The month of March was a busy one for our school. For instance, during the second week, our communities held their annual Town Meeting which is always well attended. In the same week, we also held a School Board Meeting just before our Annual School Meeting. The following night we held our adult Spelling Bee. That is one busy week!

Our students celebrated Read Across America during March. Each day was focused on a different activity. Students read their writings to other students, we listened to guest readers (The Police and Fire Chiefs and local authors came in to read to us.), and we participated in a school-wide “drop everything and read” activity. This was an outstanding week focused on how very important reading is to all of us.

We are signed up with the North West Education Association (NWEA) testing group and are learning how to implement this test across all grades next month. The primary grades (K-2) will take 30 minute tests in math and reading. The rest of the grades (3-6) will take 60 minutes tests in math, reading, and science. All of these assessments are online and will require the use of our laptop computers. The younger students will have the test read to them via headphones, the older students will have to read by themselves. These tests self-adjust in that if you get an answer wrong, the next question will be easier but if you get the same question correct, you get a harder subsequent question. This new way of assessing students will give us a different look at how our students progress throughout the year as they will be given three times during an academic year.

Nordic or cross-country skiing was a smash hit at school this winter. Our LPTO bought our equipment and Mr. Lyman taught the basics of Nordic skiing during physical education classes. Students then signed out the skis during recess and had a ball going around our field, playing soccer and other games on skis, or blasting down the biathlon course. Great fun was had by all, a life-time skill was learned, and the skiers came in from recess with rosy cheeks and big smiles on their faces.

The fifth and sixth graders traveled to Crawford Notch to the Highland Center for another part of their Outdoor Program. They learned about winter adaptation of animals, camouflage, winter safety, and had a great time with their micro-spikes in the woods. The fourth graders took a field trip to the Mount Washington Hotel as part of their New Hampshire Tourism
videotape that they are putting together. The second grade invited several of their senior
citizen friends in to share their reading and other accomplishments. Sixth grade is holding
Socratic Circles once again in order to practice their critical thinking and cooperative skills.
Everyone is extremely busy meeting the Common Core standards in various ways.

I would like to share with the School Board some recommendations for staffing for next year.
The movement of Ben Woo to our sixth grade classroom dictates some staffing changes. Please
feel free to contact me with any questions or comments that you may have regarding this
report.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal