Principal's Report  
to the  
School Board

The gloomy month of November is upon us with some sunny days interspersed among many gray and cloudy ones. The cooler temperatures at least have made the point to our young students to start to wear warmer clothing and finally put away their shorts. Before too long, winter snow pants, mittens, and hats will be the next challenge in appropriate recess attire.

The month of October was very exciting for our students. The Franconia and Sugar Hill Fire and Police Departments, and Life Squad held our annual Fire Prevention Activities for all students to learn and enjoy. Younger students were taught how to stay low to the floor in a smoky environment, other students visited the ambulance, and the older students were able to actually use a real fire hose to experience a firefighter’s perspective. These same departments also led and followed our Halloween Parade down Main Street, making sure that our entire student body was safe. Many thanks go out to these emergency responders for taking the time out of their busy schedules to help out our young students. We also visited our elderly neighbors at the Lafayette Center who greatly appreciated our costumes, before our parade, and welcomed the Lafayette Children’s Center preschoolers in joining our parade. Many community members came out to view our brilliant assemblage of princesses, Spidermans, ninjas, ballplayers, gorillas, and many more characters.

The fifth and sixth graders completed their Outdoor Education Program fall activities last week with a hike up to Lonesome Lake. This scenic trail is a steep climb to the lake which is surrounded by the Kinsman and Cannon peaks. Students conducted field studies along the way and ate lunch near the Lonesome Lake AMC Hut. Many parent chaperones made this trip possible. We will be continuing this program in the spring with a trip to the Squam Lake Science Center to study field and lake ecology. The culminating activity is a trip to Boston for a whale watching experience on the New England Aquarium boats.

Our sixth graders are competing in the regional First Lego League (FLL) tournament at the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College on Saturday. We are bringing two teams to this event, one solving the problem of the white-nosed bat syndrome and the other trying to solve the issue of dolphins and porpoises being caught in commercial fishing nets. This project-based learning activity is highly engaging as well as being enjoyed by all students. They have to research each topic, write about the subject, present to a group of engineering experts, and then run their robots through each run. The excitement about this tournament mounts with each day!

The budget process continues with our Budget Committee meeting every week. We completed our fourth meeting today and are closer to recommending a budget to the School Board. This important work is being completed by a group of volunteers representing the School Board,
parents, community and staff members. Their participation in this process is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support of our students and staff. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this report or any school related matters in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal