



SOUTHWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL

30 Southwood Drive, Cambridge, Ontario N1S 4K3 (519) 621-5920

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March 21, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

On **Thursday, March 31st**, grade 10 students will write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), as well as senior students who have yet to complete this graduation requirement.

The Literacy Test, administered by Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), is used to determine whether a student has the literacy (reading and writing) skills required to meet the standard for understanding reading selections and communicating in a variety of writing forms expected by *The Ontario Curriculum* across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. The successful completion of this test or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course is a requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

In order to create a positive environment that will optimize the conditions for successful completion of the OSSLT, the instructional school day for all students at SSS has been modified. The following is the timetable for March 31st:

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|----------------------------|---|
| 8:20 am – 11:30 am | Literacy Test |
| 11:30 pm – 12:25 pm | Lunch |
| 12:25 pm – 1:25 pm | Tutorial Session A for Periods 1 and 2 |
| 1:25 pm – 2:25 pm | Tutorial Session B for Periods 3 and 4 |

It is important to note the following about the day's structure:

- Students not writing the test will only have access to the cafeteria while the test is in progress for quiet, independent study. As most school staff will be involved in administering the test, there will be no regular classroom instruction in the morning. The library will be unavailable during the morning. Buses will run only at their regular times.
- Once regular administration of the test has been completed, teachers will be available in the afternoon to provide all students with tutorial assistance in all subjects and at all grade levels. Teachers will announce to their students, and post in their classrooms, the location for their tutorial sessions. Regular attendance procedures remain in effect for this day.

These adjustments have been made across the Waterloo Region District School Board in order to facilitate the administration of the OSSLT in a manner that provides for the best conditions possible for the students who are writing. If you have any concerns or questions regarding the Literacy Test, or the schedule for March 31st, please feel free to contact Ms. Vida Collis (VP) at (519) 621-5920.

Semester 2 Midterm Reports will be sent home on **April 26th, 2016**

Sincerely,

Ms. Vida Collis
Vice-Principal, SSS

