

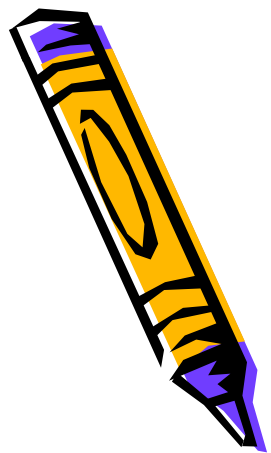
Ontario Secondary School  
Literacy Test  
Parent Information  
Night

St. Peter's Catholic Secondary  
School

# Prayer

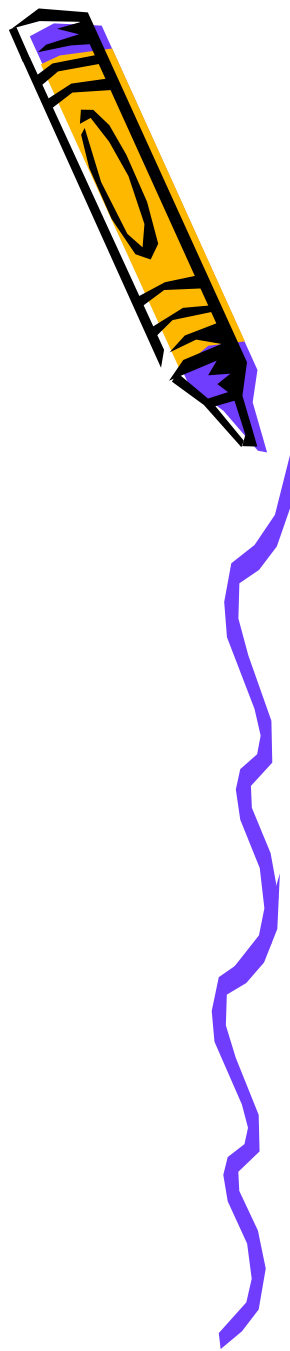
God, our Creator, You give us life and support us with love. Send your Spirit of compassion to dwell in our midst as we meet here today. May we be mindful of the needs of all in our community and help us to honor one another in a courteous manner.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



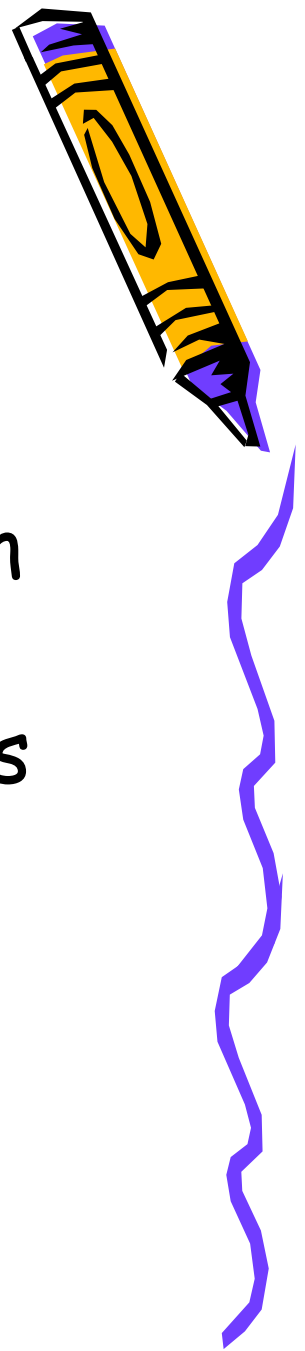
# Agenda

- What is it? Who? Why? When?
- Format
- Sample Task
- Skills Required
- School Results
- Preparing for the Test
- Questions



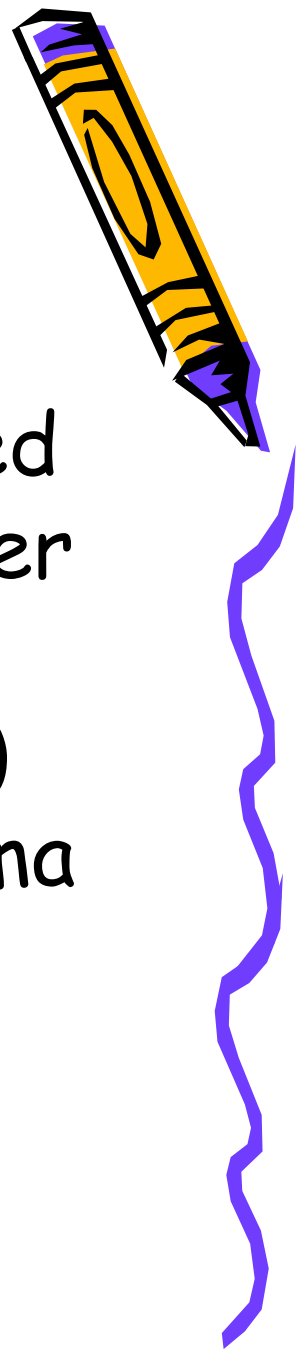
# What is the OSSLT?

- The Grade 10 test is based on the reading and writing expectations in all subject areas up to the end of Grade 9. These skills are the basis for learning in all subject areas throughout both elementary and secondary school.

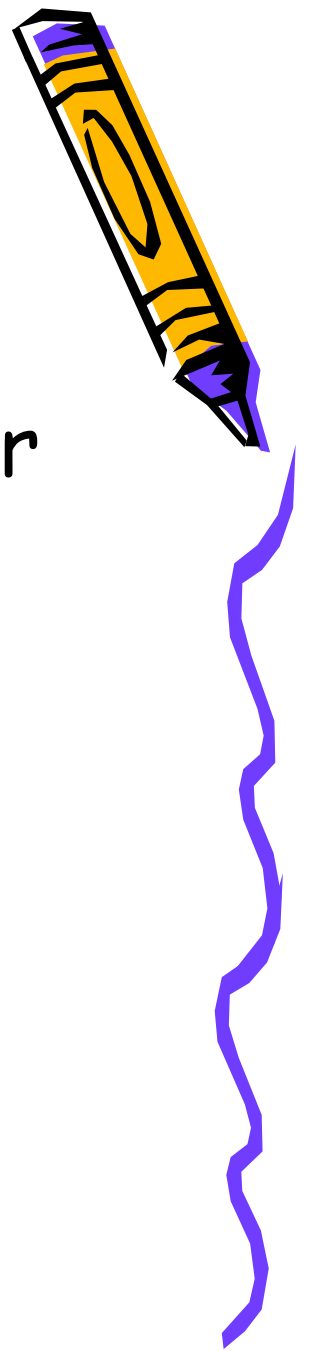


# Who has to write it?

- All students in Ontario who entered Grade 9 in September 2000 or later and are working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) must write this test. It is a diploma requirement.



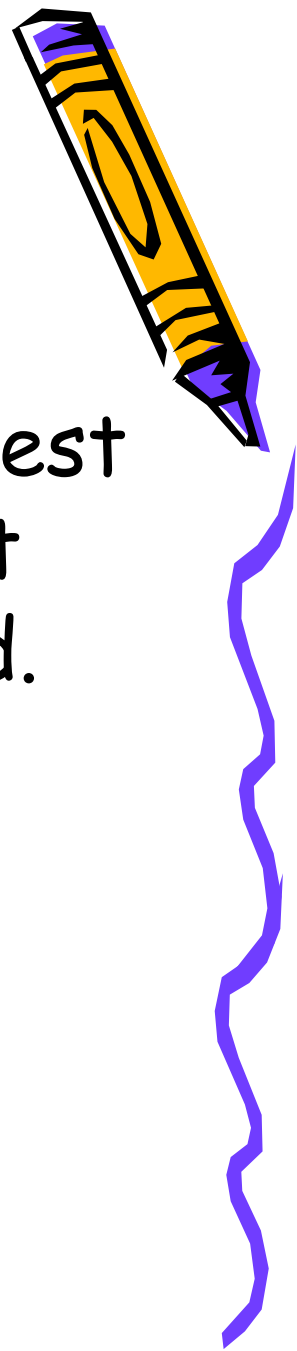
# Why is it written in Grade 10?



- It shows students how strong their literacy skills are while they still have time to improve them before finishing high school.



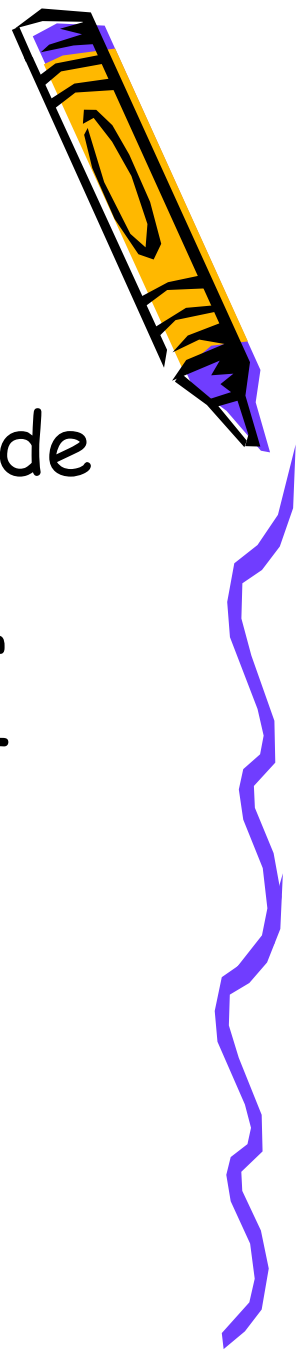
# What about students on an IEP?



- The standard and content of the test cannot be modified for anyone, but the test conditions can be changed. Students will be provided with accommodations as specified by EQAO when documented in their Individual Education Plan (IEP).



# Can students who are not ready be exempted from writing the test?



- Parents and/or Principals may decide it is in a student's best interest to defer writing the test until a later date. For example, an ELL student may need more time to develop language skills before writing the test.





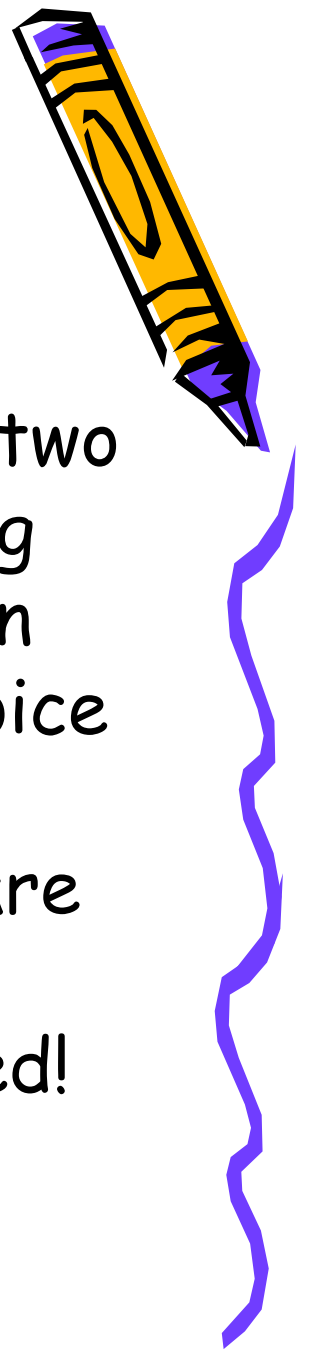
# OSSLT Format



- The test includes four test booklets (two which are *Question Booklets* and two which are *Answer Booklets*) which contain reading and writing activities. In total, there are five reading passages, 39 multiple choice questions, and eight written response questions, including six short answer and two long writing tasks.



# OSSLT Format

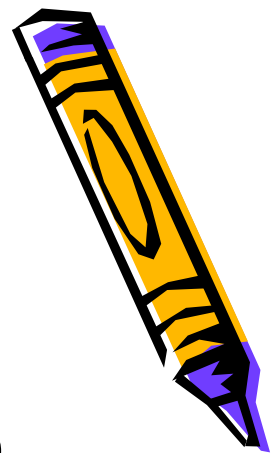


- For each session students will be given two booklets: a **Question Booklet** containing all reading and writing activities AND an **Answer Booklet** containing Multiple Choice bubbles and lines for writing short and long answers + rough space. Students are to put answers in the Answer Booklet ONLY or their efforts will not be scored!



# How long is the test?

- The test is administered in two 75 minute sessions (with a 15 minute break between each session) for a total test-taking time of 2-1/2 hours. Students will be provided with a light snack during the break (granola bar and juice).



# What is the exact date of the test?



- The test will take place on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at the school. It will take place in the morning. It will begin at approximately 8:15 am and will end at approximately 11:00 am. The rest of the student body will be on a modified school day.



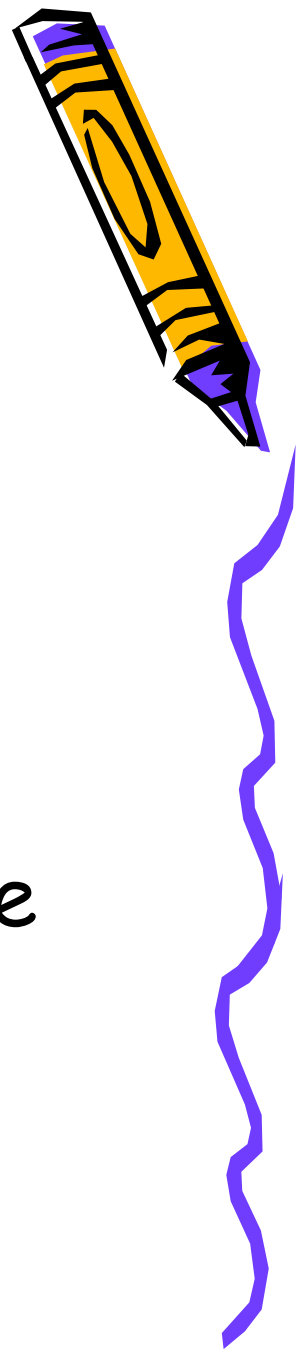
# Reading Tasks



- Students will read five different passages, covering a range of topics. They vary in length from a single paragraph to two pages. Selections include the following: *Information Paragraph, News Report, Dialogue, Real-Life Narrative, & Graphic Text.*



# Students will answer comprehension questions to demonstrate they can:



- understand *explicitly* stated information and ideas
- understand *implicitly* stated information and ideas
- make *personal connections* with the text



Let's try a reading task!

Sample Graphic Text

How did you do?



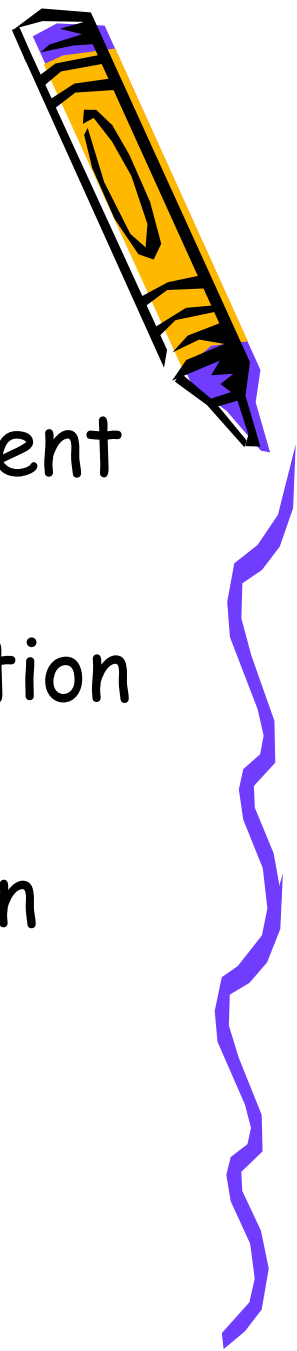
# Writing Tasks

- Students must complete several writing tasks including: two long writing samples (a one-page *News Report* and a two-page *Opinion Piece*), six short writing tasks with a six line response, and 39 multiple choice questions.





# Student writing must demonstrate skill in:

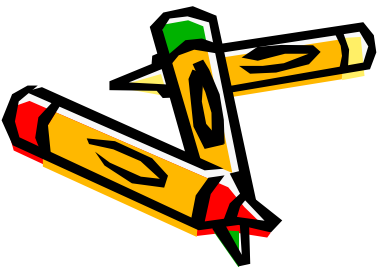
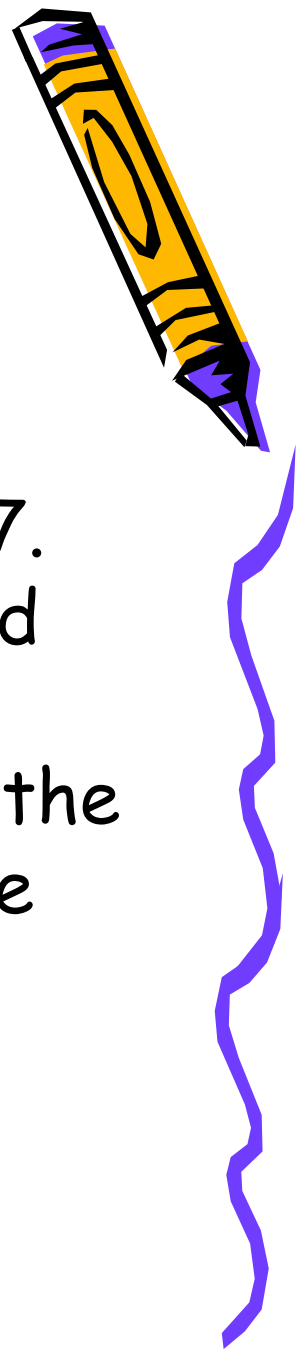


- developing a main idea with sufficient supporting details
- organizing and connecting information and ideas
- using correct grammar, punctuation and spelling



# When do students find out how they did on the test?

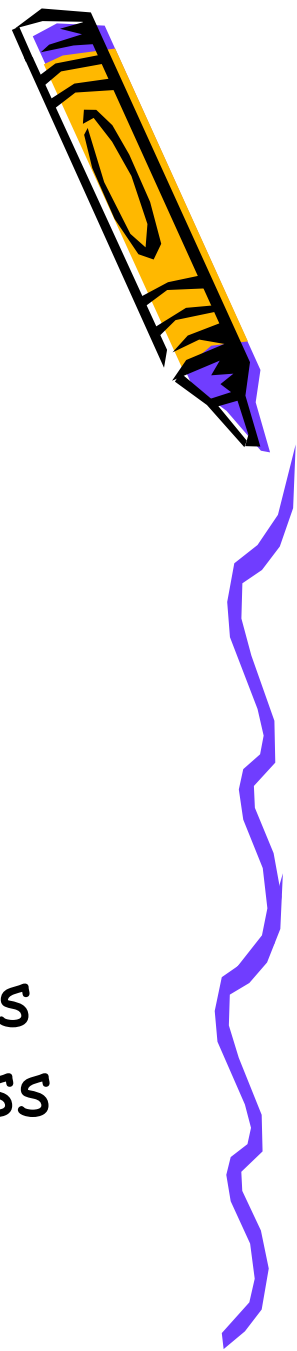
- Each student will receive his or her Individual Student Report by June 2017. The report indicates if a student passed or was unsuccessful. A student must receive a score of 300 or more to pass the test. Unsuccessful students will receive feedback about the skills they need to work on to pass the test again.



# Our School Results for past four years

2012 - 2013	84% passed
2013 - 2014	82% passed
2014 - 2015	84% passed
2015 - 2016	80% passed

This demonstrates that our school falls in line with the provincial average in pass rates.





# What happens to students who do not pass the test?

- Students may retake the test the following year (Gr. 11). For some students, the best option is to take the Grade 12 Literacy Course (OLC40) and receive direct instruction in needed areas while earning an additional credit towards graduation.



# What can parents and students do to prepare?



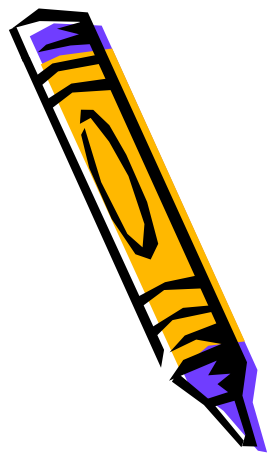
Parents can:

- ensure your child reads regularly
- talk with your child about what they are reading
- ask for their opinions and encourage them to provide good reasons to support their point of view



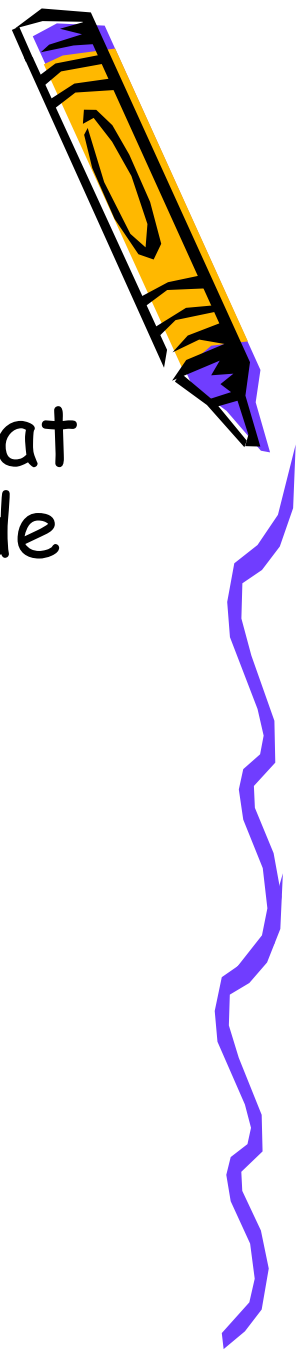
# Parents can:

- suggest their child read the newspaper and then summarize an article they found interesting
- go to [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com) and complete the sample questions provided



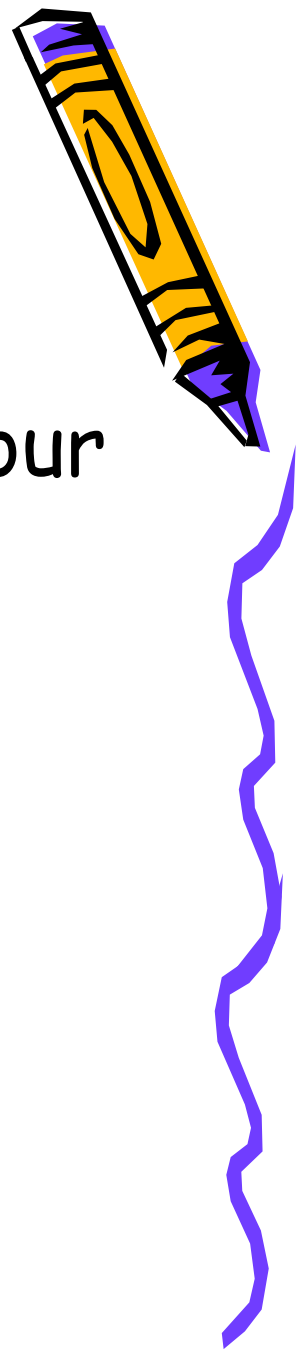
# Students can:

- read every day and think about what the authors said and how they made their points
- attend school regularly
- complete the practice booklets provided by the school and attend the free After-school Literacy Course



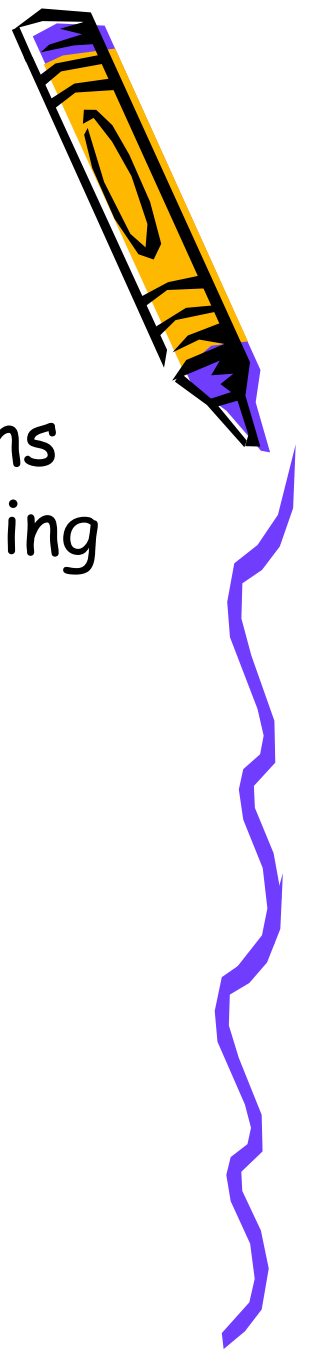
# Students can:

- discuss concerns/questions with your teachers
- discipline yourself to read all instructions before completing questions on tests or assignments





# How will the school prepare your child for the OSSLT?



- 1) **After-school Literacy Course** - begins in February and runs for 6 weeks leading up to the test date
- 2) **Literacy Lunches** - every day in the Student Support Centre (Rm 170) and the Learning Commons, students may complete sample task booklets and receive one-on-one support



## School support cont'd

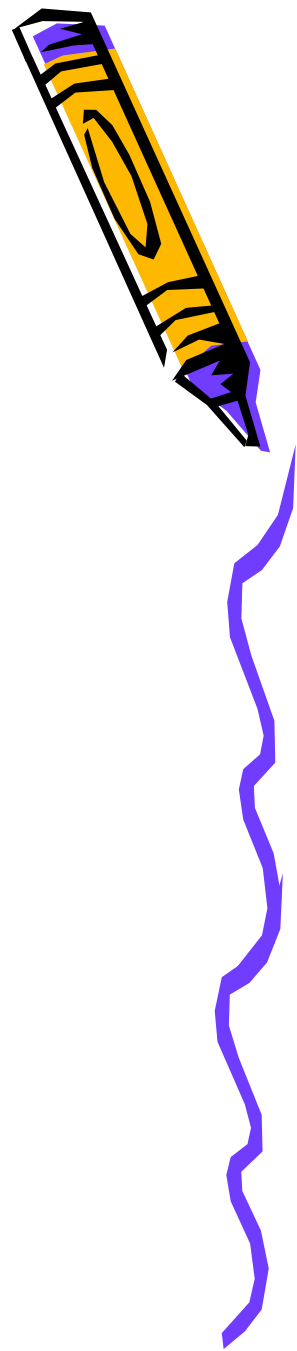


- 3) **In-class practice dates:** Every Gr. 10 student will receive a two-week test preparation package which they will complete with their various Gr. 10 teachers over the course of two weeks leading up to the test date



# EQAO Website

The OSSLT is one of the EQAO assessments given to Ontario students. Visit [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com) for sample questions, student tips and other resources.



# Any questions?

Thank you for coming to our OSSLT  
Parent Information Session.

We hope you will encourage your child  
to participate in all practice sessions  
provided by the school and  
to continue to read daily.

God Bless!

