Principal's Report
to the
School Board

The month of September is always an exciting time for school children. New teachers, new classrooms, new classmates, not to mention new curricula, are all engaging and invigorating to students who might have been looking forward to coming back to school after the summer break. This “newness” is slowly wearing off and we are settling into the hard work of critical thinking, collaborating, communicating, analyzing, experimenting, comparing/contrasting, and creating. We endeavor to teach our students to think rather than to rely upon simple rote memorization or “winging it”.

Teachers conducted preliminary testing to validate first observations of student abilities this past month. Each student was assessed using the Fountas and Pinnell reading scales as well as the whole school being administered the North West Education Association (NWEA) standardized computer assessment. A short review of these scores by grade level and subject area is attached to this report. Overall, we scored very well given that every student was administered this test. These assessments will help teachers plan their instructional practices as they further personalize the learning process for each student.

We celebrate International Peace Day by dividing up our students into cross-grade level groups, presenting material to them, and then challenge them to combine their talents and energies into a group project. Our first Peace Groups this year focused on “Building a Better World by Choosing Kindness”. We explored how this might look, starting by what each student could do around school and at home. It is always amazing what comes out of children’s mouths when they have the opportunity to speak about matters of the heart!

Taking advantage of the nice weather, we held our annual all-school, off-campus evacuation drill this month. The Franconia Police Department, Franconia Life Squad, and Sugar Hill Police Department assisted us as we cross the busy Main St. to get to our rally point. The students and teachers did a great job in making sure that everyone was safe and appropriately serious during this drill. This activity is just one of the drills that will be used this year to practice student safety. The staff has been training for the past two years on how to mitigate threats both inside and outside of our school building.

Our Open House started with a different type of event. Instead of the Lion’s Club Spaghetti Dinner, the Lafayette Parent-Teacher Organization (LPTO) held a “Mac & Cheese” dinner. Hard to believe but there were nine different types of mac and cheese dishes served and they were all delicious! The crowd then surged towards the classrooms as students escorted their parents to their classrooms and showed off their accomplishments. We had a very high percentage of parents show up, both at the dinner and the Open House.
Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this report or any other school issue in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal