The mild weather of November made the quick transition to winter seem rather extreme. One week the students were out playing at recess with shirts and fleece on and the next they needed their ski pants/coats and boots. It’s hard to play soccer or four-square with snow boots on!

Report cards were sent home last week. We made the transition to competency-based reporting to parents this year. While the report cards may look different, many similarities are still evident. The purpose of the competency-based report card is to provide parents detailed feedback regarding the progress their child is making toward key learning outcomes. Competency-based reporting allows parents and students a clearer understanding of what is expected each trimester at each grade level. The staff thought that our previous report cards had certain strengths and were pleased with them but this new report card system is mandated by the state and thus, the transition to competency-based reporting. Interestingly, we have not heard any comments about these new report cards (positive or negative) to date.

Our First Lego League sixth graders had quite the eventful month. They placed high enough at their regional tournament in Concord to be invited to the state tournament. Traveling to Windham High School, a month later, was even more exciting as the competition was much stronger and the atmosphere was extremely competitive. Our two teams (all 23 sixth grade students participated) did an excellent job of representing our school even though they did not win any awards. They learned how to program robots, they learned how to research and write presentations, they learned how to communicate and cooperate, they learned how to present their thoughts as a team to a panel of judges, and they learned how to lose gracefully. My guess is that they will remember this competition for the rest of their lives!

Many thanks go to the members of our Budget Committee who dedicated five Friday afternoons towards reviewing our budget. The members were Denys Draper and Amy Mullins from our School Board, David McPhaul as a community member, Cindy and Tim Burnell as well as Kevin Low represented our parents, and Karen Marks and Toni Butterfield attended as staff members. I chaired this committee which also represented numerous business owners as well as residents. It is always challenging when putting together a fiscally responsible but educationally sound budget. These folks worked hard to maintain a quality elementary education while also looking for measures to reduce expenses.

Our Lafayette Parent/Teacher Organization (LPTO) is funding our annual Artist in Residency. This particular artist is more expensive than we expected. Toni Butterfield led the charge to gain the needed monies to make this all happen. Additional donations were received to help fund this
resident artist from Kast Hill Studio. Ms. Van Saun will facilitate our students in making a six panel, outdoor mural, made from mosaic glass pieces. Every student will be involved in some aspect of this residency and the end result will be a long standing project that will be placed on the brick wall facing the sculpture garden.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this report or the school in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal