

Survey Results Analysis

At the time this report was prepared, we had data available from one of our grade 2/1 classes, with 19 students and representing more than 19 households. Additional data will be gathered as the project continues.

There were 16 respondents. All respondents were able to access the VLE, and commented that they found the VLE easy to access. Most accessed the VLE using a computer (90+%) with the remaining using a tablet or mobile phone.

Only a small percentage signed up to receive notifications (email/text), but this was not an emphasized option during the initial parent information session.

Frequency of access was evenly divided 50/50 between monthly and weekly. No respondents replied that they accessed the VLE on a daily basis. Communication with parents, however, was supplemented by regular email and daily use of student agendas.

All respondents (100%) were able to view the images and videos posted to the portfolios and the home page, and all of the features (calendar, news events, portfolios, and curriculum resources) were found to be of value by more than 50% of respondents in all cases. Of great significance is the value placed on the portfolio component, with 93% finding it to be valuable.

During the initial trial, over two-thirds of the students added to their portfolios from home. All respondents reported that their children were “excited to share their classroom experiences and work with [them] using the VLE.”

Two open-response questions were asked, and the replies very favourably supported the project.

Parents appreciated the opportunity to “see inside the classroom,” and remain involved with their child’s learning. Learning from outside the school environment was much easier to share back into the classroom when students could add to their portfolios and then share back at a school.

How has the VLE helped you see your child and their learning this year?

- Keeps me more involved in the daily activities.
- We used the VLE to take pictures and videos of our family experiences at the ROM, Aquarium and Science Centre and my child was able to share with the class!!!
- [Our daughter] was very, very excited to add to it as soon as she learned we were going to a museum. She was more thoughtful and engaged because she wanted to make sure she could explain things to her friends later.
- I live in ... so it helps me with things I normally may not have being a separated family.
- By seeing the presentations made in class.
- It has allowed us to see and hear class events and school work that we cannot attend due to work and stuff that is not normally open to see during school time lessons!

- by being able to see her work and hear how she presented it
- The photos of class activities are so nice to see. Also being able to hear his speeches and oral presentations is very valuable to us as we are never able to make it into school to watch these presentations. I am an educator as well and I get to see (now as a parent) the pride that students have in their accomplishments... it is nice to see their side of learning.
- I get to see how she presents herself in front of her class.
- He shared postings with me and was excited to post new materials from school and home. He often shared his portfolio with extended family too and was very proud to have his learning posted where he could share it.
- Improve computer skills and confidence with speaking and being recorded.
- Helped with computer skills and confidence in speaking when being recorded.
- good resource to view what the children are learning in school

Parents suggest a number of areas where they would like to see improvement:

- mobile app could use some improvements
- raise awareness of option for notifications
- Include more video during student presentations
- difficulty in hearing the audio stored in the VLE

While the first is not an immediate area which we can address, we can certainly work to respond to the latter 3.

Parents continue to be interested in learning more. An opportunity for parents to find out more about the VLE early in the year will be valuable and something we will look into for the fall.