



# Tanner's Crossing School

Rolling River School Division No.39

Phone: (204) 867-2591

Fax: (204) 867-2959

Email: tcs@rrsd.mb.ca

James Sheppard, Principal  
Matt Rapsky, Vice-Principal

Box 1110  
Minnedosa, MB

## School Plan Community Report, 2010-11

Dear Parents

It has been a busy and productive school year at Tanner's Crossing. 2010-11 was the first year of full grade one to grade six implementation of Multi-level Learning Communities. The staff continues to learn and adapt teaching strategies and techniques to best meet the needs of all students.

As a school team, we spent time during the year for group unit and lesson planning, professional development, and discussions about improving literacy and numeracy instruction. This will always be an ongoing process, and priorities for 2011-12 are in the area of school-wide Running Record training and assessment, the implementation of Numeracy Nets for Mathematics, as well as the development of Learner Profiles for our students.

### Communication

T.C.S. continues to use various methods of communication with parents. Agenda books, email, Synervoice messages, newsletters, the Minnedosa Tribune, notes home to parents, as well as the telephone are all being used to keep families up to speed on the busy realities of Tanner's Crossing. Our junior high teachers have also begun to create email distribution lists to keep parents aware of upcoming assignments and overdue work. Finally, teachers received some professional development and time to update their classroom web pages.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

Again this year, our students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities. In athletics, T.C.S. teams competed year-long in sports such as volleyball, basketball, track and field, badminton, softball, and many others. T.C.S. also held its first ever "Folklarama-rama", which saw students and staff create cultural pavilions from a variety of countries around the world, along with music and dance performances in the afternoon. The annual Christmas Concert, Band performances, and this year's spring musical, *Annie*, also wowed the crowds who came to watch. T.C.S. also reached a milestone in 2011, celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. An afternoon event was hosted by T.C.S. which involved a retrospective look at education over the last 40 years (featuring our students acting out skits), former teachers and administrators, and of course, cake!

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## Community Service

T.C.S. continues to support both local and global causes. Fundraising this year involved support for a local family whose house was lost to fire, and our foster children. Students also participated in clean-up initiatives both on the school ground and in town. Classes regularly visited the personal care home, and the Let's Stop it Now (LS!N) anti-bullying club was started, volunteering their time at the Minnedosa United Church.

## Physical Education

The physical education program at Tanner's Crossing School continued to fulfill provincially mandated time allotments. The program offered instruction in basic movement skills, game strategies, individual and team activities and sports, as well as alternative pursuits such as dance, rhythmic/gymnastic activities and fitness activities.

## Assessment

Our Junior High teachers piloted authentic assessments with our grade seven and eight students. With no exemptions, all students were required to complete final "exams", but the nature of these assessments varied from traditional "pen and paper" tasks. Students created projects, responded to literature, poetry, and film, as well as wrote typical final exams.

All junior high students were also required to complete all summative assessments assigned by their teachers. Simply "taking a zero" for unfinished work is no longer acceptable. In order to allow students the opportunity to complete work, "Homework Club" was started. Two noon hours a week, a classroom and at least one teacher was made available for students to work on outstanding assignments.

Teachers at T.C.S. continue to focus on assessing students based on curricular outcomes as prescribed by Manitoba Education. This concentration on the end result, rather than the task itself, allows teachers the flexibility to adapt student work to meet their personal interests (within reason), ideally making "the work" more interesting and engaging for students.

## Concluding Remarks

I would like to wish our grade eight students the best of luck next year as they move on to M.C.I. I would also like to thank the parents and the Minnedosa community for the ongoing support in our efforts to provide the best quality education for our children.

James Sheppard  
Principal  
Tanner's Crossing School