Principal's Report
to the
School Board

As we get closer to the start of school it might be helpful to remind folks what happens during a typical summer. We experienced our major building renovation during April vacation (switching the entire building over to LED lighting), so we did not have any major construction projects this summer. We held summer school for approximately 15 students, the Lafayette Recreation summer program (65 kids), our annual summer book club (40-50 students), and Spanish club (12 students). Our maintenance department cleaned every nook and cranny around school and the school is looking spiffy! Parents are happy that the summer packets were ready by July 23rd (remember last year?) but the teachers are not as pleased because they don’t have their entire shipment of supplies, yet. Different priorities this summer, easy come, easy go!

The staff’s professional development activity this summer was well received by all teachers and focused on our writing program. The facilitator, Martha Dubuque, is a former teacher/principal from Vermont and has been working with our teachers for the past three years. Her expertise in teaching our teachers how to improve their writing instruction is outstanding. Exceptional outside consultants are often hard to find but with Ms. Dubuque we have found a teacher who takes us to the next level in instruction.

Our Emergency Operations planning is continuing and will incorporate input from police and fire departments as well as other local resources. Active shooter planning is being emphasized more these days as statistics indicate that more children are hurt or killed in school active shooting incidents than school fires. We will include parent communications as part of the process of active shooting drills at school.

We welcome Sara Hicks as our new reading specialist. She takes the place of Kathryn Anderson who retired in June after spending 20+ years at Lafayette. Gillian Cahill and Sarah Reeder join our staff as para-educators. Ms. Cahill is becoming a certified teacher and Mrs. Reeder taught mathematics in public schools in Philadelphia. Bruce King will be our newest night custodian.

The School Board will discuss the feasibility of installing an after-school care program here at Lafayette tonight. The documents and budget for review will be handed out at this meeting. It should be noted that this program will be proposed as a “stand alone” budget and will not impact either the school’s or town’s budgets.
Building and Grounds issues include the “cleanup” of our property that abuts the Hunt property. While they have started to clean up our portion of the property, there is still a huge amount of metal debris to clean up. They promise to continue to clean up this area.

Unforeseen costs continue in the operational portion of our budget such as backflow check valve inspections (brand new rule) and lead testing of school water (also new rule). There has been one complaint about our school traffic lights flashing during the summer. We will be working with the NH Department of Transportation to make sure we are complying with the interpretation of their various rules.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal