The month of March roared in like a Lion and roared out as well, contrary to the old adage about going out like a Lamb. Consequently, we have had to hold recesses on our parking lots due to the mud and ice features throughout our playground. We will continue to monitor the weather along with the rest of the North Country in hopes that spring is just around the corner. Our students are eagerly awaiting recess without their snow gear and the start of baseball/softball season despite the return of black flies and mosquitoes.

Students in grades 3-6 are participating in the state testing through the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium these past few weeks. These assessments, based on the Common Core State Standards, offer an increased amount of rigor for our students. The writing portion, for instance, is part of every grade, rather than only in the fifth grade in previous state testing. Students and teachers are taking these tests very seriously. It is impressive to watch fourth grade students writing well-developed, five paragraph essays!

Report Cards and Parent/Teacher Conferences were held this past month. These valuable communication opportunities are intended for both the parents and teachers to learn more about each student and how to best motivate them to improve. We had almost 100% attendance rate at our conferences which shows how much our parents are involved in their children’s education. We have approximately 40 more school days left in this academic year. Plenty of time to reach for the stars in achievement!

Our annual Variety of Talents Show was a smashing success, complete with singing, dancing, and musical instrument playing. The 18 “acts” that performed included some of the most adventuresome students that are enrolled at Lafayette. Our Dodge ball Tournament kept our students busy throughout the Parent/Teacher Conferences. Everyone had a good time at this voluntary event.

Teachers used this month’s Professional Development Day by completing the fifth day of last summer’s Responsive Classroom workshop. This model of integrating a social/emotional component to every student’s day has been successful on a continuing basis. The shared terminology and strategies around behavior management in our classrooms appears to be paying off throughout the school.
We are continuing to explore IT services possibilities with three different models or vendors from which to choose. The wood pellet heating system installation will start to happen this as soon as the ground thaws out. Our window/insulation project’s bid is being written this month. The painting of the building’s trim is also being bid out to vendors shortly. All of these projects will commence either this spring or summer. There will be a certain amount of building this spring; however, we will work hard to keep any disruptions to a minimum.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this report or any other school item. Thank you for supporting our school’s efforts with your time and hard work.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk