

ROSSER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2013 - 2014 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Our School Motto: "Start Strong; Grow Strong"

Technology

By June of 2014, 100% of Students will be using technology and 100% of staff will be infusing technology in their classrooms using a variety of tools and hardware.

Rosser School has twelve iPads, fourteen netbooks, eight computers, and four classrooms with interactive projectors for students to use.

All of our students are comfortable using the iPad technology. These devices are used during Math instruction, (for example, creating of videos for counting and real life action story problems), and drill, Language practice for spelling, forming printed letters and cursive writing correctly, finding information, and are also used to support our Kindergarten program. Students have used "Haiku Deck" and "Story maker" Apps in Writer's Workshop, and explored other communities using "Google Maps".

The netbooks and computers have been used to help students in Grade 1-4 search for information and insert real life pictures into their assignments, create PowerPoint presentations for a variety of subjects, word processing (including "Publishing" for Writer's Workshop), and learning about different technological software including "Comic Life". The Grade Three and Four Leadership Team members actively use technology on a regular monthly schedule when contributing to our school newsletters.

We are very fortunate to have all classrooms equipped with interactive projectors. Students in all grades are comfortable working with these technological devices.

We are very happy to have our Kindergarten Class on Twitter this year. You can follow Mrs. D's Kindergarten Class and their adventures by following [@mrsdkinders](https://twitter.com/mrsdkinders) on Twitter. They send out "tweets" throughout their school day.

Our school sends out emails of our newsletters, This Week at Rosser School, and many other informational notifications to 100% of our parents in the school community! Most calendars are sent via email and are on the school website as well.



Assessment

By June of 2014, all teachers will implement the Interlake School Division's Assessment Policy guidelines in conjunction with the new Manitoba Provincial Report Card.

Our students in Grades 1- 4 are engaged in the setting of goals from September until June and work towards achieving them. We begin our goal setting after students have settled in to the new routines of the classroom and/or grade. They are experts in collecting their evidence and sharing their growth with their parents at our reporting times. Students have opportunities to reflect upon their learning many times throughout the year.

All students are familiar with co-constructing criteria for assignments or projects they have in their classes in Kindergarten through to Grade Four. They are becoming more comfortable with this kind of 'checklist' to see if their work is on the right track. Students and teachers are beginning to set smaller learning goals for the lesson, day, and week. This is still developing as teachers are becoming more comfortable with this practice.

Our teachers have received professional development in 'Backwards Planning' and have begun to change how they teach courses that maximize student achievement and understanding. 'Backwards Planning' involves starting with looking at the outcomes that are necessary for the subject, then planning the assessments, and finally planning how the lessons will unfold with the outcomes and assessments in mind. Checking for understanding more frequently throughout the unit and providing feedback for all students is occurring on a more regular basis. This has resulted in greater success for all learners in the subjects that backwards planning has been used.

The Manitoba Provincial Report Card has been rolled out throughout the province this year. It was a major adjustment for our teachers to report to parents in every subject area as well as the learning behaviors. Our report card comments reflect a "strengths, challenges, and next steps" process in reporting student achievement to the parents.

We not only report to parents in the report card, but this year we have made over 275 positive parental contacts through phone calls, notes in the agendas, or happy notes sent home. We will continue to maintain this positive connection with our families.

Our teachers are becoming more familiar using "Grade Book" on PowerSchool. Next year, the PowerSchool Parent Portal is scheduled to open for parents in the fall. Watch for updates in the new school year on this exciting new communication tool between the school and home.

