The month of December with elementary-aged children is always a fun and exciting one. You can actually see the “visions of sugar plums” dancing in their heads! The early snow certainly made the holiday season even more enjoyable from a young person’s point of view. Our marvelous Lafayette Parent/Teacher Organization (LPTO) enhanced the festivities with their annual Recycle Sale. This event allows each student to buy presents for each member of their family at a cost of twenty-five cents. The LPTO “elves” then wrap each present and students go home with wrapped presents for everyone in their family. The smiles and excitement of giving, rather than receiving, are indicators that the spirit of the holidays is in full swing!

Our Winter Concert was fabulous with our new choral music teacher directing the vocal portion of the concert and the Whitney’s directing the instrumental part due to Sarah Ressler’s maternity leave. As can be expected with new teachers, we experience different song presentations, including the sixth graders playing the “drums” in the dark with glowing drumsticks. A number of audience members commented on how well the concert was performed.

We reinforce student to student mentorship in a variety of ways. This “win-win” combination occurs when our older students help our younger students complete projects or engage in other partner activities. Recently, our sixth graders helped the first graders build gingerbread houses. This exciting event allowed our 12 year olds to patiently help our 6 year olds in an engaging experience for both. Our older students also read holiday stories to the Peace Groups before vacation. The rapt attention from the younger students was truly a sight to behold!

The Winter Program start is fraught with weather related drawbacks. Last week, the temperatures of -23 degrees precluded us from going either to Franconia Notch (Alpine skiing) or Crawford Notch (Nordic skiing). This week doesn’t look to be much better as “heavy rains” are forecast for Friday morning. Our staff and students are ready, the chaperones are primed….now, if only the weather would cooperate!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this report or any other school related issue. Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful school.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal