

Riverwood Academy

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School Report

2004 – 2005

Principal

Paula Sweetapple

B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed

Vice Principal

Wayne Gillingham

Principal's Report

2004 – 2005

It is difficult to believe that the school year has flown by so quickly. It seems like only yesterday that the staff of Riverwood Academy was welcoming students back to school. We feel that this school year has been very successful for Riverwood Academy. I have really enjoyed my first year as principal of Riverwood Academy and look forward to many more. We are all confident here at Riverwood Academy that there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow and we aim to reach that gold.

The 2004 -2005 school year at Riverwood Academy has been a very productive year. We have seen 11 new staff members join RWA this year and of course with new people came new and differing ideas. This has certainly caused some changes in the way we do things at Riverwood and for the most part those changes have meant a more positive atmosphere for our school.

The staff of Riverwood Academy has worked very hard to ensure that the programs offered at our school meets the needs of all our students. We acknowledge that there are many needs to be met and we are confident with the implementation of our three year plan success will be achieved. With the introduction of our new 'Principles of Success' policy handbook and the development of a teacher Resource guide we are able to handle the many different situations that we encounter consistently.

We are proud to say that both the academic and extra-curricular year at Riverwood as been both productive and successful. Students have worked to their potential and we hope to continue to see that potential grow.

This report will outline pertinent information regarding the quality of school life offered to students of Riverwood Academy. It will highlight many areas of achievement as well as highlighting different goal set to ensure continued academic success.

Yours in Education,

Paula Sweetapple

Paula Sweetapple
Principal

“The greatest glory is not in never failing; But in rising every time you fall.”

The mission of Riverwood Academy is to provide and foster an environment whereby all students develop to their fullest potential, recognizing their individual needs and the resources available. River Academy also promotes a safe and caring environment in which all learners can achieve their full personal, moral and academic potential in an atmosphere of mutual respect and community pride.

Overview of School

Our School Community

Riverwood Academy is a part of the new Nova Central School District, which has seventy-five (75) schools with a total of approximately fifteen thousand (15,000) students, living in approximately 170 communities. Our school currently has an enrolment of 335 students and offers grades Kindergarten to Level III. The average class size is 23.4 students and 18 percent of our student population is receiving special services support. Our school serves the communities of Harris Point, George's Point, Clarkes Head, Wing's Point, Victoria Cove, Roger's Cove, Horwood, Stoneville and Port Albert.

Riverwood Academy has a total of 24.5 teachers. Of these 24.5 teachers we have a ½ time music teacher, ½ time primary non-categorical teacher, ½ time Criteria "G" teacher, ¾ time Criteria "C" teacher, ¾ time junior/senior high non-categorical teacher, full time elementary non-categorical teacher and a ½ time literacy/numeracy teacher. We have a full time guidance counsellor as well as two teachers on staff who deliver the K-12 physical education program. As well we have a specialist in the area of learning resources and technology. We also have 4 Student Assistants. In addition to the staff based at Riverwood we also have itinerant services for speech-language pathology and educational psychology. Secretarial, maintenance, and custodial support services are also provided at our school.

Programs Provided

Riverwood Academy offers the provincially prescribed curriculum from Kindergarten to Grade 9. We offer the Intensive Core French Program to our Grade 6 students, this is our third year and by all accounts things are running smoothly. At the senior high level we are offering 40 courses plus Math 2205, 3205 and 3207 through CDLI as well as Chemistry 3202.

A Book Buddies Program was incorporated into the Peer Counseling 2101 course at Riverwood Academy. This involved students from Levels I - III becoming Book Buddies for children from Kindergarten to Grade 3. This program worked well in our K-12 school. Not only was it successful in helping the "little buddies" with their reading, but it helped to improve relationships between younger and older students in our school.

The program started in February with the Peer Counseling students learning and discussing what Book Buddies was, how the program worked, as well as what the possible benefits were for the

individual student and the school as a whole. The “big buddies” made writing journals for the “little buddies” to write in after each session. The “big buddies” had a journal of their own to record their thoughts, feelings, and experiences for each session.

At the end of the program Angie Noseworthy (teacher) could see a difference in how the younger and older students were relating to each other. The nervousness that was witnessed at the beginning had melted into comfortable friendships. The program ended with a party for “big buddies” and “little buddies” (as well as their teachers). Overall, the program was a tremendous success.

The following are some of the thoughts and feelings the “big buddies” shared in their journals:

- “Our relationship changed a lot since we first met. She is comfortable to read all by herself now.” (Amy, Level III)
- “I would have to say that this is a good learning experience for all the children ... the children learn that the older kids are there to help them and to teach them if they need it.” (Dylan, Level III)
- “I really enjoy this book buddies program because I believe it is a learning experience for both me and [the younger students] because it improves their reading skills and improves my relationship with children.” (Chantal, Level I)
- “I am going to miss her when we [finish] school. I’ll miss reading to her.” (Kayla, Level III)
- “Some of my book buddies even now talk to me on the bus, but before they were really shy.” (Mitchell, Level III)

These comments illustrate that the program meant a great deal to the “big buddies”. It has made the relationship between high school students and primary students comfortable and natural, which is sometimes a challenge in a K-12 school.

ISSP teams are in place for all students at Riverwood Academy. There is good partnering with outside agencies such as Health and Community Services, Public Health, clinical psychologist as well as other agencies. Pathway team meetings are held on a regular basis and whenever a special need arises. Pathway students are carefully monitored and supports are in place wherever needed. We have had a very successful year in relation to our ISSP’s, there were many not up-to-date in September but we are proud to say that all have been updated as well most referrals for assessment have been approved and the testing process has begun.

Key Highlights/Special Projects

Riverwood has been extremely busy this year along with focusing on the academics we had a lot of extra curricular activities that students participated in.

- 1) **Badminton** – this was the first year that Riverwood Academy had a badminton club. We met every Thursday for approximately 1 ½ hours. Our group consisted of Grade 8 and 9 students and although we did not compete this year, we have made great improvements and hope to be a competitive team next season.
- 2) **St. John's Field Trip/Skills Canada** – this past may 11 Level I and II students took part in a field trip to St. John's. While there we competed in the Skills Canada competition, toured memorial University of Newfoundland, Marine Institute and College of the North Atlantic. We also were given guided tours of the Johnson GeoCenter and the Fluvarium. While in St. John's we stayed at the MUN residence, this was an interesting experience for all. We had a fast-paced, fun-filled trip which was enjoyed by all. This trip was made possible due to the fact that our school took advantage of the Intra Provincial Travel Program and received \$1200.00 for travel to St. John's.
- 3) **Graduation** – graduation took place on Friday, June 3rd, 2005, the church service at the Wing's Point Pentecostal tabernacle was a lovely ceremony which included the valedictorian's speech as well all around student awards were presented. This year's valedictorian was Samantha Bursey with all around student awards going to Jennifer Hodrrr, Mitchell Gillingham and Steven Hodder. After the church ceremony we proceeded to the school gymnasium for our meal; which was catered by the Firettes. During the evening there were many inspiring toasts and speeches which included a message from Mr. Lindsey Rideout who was the evening guest speaker.
- 4) **Safe Grad** – this year marks the very first time that RWA hosted a Safe Grad. This initiative was spear-headed by a parent committee which included Deborah Bursey, Juanita Edwards, Wanda Bursey and Darlene Hodder. Our activities were a late night movie, followed by glow bowling, snacks and swimming. There were many memorable moments.
- 5) **Montreal Trip** – the Level I French 2200 class participated in a French cultural trip to Montreal. They participated in many different activities which were both educational and fun-filled. There was a tremendous amount of fundraising that had to take place in order to ensure that this trip was possible. Many thanks to Ms. Anstey and both the parents and students who participated in this memorable event. Also, thanks to all the community members who helped to make this possible.
- 6) **Blou** – students enrolled in French 2200 and 3200 as well as our ICF students attended a concert at the Gander Arts and Culture center. It was a music concert in French by an Acadian band.
- 7) **Senior Boys Volleyball**- this year our senior boy's volleyball team participated in many tournaments across the province. The season began with numerous exhibition games and practices. The first success that they encountered was achieving a silver medal at the *Papermaking Invitational Tournament* in Grand Falls-Windsor. They later competed and respectively placed in *Gander's Pepsi Invitational Tournament*. From the experience gained through the preceding activities they succeeded over Lumsden to qualify for this year's provincial playoff. Through numerous fundraisers the team raised sufficient funds to travel to Roddington. Here their previous hard work and dedication paid off as they earned this **year's provincial title**. As a symbol of such achievement the school has raised the provincial banner to honor these individuals devotion to the school.

- 8) **Student Council** - this year the students of Riverwood Academy showed vast interest in supporting a student council. Many decisions and fundraisers were scheduled throughout the year to promote this student leadership. Many activities such as Winter Carnival, Hat Days, Matchmaker, and various other fundraisers were conducted. Students also had the opportunity to participate in the Provincial Leadership Conference in Bonavista. They had a great time and are looking forward to participating in the Conference this fall in Grand Falls –Windsor.
- 9) **Ski Trip** - another activity this past school season was a ski trip to White Hills in Clarendville. A bus load of students traveled to the ski slope for a fun filled day of skiing. The weather cooperated and there were no injuries which added to the success of the trip.
- 10) **Cardboard Boat Race** - a team was selected to travel to Gander for this year's annual cardboard boat race. Students used many problem solving and engineering concepts to develop and construct cardboard boats. Students worked in small teams to create these projects. They later got into the boats and rowed the length of the pool. This was followed by placing several students in them for a weight test. Students learned many things about many naval architect and physics concepts. The trip not only proved to be enjoyable but very educational.
- 11) **Science Fairs** - junior high students of Riverwood Academy displayed their scientific knowledge in this year's science fair. From the junior high students three groups were selected to represent our school at the district science fair. One of these groups was awarded a silver medal for their creative project. This group also received an X-wave communication for technological innovation.
- 12) **Website Initial Stage** - a website to display all aspects of the school and community is in progress. The websites focus will be to provide an educational tool while bridging the gap between the school and its communities. Although it is in its initial stages it will provide an invaluable asset to our school.
- 13) **Business Fair** - students from the Enterprise Education 3205 class created unique business ideas. Throughout the year they were encouraged to explore new and creative ways to further pursue their ideas. Students also learned fundamentals of creating business plans as they may decide to pursue these or similar ideas in the future. As the class commenced students also created presentation boards and displayed their enterprises to the general public.
- 14) **School Clothing** - this year school clothing was sold to promote school spirit of our school. Many students eagerly placed orders to illustrate their desire for such spirit.
- 15) **New Technology** - throughout the year many new technological devices were added to the school. A new multimedia projector was purchased at the beginning of the year. This device allows teachers to present numerous presentations and the use of the internet to the classroom. Several presentations using this device were displayed throughout the year such as on Remembrance Day, awards, Christmas, and graduation ceremonies. The science lab has also purchased two computers equipped for internet use, word processing and power point viewing and creation. This resource will continue to grow until there is a functional mini computer network in the science lab.
- 16) **Spring Variety Show** – we held our first annual spring variety show. This was a fund-raiser event to aid us in paying for the new computer system we purchased this school year.

- 17) **Intensive Core French** – the Grade 6 ICF class has participated in many exciting activities during the school year. Their first public event was during the Remembrance Day concert when they sang ‘O Canada’ in French. They also held a Carnival for Kindergarten to Grade 3 students. It was a cumulative activity for the unit “Carnival du Quebec/Fêtons l’hiver”. The students enjoyed a bouncy castle, games and food. As a class they also ate yummy syrop d’érable and crepes. On a passé une bonne année.
- 18) **Senior Girls Volleyball** – this year the girl’s team participated in a number of tournaments throughout the season. They won a tournament in Glenwood and had lots of practice time with the Cramenville team. We are looking forward to next year.
- 19) **Track and Field/Festival of Sport** – 50 Grade 8 & 9 students participated in the Track and Field meet in Gambo in October. This was a non-competitive event. This year as well we competed in a competitive track and field meet for grades 7 to 12. We sent 30 athletes of all ages to compete, we placed 4th overall and brought home many individual awards. Julie Warren was selected as the midget girls MVP for her strong showing in all of her events.
- 20) **Grade 8 & 9 Field Trip** – students traveled to Gander to watch a play on ‘Bullying’ as well in the spring they traveled to Gander for a day of fun at the Arts and Culture Swimming Pool.
- 21) **Boy’s SloPitch** – we fielded a competitive team at the SSNL qualifiers.
- 22) **Senior Boy’s Basketball** – we attended the SSNL provincial Tournament.
- 23) **Junior Volleyball** – we had both a male and female team. Both groups participated in the “Busted Ball” Tournament in Twillingate. The boys brought home gold and the girls well very well. Both teams also participated in the SSNL Junior High Festival of Sport Tournament. Congratulations to Thomas Newman and David Collins on making the cut as members of the Provincial NLVA Midget Team.
- 24) **Junior Boy’s Basketball** – we played in several fair-play games as well as competing in the NLBA Midget Tournament.
- 25) **Swimming Program** – a success once again this year with 90% of our Grade 3 – 6 students participating in the program.

These are just a sampling of the many activities that took place at Riverwood during the 2004 – 2005 school year. We are extremely of our accomplishments.

The following highlights we are also extremely proud of due to the fact that these are all completed by our three Criteria “C” students with the help of their teacher Ms. Kimberly Power as well as their student assistants.

Read-A-Thon

On April 29 the Special Needs Class hosted RWA’s annual Read-A-Thon. This event involved the K-6 students who collected sponsors and raised a whopping \$4000.00 for our much needed sound system. The event took a vast amount of preparation and organizing which occurred months previous, then the children were given 3 weeks to collect sponsors. Special guests and performers were invited to attend our special event to read to the children.

This year we were lucky enough to have children's performer Terry Rielly join us as well as various professionals from our community including Corporal Turner, Stephanie Dawe (Public Health), Ruth Down Robinson (NCSD), Tom Rideout, Kim Conway (performer) and Linda Bown (retired teacher). It brought many professionals and community members together for a worthwhile cause. This event not only promotes reading it also allows the special needs students to use important skills including photocopying, faxing, organizing and social skills, etc...

Cystic Fibrosis Glow Stick Sale

The week prior to Halloween the Special Needs Class sold various colored glow sticks in aid of Cystic Fibrosis. This event not only provided funds for a good cause it also provided my students with functional academic skills (counting & handling money). Overall, the sale was a big success.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Special Needs Students organized an Easter egg hunt for the K-3 students a few days prior to Easter vacation. It allowed my students to socialize and interact with the younger students in the school while providing a fun and exciting activity for our primary section.

Recycling

The Special Needs Students collected recycling items throughout the year. Bins were placed in various sites throughout the school and were collected on a weekly basis. The funds raised were used for various outings and to cover a variety of class expenses including groceries for Friday cook-ups, supplies, and computer equipment. It was often an extremely dirty job but it provided essential work skills and raised needed money for the class.

Partnerships

There are two key partnerships that our school is involved with. They are: 1) Family Resource Center and 2) Breakfast Program. The family Resource Center has a room in our school where programs are offered such as Pre-School, the Baby Club Program just to name a couple. This year we also started a Breakfast program at RWA. It takes place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This program has been a tremendous success, we see approximately 75% of our students taking advantage of this program. It will definitely begin again in September.

Our school receives tremendous support from the School Council, which is two parent organizations that exist for our school. We also have a student council, which is active in

bringing student issues to the forefront. Most issues that affect our students, staff or general operation of the school is discussed at some or all of these organizational meetings.

Report on School Development Plan for Previous Year

There have been many thoughts on school development for Riverwood Academy, due to the fact that there has been 4 new principals over a 5 year period has not allowed for a consistent plan to be put in place and followed through. Therefore, this year we concentrated on what we felt to be the most important aspects of school development:

- 1) Consistent discipline from teachers and administration as well as all teaching staff being aware of the administration's expectations for them.
- 2) "Hands Off – Feet Off" Policy for all students from Kindergarten to Level III.
- 3) Continue to strive for an improved work ethic and the attitude of many RWA students.
- 4) Improved results on CRT's, Public Exams as well as all other courses. This will be an on-going goal over the next three to five years.

We will monitor progress in all of the above mentioned areas over the next three to five years but we feel that # 1 and # 2 has been achieved for the most part this school year. These have been successful with the implementation of "Principles of Success" as well as a "Teacher's Resource Guide". This allows all students and staff to know what is expected of them at Riverwood Academy. For any goal or plan to be a success all stakeholders need to be involved and know their expectations.

Goals # 3 and # 4 will be extended on in the new school year (2005 -2006) as well as a more developed School Development Plan will be put in place. We are planning a 1 ½ to 2 day retreat to Max Simms Camp to ensure a plan is put into place and implementation begins during the 2005-2006 school year.

Analysis of Key Statistics for Current Year

Student Enrolment

		Student Enrolment		
2001 - 2002	2002 - 2003	2003 - 2004	2004 - 2005	2005 – 2006 (Projected)
326	341	348	328	337

Grade 3 CRT Results – 2003 - 2004 School Year

How well students have achieved the curriculum outcomes of various provincial programs is measured using Criterion Reference Tests. Each test is composed of subtests that focus on different aspects of the curriculum.

L.A.N.G.U.A.G.E. A.R.T.S

Demand Writing

75% of students performed at level 3, there were no higher levels attained.

Reading: Constructed Response Section

Narrative – 83% of students scored at level 2, there was no higher levels attained.

Informational – 8% of students scored at level 3, there were no higher levels attained.

Poetic – 25 % of students scored at level 3, there was no higher levels attained.

Visual - 8 % of students scored at level 3, there was no higher levels attained.

Listening – 19% of students scored at level 3, there was no higher levels attained.

<i>Multiple Choice</i>	<i>School Summary</i>	<i>District Summary</i>	<i>Provincial Summary</i>
<i>Reading(100)</i>	39.2	71	71
<i>Listening (3)</i>	2.2	2.7	2.7

It is obvious by looking at these statistics that the Grade 3 students of 2003 -2004 school year struggled with the Language Arts CRT. We are well below district and provincial average. This is a continuing trend which needs to be corrected. With the help of our **Literacy/Numeracy Support Teacher** and the development of a **Primary Team** there will be an improvement seen over the next three years. This is not an issue that can be fixed by one person but rather with a team approach. Consistency in staff members will be an asset as well as educating people on the importance of these tests this should help to rectify the academic problems we are experiencing at RWA.

It is obvious that one of the issues around our lack of success on the Language Arts CRT's is the reading level that our Primary students are at when entering Grade 3. In June of 2004 there was an observation survey completed on our Grade 1 students, the results are as follows:

- Number of students reading at or above end of Grade 1 Level (H – Z) = 9

Total number of students reading below grade level = 16

- Students reading between mid-grade and year end level (F – G) = 2
- Students reading below mid-grade level (A – E) = 9
- Students reading below level A = 5

Therefore, 64% of our Grade 1 students at the end of the 2003 -2004 school read were reading below grade level.

MATHS MATHS

Open Constructed Responses

Shape and Space – no students scored above level 2 in any of the categories and the highest percentage of scores fell in the level 1 range.

Number Concepts – no students scored above level 2 in any of the categories and the highest percentage of scores fell in the level 1 range.

Number Operations – no students scored above level 2 in any of the categories and the highest percentage of scores fell in the level 1 range.

<i>Multiple Choice</i>	<i>School Summary</i>	<i>District Summary</i>	<i>Provincial Summary</i>
<i>Pattern & Relations(6)</i>	2.3	3.5	3.5
<i>Data Management (4)</i>	1.6	2.8	2.9
<i>Shape & Space (9)</i>	3.8	5.9	6.1
<i>Number Concepts (7)</i>	2.9	4.2	4.3

<i>Constructed Responses</i>	<i>School Summary</i>	<i>District Summary</i>	<i>Provincial Summary</i>
<i>Number Operations (17)</i>	7.8	11.5	11.8
<i>Patterns and Relations (9)</i>	3.5	4.8	4.8
<i>Data Management (9)</i>	1.8	4.1	4.2

<i>Mental Math (5)</i>	0	2.9	2.8
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As can be seen our Grade 3 math CRT results are atrocious. Again with the assistance of our **Literacy/Numeracy Support Teacher** as well as the development of a **Primary Team** I feel that this can be rectified. This will not happen over night but with a lot of work and dedication I am confident that we will begin to see an improvement over the next three years. Also, with the introduction of PRIME at Riverwood there are extra supports in place to assist us in attaining our goal of academic success. Once we see an improvement at the primary level, we will then begin to see success at the elementary level as well as the junior high level.

Grade 6 CRT Results – 2003 - 2004 School Year

LANGUAGE ARTS

Demand Writing

48% of students performed at level 3 or higher.

Reading: Constructed Response Section

Narrative – 33% of students scored at level 3 or above.

Informational – 24% of students scored at level 3, there were no higher levels attained.

Poetic – 17 % of students scored at level 3, there was no higher levels attained.

Visual - 17 % of students scored at level 3, there was no higher levels attained.

Listening – 59% of students scored at level 2, there was no higher levels attained.

<i>Multiple Choice</i>	<i>School Summary</i>	<i>District Summary</i>	<i>Provincial Summary</i>
<i>Reading</i>	54.3	69.2	70.5
<i>Listening</i>	3.2	3.4	3.5

It is obvious by looking at these statistics that the Grade 6 students of 2003 -2004 school year struggled with the Language Arts CRT. We are well below district and provincial average. This is a continuing trend which needs to be corrected. This is not an issue that can be fixed by one person but rather with a team approach. Consistency in staff members will be an asset as well as educating people on the importance of these tests this should help to rectify the academic problems we are experiencing at RWA. As mentioned earlier, once we see an improvement at the primary level we will eventually see success at both the Grade 6 and Grade 9 level. It will obviously take a lot of time and dedication on everyone's part to achieve academic success at these levels. **I can not stress enough the importance of staff stability to help us reach our goal.**

*Grade 9 CRT Results – 2003 - 2004 School Year**LANGUAGE ARTS***Demand Writing**

91% of students performed at the adequate level, no students attained strong or outstanding.

Reading Activity 2

Narrative – 33% of students performed at the adequate level or higher.

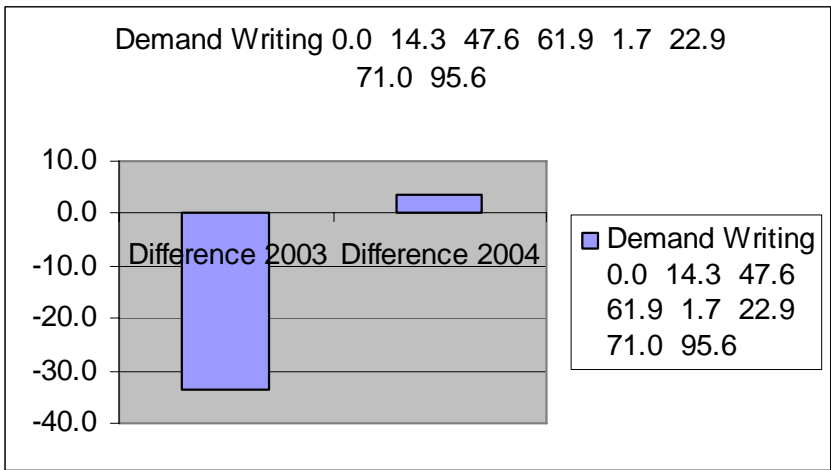
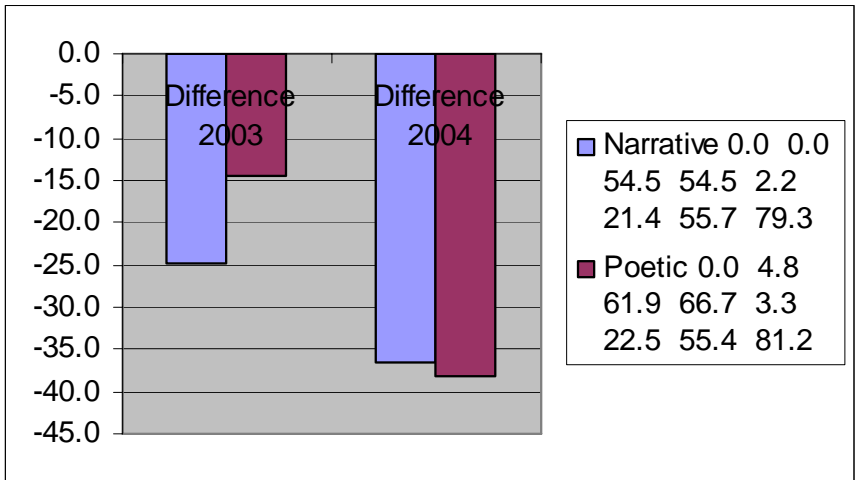
Poetic - 33% of students performed at the adequate level or higher.

<i>Reading</i>	<i>School Summary</i>	<i>District Summary</i>	<i>Provincial Summary</i>
<i>Narrative & Poetic</i>	70.0 %	64.5%	66.3%

Although our students scored above district and provincial average in the Narrative and Poetic in the Reading – Activity 1, it is obvious that overall we are still below district and provincial average with only 33% of our students fitting into the adequate or strong range. Most of our students scored in the limited range.

Riverwood Academy Grade 9

	Difference 2003	Difference 2004
Content	-23.2	
Organization	-27.5	
Sentence Fluency	-14.0	
Voice	-29.2	
Word Choice	-4.6	
Conventions	0.1	
Demand Writing	-33.7	3.6
Narrative	-24.8	-36.6
Informational	-22.5	
Poetic	-14.5	-38.2
Visual	-6.6	



Public Exam Results June 2004

Although during the 2003 – 2004 school year there were strategies put into place for teachers to incorporate in their class to improve overall student achievement specifically in public exam courses there does appear that more work needs to be done in this area. As a collective whole (administration, teachers, students and parents) we will need to be more diligent in ensuring that all possible measures be taken for success to become eminent. This is a long term goal but with perseverance it will be achieved.

English 3201

School – 74% passed with an average final mark of 57%
 Province – 93% passed with an average final mark of 65%

French 3200

School – 82% passed with an average final mark of 53%
Province – 98% passed with an average final mark of 73%

Mathematic 3204

School – 39% passed with an average final mark of 46%
Province – 75% passed with an average final mark of 60%

World Geography 3202

School – 100% passed with an average final mark of 72%
Province – 94% passed with an average final mark of 69%