

***Standardized Testing:*** The results for the CAT 3 Norm-referenced testing have just been returned. The results are very impressive and I am well pleased. Congratulations Calvary staff, students and parents. We have much to celebrate!

Being the end of the school year, the staff will not have sufficient time until September to analyze the results more carefully. At that time, an action plan will be developed in order to sustain our areas of strength and to address areas of curriculum, pedagogy and individual student needs, in order to progress and excel further. The current test results will give us a valuable reference point of achievement and will assist us in determining progress when we compare them to next year's results.

The Canadian Achievement Tests (CAT) measures achievement in the basic skills generally taught in schools across Canada. CAT is a set of tests in components of reading, language and mathematics. Students tested with CAT can have their results compared with those obtained from large, representative samples of students from across Canada. Their results can also be compared to curriculum expectations. It's a good test to track achievement over time.

The class averages for Language, Reading and Mathematics will be displayed below and the students individual test results will be attached to the report cards and distributed on June 24, 2009. The results are displayed as a Grade Equivalent (GE).

The grade equivalent provides a comparison of achievement by students from different grades on a common set of questions. Let us take the example of two students in the Spring of Grade 6 (6.7 or after the 7 month of the grade 6 year). Ken's test score in Language is 6.3. This means that his performance is what you would expect from a student after three months of grade 6, that is, slightly below where he should be. Naomi, in the same class, scores 8.5 in Mathematics. This means that she is doing as well as a student after 5 months of grade 8 would do on this test. However, this does not mean that Naomi is doing grade 8 work and should be moved up to the grade 8 program.

The advantage of the grade equivalent (GE) is that it shows students' progress from year to year. For example, with a GE of 3.8 at the end of three, Jason is average but by the end of grade 4, in which he misses a lot of time, his score has only increased to 4.5. Jason has an excellent year in grade 5 and his average GE is now 6.0. On the other hand, the grade equivalent can be confusing. If Jason's score is 6.5 at the end of grade five (better than many grade six students), then he may think he should be moved directly to grade 7, almost certainly not a good idea. The grade equivalent reflects relative performance on the curriculum measured. Jason's performance was measured on the grade five curriculum not the grade seven curriculum. One can have no confidence in how well Jason would perform in grade 7 because he has probably not been taught the concepts and skills of the grade 7 curriculum. Similarly, a sixth grade girl may be at the ninth grade level in Reading without having the maturity to tackle adult books.

# Calvary Christian School Cat 3 Standardized Testing Results Class Averages - Spring 2009

