



ROLLING RIVER SCHOOL DIVISION

Sustainable Future

The definition of a sustainable future conjures up a great many opinions. In order to focus our thinking we will use three definitions that have been taken from a variety of places and people.

“Meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Brundtland Commission 1987

“The possibility that human and other forms of life on earth will flourish forever.” John Shrenfeld, Professor Emeritus, MIT

“Enough – for all – forever.” African Delegate to the World Summit for Sustainable Development, Johannesburg 2002

Current thinking on a sustainable future divides it into three main areas: 1) economic (good jobs, fair wages, security, infrastructure, fair trade), 2) environment (0% pollution and waste, renewable energy, conservation restoration), 3) social (working conditions, health services, education services, community and culture, social justice). When we view these three areas and all they include, there is a great deal for us to learn with our children and to spark their passion for a sustainable future. It is no simple task when we consider the far reaching implications these three areas have for us if we are to make our world sustainable.

Today, even though sustainability education has numerous possibilities and applications that need to be addressed both on a Divisional level and with our students, there are five major “storm fronts” that immediately impact our world: facing our world at this time: waste, toxicity and health; species extinction and overheating; climate changes and energy crisis; poverty and social justice; and food and water crises. These five major topics require solutions and resolutions, and our students who represent our future, need to understand and weigh in on these issues if we are to have any possibility of a sustainable future.