Principal’s Report
to the
School Board

In previous years we ran into the issue of too many activities being scheduled in the spring, consequently, we tried to spread out some of these enrichment experiences for our students this year. Our schedule this past month is indicative of this shift. It started with our “make up day” of our Winter Program on March 14th. We thought we might have a warm spring day of skiing for our make-up day but Mother Nature was of a different mind (What a cold spring so far!). We had a great day, nonetheless, with our parent volunteers supporting our staff members in delivering this last Winter Program adventure.

Other performances and Community Meetings certainly engaged our students throughout this past month. We held a preview Film Festival at our weekly Community Meeting recently as we watched the 9 videos that our fifth and sixth graders produced. The next day, many of us traveled to the Rialto Theater in Lancaster to attend the North Country Middle School Film Festival. Nine schools sent in 31 videos for consideration. Our small elementary school won 4 of the 10 awards given out! This spectacular showing was written up in the local paper and was well deserved as our students worked hard at collaborating ideas, sketching out storyboards, writing scripts, filming activities/events/interviews, and presenting the final video product. These types of activities meet our goal of achieving the four C’s of 21st Century Learning Skills that consist of communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical-thinking. The combination of project-based learning opportunities and the integration of technology are perfect examples of how we are trying to teach our students how to “think” and solve real-life problems. The age of rote memorization of innumerable facts is over and can be “googled”. The only caveat is that math facts still need to be memorized!

Other enrichment activities included the Profile Players (High School) performance at Lafayette. Read Across America week which included guest speakers from our local Police, Fire, and EMS squads, as well as local authors, was a great success and reinforced our focus on instilling in our students the goal of being life-long readers. Jump Rope for Heart involved many of our students in a fun-filled hour of exercise for a good cause. The Inkas Wasi quartet entertained us with their Peruvian flutes and costumed dancing. The adult Spelling Bee raised $1,400 for our LPTO and provided an entertaining evening for the grownups in our community. Our annual Variety of Talents night showcased 18 different performances by our students. The talent and bravery of these performers was fantastic!
Report Cards went home in March and we held Parent/Teacher Conferences with most parents attending. These extremely important conversations help students achieve their full potential in school. In contrast, no parents showed up for the recent Parent Information Night to discuss NECAP standardized testing scores. I continue to attend the National Institute for School Leadership courses every month. While it is hard to miss two days per month of school, this intensive course covers a host of issues that principals must face in this day and age. My drives home during these two days are filled with thoughtful contemplation of how to integrate this new knowledge into the everyday running of our school without overwhelming our teachers.

The Second Grade Interview Committee is hard at work culling the 49 applicants down to a reasonable few. This committee consists of teachers, parents, and School Board members. Interviews were conducted this week and will continue into next week. The final candidate will be sent to the Superintendent of Schools for his approval. We are looking for the very best teacher possible that will “match” with our school’s high goals and expectations.

Thank you for being such an important of our school. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated by our entire community. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this report or any other school related issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal