Principal’s Report

to the
School Board

Most of the parents that we have talked to this summer have exclaimed how fast the summer has gone. Despite the rain, our maintenance staff has been hard at work repairing “things” that our students broke, painting walls that little fingers have smeared, and cleaning the whole school till everything shines. None of us miss last summer’s asbestos removal and carpeting project where we had to move the entire school two times!

Nine of our teachers allowed me to join them in a four day Literacy Institute held at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA, last week. The focus of this professional development opportunity was to institute a Guided Reading and Writing approach in our K-6 instructional practices. We learned how important Genre Study was in teaching elementary school children about reading and writing. We came away with a more unified and systemic structure for our reading/writing instruction and assessment practices. The primary goal is so that we can improve upon student achievement and fill the “gaps” that some students fall into in their early reading experiences. This will also allow new teachers to better acclimate into Lafayette’s practices and procedures as they relate to teaching English Language Arts. The Lesley University’s staff was extremely impressed that such a small school sent 10 teachers and a principal to learn more about reading and writing instructional practices and strategies.

We are currently advertising for several Para-professional positions. One of these positions is to replace a Para-professional who moved to Florida, another for a student who requires a 1 to 1 full-time Para-professional, and a half-time one to replace a staff member who will be switching positions this coming year. We will be conducting these interviews in the next few weeks.

The Lafayette Recreation Department (Formerly known as the Franconia Recreation Department.) is using our building on a daily basis with approximately 50-60 students using our facilities on a daily basis. This strong relationship with the summer recreation program continues and it is great to see many of our students spend healthy time outdoors, riding their bikes to various local swimming holes, hiking spots, and the Dow playground.

The front door security system is not in place, yet. We are actively trying to coordinate dates with the installer and hope to have more positive news to you by the middle of this month. Having our front door locked and having to “buzz in” to our building will be a huge change for
us. We hope that everyone understands and remembers why we have moved in this direction as we change our front door policy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have regarding this report or the school in general. I love talking about our school if you haven’t noticed!

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal