Principal's Report
to the
School Board

The summer months always pass quickly but even more so when you have a huge heating system construction project! We are nearing the end of the installation phase and moving into the startup portion of this extensive and complicated project. The three-boiler energy box was installed on its concrete slab as was the 15-ton silo early in the summer. Subcontractors then buried 240 feet of insulated pipes to connect with our boiler room. During this period, we removed our 6,000 gallon heating oil tank and replaced it with two, 1,000 gallon LP gas underground tanks. The outside of the building is finished with asphalt down and grass seeding complete. We still need to connect the last stage of the propane tanks with the inside boiler and then test the heating sensors as part of the overall computerized heating and air exchange systems. The goal is to be up and running before school starts.

Our next Building and Grounds project involves replacing the windows in the old section of the building (52 years old) and insulating where necessary. During our cursory work on this project, it was discovered that there is no insulation underneath the 34 windows that need replacement. That is to say, there is approximately 238 square feet of wall space that is not insulated in the oldest part of our school! We will be saving significant amounts of energy costs in the future with new windows and insulation. Other maintenance issues such as replacing wood trim and painting all wood surfaces will also be a part of this project.

The Lafayette Recreation Department was busy with their Summer Program, based out of our Multi-Purpose Room. Despite the construction work, we were able to coordinate with the Recreation staff in keeping these busy campers safe and out of harm’s way. It is always good to see the children have so much fun at this Summer Program. In other parts of our building, we held our Summer School on a four day a week basis, led by Beverly Frenkiewich and Wendy Kern. Shelley Koehler and Garret Ferguson facilitated our Summer Reading Program which met weekly during the summer vacation. Music instruction was also available through Priscilla Whitney during the course of the summer.

Our staff participated in some of the best professional development that is available this summer. Teachers spent two days in Durham, NH, learning about strategies to teach our new math program, Eureka Math. We also spent five days with Dr. Mahesh Sharma who led us through how to improve our math instruction while focusing on the Common Core State Standards. This highly engaging week was time well spent in identifying crucial math areas and
reinforcing the added rigor that is required to meet these Standards. All of this will enable our teachers to be better prepared to teach the Eureka Math system in the fall.

We are pleased to welcome back Peggy Fujawa, our new para-professional this year. Mrs. Fujawa was with us for many years until she moved to Profile School for the past 7 years. A different Interview Committee met with three 6th grade teacher candidates recently and recommended a veteran teacher to the Superintendent of Schools for approval. Thank you to those members of the Interview Committee who took on this important task. They included, Linda Gaitskill and Luther Kinney who represented the School Board, Crystal Hodgdon who represented the parents (along with Luther who is also a parent of a 6th grader), Erica Sieberg, Amy Kelley, and Karen Marks, who represented the teachers, and Toni Butterfield who represented the staff. Facilitating the discussion regarding who might be our next 6th grade teacher was both informative and complicated; I look forward to welcoming our newest teacher to our wonderful school. This new teacher will cover the yearlong leave of absence of Ben Woo.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this report or any other school issue. It is with great appreciation that we thank the School Board for its efforts on behalf of the children and families of our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal