

**Principal's Report  
to the  
School Board**

We may have overscheduled events during the month of March. Despite our three Annual Town Meetings, we also conducted our Annual School Meeting where all warrant articles were passed by overwhelming margins. We formally thanked Christi Gignac for her ten years of service as both School Board Chairperson and SAU #35 Executive Board Vice Chair. Voted in to fill Christi's empty position was Joe Garrison who will represent Franconia on our School Board for the next three years.

Our fantastic Lafayette Parent/Teacher Organization (LPTO) funded our Dance Residency this past month. The NH Dance Institute, based in Keene, sent two instructors with tremendous energy to facilitate dance movement in all of our students. The culminating event showcased the many talents that our students have in this oftentimes overlooked area of movement education.

We actually completed all six of our scheduled Winter Program days with the help of our staff and many parent (& grandparent) chaperones. These important half-day outdoor opportunities teach students how to stay safe and warm while participating in winter sports. Growing up in the White Mountains of New Hampshire is certainly an unique experience. Being able to participate in all that our beautiful environment has to offer is a goal for all of our students.

Parent/Teacher Conferences were also held this month. These important conversations between parents and teachers focus on student progress as documented by the recent report cards that were sent home. As usual, we experienced an extremely high percentage of families participating in these conferences.

Peace Groups started back this month after a pandemic break these last few years. The theme this year is Zones of Regulation, a social/emotional program that helps students understand their feelings better and teaches what to do about those feelings when they occur. Research shows that high self-regulation in students leads to better social/emotional and academic outcomes.



Peace Groups also incorporates older students helping younger students as they explore the zones together. These multi-aged groupings are beneficial to all students.

Another initiative that we are currently engaged in is to improve our understanding and implement the Science of Reading practices into our reading instruction. We started these conversations last summer and currently, four teachers are engaged in the two-year LETRS course, two teachers are signing up for a summer Lesley University, Science of Reading course, and our new principal is signing up for the LETRS administration course. These seven teachers will help us move forward in upgrading our reading instruction. The purpose of these learning opportunities is to increase capacity for providing improved reading instruction (Structured Literacy), based on the science of how children learn to read. Even though New Hampshire has some of the highest reading scores in the nation, we can improve our instructional practices as a successful school in a successful state.

Our musical play, "Beauty and the Beast", was a phenomenal success, two weeks ago. Under the expert tutelage of Sarah Reeder, 41 students and multiple staff and parent volunteers all came together to produce an amazing musical show. All four performances were well attended with enthusiastic feedback from audience members. Many thanks go out to the "behind the scenes" volunteers that made this all come together so well.

Our multi-purpose room flooring project is complete. The 27 year old rug was removed and a rubberized floor surface installed, complete with a "Old Man of the Mountains" logo in center court. This new floor will be easier to clean and will last for a very long time. This project was made possible by using our federal grant dollars in ESSER II and III monies. With funds from an anonymous donor, we will also install a multi-media system in this room for large presentations.

Thank you for your continued support of all of our efforts here at Lafayette Regional School. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk  
Principal