The month of March saw the end of our second trimester and consequently, report cards were sent home and parent/teacher conferences were held. These extremely important conversations communicate academic as well as social progress to parents. It is a milestone in each student’s achievement through the year. We are ecstatic that so many parents show up for these meetings and work so hard at home to better prepare our students for learning.

Our annual “Read Across America” Celebration was held this month with many book-related activities for all to enjoy. We had guest readers visit each classroom. They included the local Police Chiefs of Franconia and Sugar Hill, a State Trooper (with her bomb sniffing dog), National Forest Law Enforcement Officer, and a local author. Mrs. Koehler asked for families to bring in rocking chairs for our readers to sit comfortably as they read their books. The emphasis on reading was greatly reinforced this week and will hopefully carry on at home throughout the summer months.

Mr. Goldman facilitated two groups of 10 students in his “Fabricate and Create” after-school workshops. The students thought of ideas to problems that needed solving and then created their solution to that problem. Lots of robots were built, a moped scooter was torn apart and rebuilt, as well as many other ingenuous ideas came to fruition. Mrs. Whitney organized our annual Talent Show which consisted of 14 acts ranging from pogo sticking, to dancing, to playing various instruments. We even had a magic act! It was a fun evening’s entertainment for the whole family.

Our fifth and sixth grade students took part in the North Country Film Festival last week and took home six trophies. Eleven groups of students entered their videos that were judged in nine categories. We traveled to the Rialto Theater in Lancaster to view the 32 videos that were entered in the contest. We had the biggest group of students and families and won more prizes than any other school in the competition. Our students collaborated, communicated, critically thought, and created some very impressive videos on their chosen subjects of what is good in the North Country. Mrs. Koehler, Mr. Goldman, Ms. Sieberg, and Mrs. Weeden put in a great deal of effort to make sure that we had high expectations for this project. The end result speaks of the success of their work as well as the student’s diligence and commitment to their learning.

The Kindergarten Search Committee completed its task for interviewing prospective candidates for our upcoming Kindergarten position due to the retirement of Beverly Frenkiewich. We interviewed five candidates. Then, we invited two finalists for a second interview and asked them to teach our kindergarten students in a 30 minutes lesson which was videotaped. The
committee finally chose one of the two excellent finalists which was a very hard decision to make. The Superintendent of Schools will bring this candidate forward to the School Board at tonight’s meeting. Many thanks go out to the Search Committee which consisted of Christi Gignac (mom and School Board member), Amy Mullins (mom and School Board member), Meaghan Caron (mom), Melissa Lanin (1st grade Teacher), Emily Clark (Special Educator), Toni Butterfield (Administrative Assistant), and Gordie Johnk (Principal).

We are getting to know our new Head of Maintenance, Jerry Drapeau who replaced Stan Sawicki upon his retirement earlier this month. Also, Greg Basnar, is our new night-time custodian and works with Phyllis Pino to make sure that our school is clean every night. These folks are the unseen group that makes our lives so much more pleasant on a daily basis.

Please feel free to contact me regarding this report or any other school related issue. Thank you for supporting our community’s education of our youngest students.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal