



*"My question is: Are we making an impact?"*

JANUARY 1997

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

FEBRUARY 1997

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

# What Counts?

Dr. Jim Power, Principal  
Upper Canada College  
Toronto

# What do schools usually count?

- Test scores?
- University placement?
- The success of alumni?

# The Lamp Post

- What do we "see"?
- What is in the dark?

# Why Count?

- Accountability
- Guide school improvement and strategic plans
- Engage stakeholders
- Transparency

# Who Cares?

- Board of Governors
- Donors
- Alumni
- Parents

And.....

- Faculty and staff
- Students

# Quantitative Data

- Test scores
- University Placement
- Number of alumni who finish university



# Possibilities and Challenges Quantitative Data

- Can be limiting
- Tends to measure what is under the light of the lamp post
- The “high scores” you love...the next year the “low scores” .....

# Qualitative Data

- Stories
- Case Studies
- Observations

# Possibilities and Challenges

## Qualitative Data

- Adds a richness to “traditional counting”.
- Values the perspective of teachers and often, students.
- Can be viewed as “soft” and not based in fact.

# Communication

- Transparency about the use of survey and other data gathering.
- How to communicate?

# What Really Counts?

Dear Dr. Power,

We need to meet. We are not happy with this middle school idea. We want to talk to you about why this is not a good idea. We have a petition.

Zak