

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

The relatively mild winter temperatures took a nasty turn last week and interrupted our carefully laid out Winter Program plans. Temperatures well below zero mandated serious consideration and thus, we did not go skiing or sledding and even had to initiate indoor recess, ugh. Part of our Winter Program is focused on how to stay warm and safe in the outdoors so a great lesson to be learned is when to change your plans and stay inside.

Our STAR testing took place during the month of January and the results will be reviewed at the February School Board meeting. These progress monitoring assessments are used by teachers to help identify gaps in learning and also to help align future instruction with students' needs identified. The January test results show significant progress from the September scores. Regression over the summer is clearly evident as are the teacher efforts over the past 5 months. A review of Lafayette's NH DOE's Report Card will also be included in our assessment discussion.

The Plymouth State University's theater group, TIGER (Theatre Integrating Guidance, Education, and Responsibility) visited Lafayette this past month to present a thrilling performance. Their presentation focused on teaching social emotional skills and empowering school aged children to make the right choices in difficult situations. Through song, dance, and interactions with their audience, these actors held our students' attention and engagement in a remarkable manner. Later, these same performers visited classrooms to answer questions and re-emphasize the importance of social emotional skill development. Thank you to our Lafayette Parent/Teacher Organization (LPTO) for funding this powerful learning opportunity for our whole school.

Our annual SOUPER BOWL is gaining momentum each passing day. This food/health products drive is a collection for our local food pantry. The competition between staff members and students is a fun one. The prize? A full day of wearing pajamas to school! It appears at this point in time that the kids are clearing winning. We are, however, wondering how many food cabinets and bathrooms are being raided by students without their parents knowing...?

Several committees are meeting on a regular basis during these winter months. Our Wellness Committee meets quarterly to discuss student and staff wellness issues. Our new water fountain dispensers, funded by state grants, are one example of this committee's work. The Safety Committee also is meeting these past few months to discuss emergency preparedness for situations such as fires, medical emergencies, and active shooters. Our local Fire and Police Chiefs are involved in these discussions and are familiar with the school's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which every school is required to submit to the state every year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this report or any other school related topic.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk  
Principal