

Regarding your October 31 editorial about my refusal to administer a test to my grade three students, it is shocking that so much misinformation could be included in one short editorial piece. In fact, in one single sentence, it contains many inaccuracies and untruths. The piece says, “No test was given, the child’s progress went unmeasured, the parents were left in the dark and the child learned that by crying and carrying on, he or she could get the adults to cave.” First, the test *was* given. After the school district directed me to do the test and decided to discipline me for refusing to do so, the district then directed my partner teacher to do the test. The children in my classroom were still subjected to the DART test. Second, the child’s progress *did not* go unmeasured. The children in my classroom are assessed and evaluated consistently and constantly in manners which are educationally sound, based on current research and practices. Third, the parents *were not* left in the dark. The test results are not reported to parents. They are not reported to children. They are used only for data collection to feed an accountability contract with the government. The parents in my class have access - every day and any time – to everything they need to know about the children in my class. Report cards, interviews, phone calls, emails and meetings keep them informed every step of the way. And last, the child *did not* learn anything from “crying and carrying on.” That child was in my class the year before when the test *was* given and data *was* submitted to the district. She was not excused from the test. It was the next year that I refused to administer the test. It is unfortunate that the writer of this editorial did not speak with me prior to writing this piece to ensure that the background information was accurate. These accusations are the basis for the writer’s conclusion that I exemplify the worst in teaching. I suggest that this writer ask the students in my class and their parents, my principal and my school district if they think that’s true.