour la science, l'innovation et la technologie.

Le projet annoncé, hier, à l'Université d'Ottawa s'inscrit dans les efforts du fédéral, a dit M. Bernier.

# L'Express

Date: FEB 05 2007

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## Participation record pour l'édition 2007

> Florence Bolduc

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**P**lus de 430 participants de 30 écoles de partout en province participeront à l'édition 2007 du Festival Quand ça nous chante...!, qui se déroulera les 7, 8 et 9 février, à Hearst.

Le comité organisateur du Festival s'est dit très heureux de ces chiffres puisque l'objectif de départ était d'attirer entre 300 et 350 élèves d'une vingtaine d'écoles.

«Nous avons fixé la date limite au vendredi 12 janvier, mais comme plusieurs personnes n'étaient toujours pas assurées d'envoyer de délégation, nous avons prolongé de quelques jours l'inscription pour leur faciliter la tâche. Maintenant que nous avons atteint ce nombre record, nous devons refuser les autres écoles qui étaient également intéressées à envoyer des participants», con-

firme le coordonnateur du Festival, François Carrier.

Le Conseil des arts de Hearst, l'école secondaire catholique de Hearst et l'Association des professionnels de la chanson et de la musique (APCM) se consacrent maintenant aux tâches logistiques et aux activités entourant l'événement.

En plus d'avoir la chance d'obtenir une expérience professionnelle sur scène, les participants pourront assister à des spectacles professionnels et suivre des ateliers donnés par des artistes de l'industrie musicale franco-ontarienne.

Parmi les artistes qui offriront des performances durant les trois jours du Festival, on compte Robert Paquette, Paul Demers, Jean-Marc Lalonde, Fayo, Anique Granger, Stef Paquette, Donald Poliquin et Swing.

# L'Express distribué par deux enfants autistes à l'école L'Odyssée

*Une expérience de valorisation*



> **Stéphanie Rhéaume**  
Collaboration spéciale

**L**e journal *L'Express* compte désormais sur deux nouveaux camelots hors pair à l'école élémentaire publique L'Odyssée. Avec l'aide d'une éducatrice spécialisée, Vincent Gratton et Matieu Lamarre assurent la distribution de l'hebdomadaire et font le plein d'estime de soi. Les deux garçons autistes relèvent ce défi depuis un mois.

Travaillant depuis 12 ans avec les enfants autistes, Chantal Cyr cherchait une activité concrète pour le jeune Vincent afin de lui permettre de bouger et de développer des habiletés pour le quotidien. À 12 ans, Vincent vit avec l'autisme et une déficience intellectuelle. Il ne s'exprime pas par les mots, mais, la plupart du temps, par ses yeux bleus moqueurs.

«Pour Vincent, l'objectif c'est de pouvoir réussir quelque chose et qu'il en soit fier. Pour lui, c'est très difficile. En salle de classe, son

attention tombe au bout de dix minutes », souligne son éducatrice.

«L'autisme est une condition. Les deux plus grandes anomalies sont la communication et la socialisation. L'interaction n'est pas facile pour eux. Au niveau de l'apprentissage, il faut imaginer des structures pour mieux intégrer la matière», explique-t-elle.

C'est le rôle que jouent les trois classes distinctes de l'école L'Odyssée, réservées aux enfants atteints d'un trouble envahissant du développement. Dans la classe de niveau moyen, où évoluent Vincent et Matieu, on promeut l'apprentissage au rythme de chacun. Des projets spéciaux, comme la distribution de *L'Express*, s'intègrent aussi à la réalisation de cet objectif.

Tous les lundis, le trio est au rendez-vous. Dès 11h50, Matieu se met à la tâche. Le bonhomme volubile, qui s'exprime avec aisance en français et en anglais malgré son autisme et un

retard intellectuel, fait des paquets avec les 115 copies du journal et les place dans les sacs pour la distribution. Vers 12h10, Chantal et Vincent font la tournée des classes, une longue promenade où l'éducatrice répète avec patience les indications à son protégé sans jamais cesser de l'encourager.

Chantal Cyr souhaite amener les jeunes autistes le plus loin qu'ils peuvent dans leur cheminement, sans avoir d'attentes trop élevées. «Je veux les aider à obtenir le plus d'autonomie possible en société», affirme-t-elle.

«Je veux aussi montrer à la société que ces enfants peuvent amener quelque chose aussi, insiste-t-elle. Il y a tellement de contraintes au niveau social pour eux. Ce ne devrait pas être toujours eux qui doivent s'adapter à la société, mais bien la société qui devrait essayer de s'adapter à eux.

# Ottawa Sun

Date: FEB 11 2007

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## Local school earns perfect score

LAURA CZEKAJ  
Sun Media

A French Catholic elementary school is at the top of the heap of Ottawa-Carleton schools, according to the Fraser Institute's annual school report card.

La Source elementary school received top marks from the right-wing think tank, which bases its rankings on Grades 3 and 6 standardized provincial test results from the 2005-06 school year.

The Orleans school received an overall rating of 10.0, a perfect score, and is followed by Katimavik in Kanata (9.9), and Devonshire Community (9.7).

The complete report will be released this morning and will determine overall rankings for schools across the province.

Peter Cowley, director of school performance studies at the Fraser Institute, said the report is frequently used by parents and educators.

### 'Objective evidence'

"It's widely used. There's absolutely no question of that," he said. "It brings together some objective evi-

dence and puts it in a format that people can easily get and understand.

"It's one source of information they can use when they are choosing a school."

He said it's not the only ranking system out there for parents, but combined with other performance measures, parents can gauge how well a school is faring before enrolling their child. "When you are choosing a school, to make a better decision, it's always better to have more information than less," he said.

It also gives parents a way to monitor how their school is doing individually and compared to others, said Cowley.

However, some detractors have said the report card is too narrow in its scope and

doesn't reflect other aspects of the schools ranked.

"One of the major jobs of schools is to build a skill set and that's the kind of thing that the report card measures," Cowley said. "Now, does it measure everything important that goes on at a school? No."

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# Le Droit

Date: FEB 10 2007

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## Denise Beauchamp lauréate du Prix Grandmaître 2006

La présidente sortante de la section régionale de la Fédération des aînés et retraités francophones de l'Ontario (FAFO), Denise Beauchamp, est la récipiendaire du Prix Grandmaître 2006.

**Justine Mercier**  
jmercier@ledroit.com

Après une carrière de 35 ans en enseignement, Denise Beauchamp n'a cessé de s'impliquer bénévolement, notamment au sein du mouvement pour la survie de l'hôpital Montfort, au Club Optimiste Jeunesse de l'école Vision-Jeunesse et au Conseil de Pastorale de la paroisse Notre-Dame de Lourdes.

L'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario (ACFO) d'Ottawa lui a décerné, hier soir, le 7<sup>e</sup> Prix Grandmaître, distinction nommée en l'honneur de

Bernard Grandmaître, figure bien connue des luttes franco-ontariennes. «Quand j'ai assisté, en 1999, à la création de ce prix, j'étais loin de penser qu'un jour il me serait attribué», a lancé M<sup>me</sup> Beauchamp après avoir reçu son prix.

Affectueusement appelée «M<sup>me</sup> FAFO» par ses proches, M<sup>me</sup> Beauchamp croit que les francophones d'Ontario n'ont pas encore la place qui leur revient. «Il faut plus d'espace pour la francophonie, car il y a toujours des coupures, et c'est toujours à recommencer», déplore-t-elle. Quatre autres prix ont été remis lors du gala d'hier, qui se déroulait au Centre communautaire Richelieu-Vanier.

Le Laurier de l'organisme de l'année a été remis au District Numéro 1 du Richelieu International, Grant R. Toole a été nommé francophile de l'année, Henri Babin a reçu le Laurier de l'intervenant en éducation, et Trèva Cousineau a reçu le prix de citoyenne de l'année.

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FRASER INSTITUTE'S REPORT CARD ON ONTARIO'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

## Report card's data too narrow, critics say

*Note: The report card released today in the Citizen covers 172 elementary schools in Ottawa-Carleton. Next week the Citizen will feature the rankings of the remaining schools in Eastern Ontario.*

BY CHARLES ENMAN

The Fraser Institute's fifth annual "Report Card on Ontario's Elementary Schools" offers a mixed view of how elementary schools in the Ottawa region are doing.

In this latest version of the controversial annual survey, there is good news for parents of children who attend a French Catholic school, or a school outside of what one might call Ottawa proper — essentially, the pre-amalgamation City of Ottawa.

For the whole province, the average elementary school attained a score of 6 points out of 10 in its overall rating.

For the seven French Catholic schools run by the Conseil Scolaire de district catholique de Centre-Est de l'Ontario in Ottawa proper, and for the 17 such schools in the surrounding area, the average score was a very satisfactory 7.9.

For the 102 elementary schools of all types in the area surrounding Ottawa proper (including such places as Kanata, Stittsville, Manotick, Nepean, Orléans, Gloucester, Osgood, and Carp), the average score was 6.7, nicely above the provincial average.

In Ottawa proper, in the pre-amalgamation sense, the average score for all 70 schools was 5.5, half a point below the provincial average.

The outstanding school in the region was La Source, a French Catholic school in Orléans, which achieved an over-

all rating of 10, a perfect score obtained by only 36 other schools in the 2,812 elementary schools examined across the province.

The overall rankings are based on each school's performance on nine indicators, all of them taken from province-wide tests of reading, writing, and mathematical skills that are given by Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Office.

Test results for Grade 3 and Grade 6 are used in the calculations, giving a broad sampling of performance during the elementary school years.

The gender gap between boys' and girls' achievement is indicated through comparison of reading and mathematics scores in Grade 6.

The report card also indicates what percentage of students were below the provincial standard and what percentage did not write the EQOA tests.

The report card gives not only the current results, but those for the last five years, and indicates whether a significant trend, upward or downward, can be observed.

A total of 78 pieces of data are given for each school.

The report card has come in for its share of criticism in past years, but its co-author, Peter Cowley, the Fraser Institute's director of school performance studies, believes it fills a need and is as good as available data permits it to be.

"This material is important because it allows parents to have some crucial information when they're choosing their children's schools," he says. "I frankly think it's just wrong-headed to say parents shouldn't have access to this information."

Mr. Cowley is quick to say that parents shouldn't rely en-

tirely on a school's ranking in the report card.

"They're a good starting point, but you should certainly confirm the findings by interviewing administrators and teachers, finding out how parents feel about their kids' school — and you should probably visit the school yourself to get a sense of the atmosphere in the hallways and classrooms."

A high rating alone doesn't necessarily mean a school will give your child what you believe he needs, Mr. Cowley adds. Parents could place stress on the amount of physical activities that a school promotes, on its fine arts offerings, and its emphasis on citizenship skills, for example, none of which fig-

ure in the report card.

Mr. Cowley would like to give the Report Card more breadth by including other data, but says that data simply isn't available.

"The data we need must be objective, generated each year, centrally available, and relevant to parents' actual concerns for their children," he says. "If we had it, we would use it — but all we have are the EQOA results."

No reason is given for any schools' rating, but that's not the purpose of the report card, he says.

"A school might have many students that use English as a second language, or may have lost a visionary principal in the last year," he says. "But our intent wasn't to find these things out, but just to find out what is happening in objective testing."

The report card gives the average number of years of education that parents in each school have, which Mr. Cowley believes may give some explanation of student scores.

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Virtually no private schools are listed in the report card, since private schools do not have to administer the EQOA tests and those that do, don't have to authorize release of the results.

If a school is doing poorly, the results may spur teachers, administrations, and parents to do better, Mr. Cowley says.

"Truth can hurt, but hiding truth hurts even more," he says.

"What we give here are just the results as they are."

Rob Campbell, the chair of the board of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, said that familiarity with earlier editions of the report card lead most educators to doubt the significance of its findings.

"I think we perhaps view them with some amusement,"

he said. "We think they unfairly skew perceptions of most schools."

The report, he said, gives too narrow a slice of data to draw truly meaningful conclusions.

"You have to look at the quality of the principal, of the resources, of the quality of the building. Does the school have a gifted program? Is it in a high income area?"

"What the Fraser Institute

does with schools would be like evaluating a McDonald's on the quality of its lighting. Too much would be left out."

The Fraser Institute, Mr. Campbell said, wants schools to compete for students as an exercise of the market mechanism.

"It's all part of an ideological agenda, and people in the education sector generally can't take it seriously."