Principal’s Report

to the
School Board

The month of November is usually quite a dreary month in northern New Hampshire but Lafayette students usually find a way to liven things up around here. First and foremost this month, our sixth graders did a fantastic job of participating in the NH First LEGO League’s (FLL) Robotics Competition. Two teams were formed from our large class and both performed admirably at Bishop Brady High School in Concord at the regional competition. Unfortunately, only one team qualified for the state competition. That team traveled to Manchester Central High School and competed against 50 of the best robotic teams in our state. Other teams scored higher in certain categories but the Lafayette team won a trophy in the category, “Best Connection With People”! The theme of this year’s robotics competition was “Senior Solutions” and our team came up with the idea of creating a website to sign up and play games with our neighbors at the Lafayette Center. Our sixth graders visited our local senior citizens a number of times as part of this activity and learned that older people have something to share with them. A presentation from these sixth graders will be part of the December School Board meeting.

Those students in our former Student Council changed the name of this organization to Lafayette Service Kids to better describe what types of activities they want to focus on. They visited our neighbors at the Lafayette Center again this month. We were thankful of the parents who were able to attend our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. Our students enjoyed the jazz ensemble entitled “Sisters City Jazz Ambassadors” at a recent Community Meeting, thanks to the LPTO.

Our teachers have been participating in the SAU’s Vertical Team Meetings, facilitated by Superintendent MacMillan and Paul Williams, our grant writer. These meetings allow our teachers to discuss curriculum ramifications throughout the K-12 spectrum. This sharing of information will broaden our perspective of working through our various curricula.

And then came this past Tuesday! We started the day with Governor John Lynch visiting Lafayette. We scheduled a 30 minute visit and then he had so much fun that he stretched that into about an hour. He walked into our multi-purpose room as our advanced band played The Star Spangled Banner. Every class got to ask the Governor a question. The fifth grade presented him with a New Hampshire themed poster that they made for him and we all watched the fourth grade tourist video that came in second place in last year’s State Tourism
Competition. Governor Lynch then asked our students some questions. He almost stumped them when he asked what type of dog was our Official State Dog. Do you know what it is? How about our Official State Fruit? After Governor Lynch left to drive to Berlin, we held our dress rehearsal for our Winter Concert. Before the concert that night, the LPTO held a Cookie Sale as well as a Bucket Auction. Both of these events were very successful. Then, the lights dimmed, and the Beginning Band started us off! Our students were terrific in every way. They played and sang their hearts out and were well behaved throughout the performance. We saw the kindergarteners and first graders doing the Penguin Polka, listened to Pete the Cat from the second and third graders, and went home with one tune or another in our head. A great night was had by all.

The Budget Committee met six times through the last several months to provide input into our budget process. We reviewed our budget, line by line, and made many decisions that took into account the daunting task of balancing an excellent elementary education with being fiscally responsible to our taxpaying constituents. I would like to thank the Budget Committee members, Tom Eyman and Mary Jo Green representing the School Board, Jason Tor and Trevor Hamilton representing the parents, Sue Ford and David McPhaul acting as community representatives, Beverly Frenkiewich representing the teaching staff. Toni Butterfield kept us on track with her quick inputting of important numbers in our budget software. As Chair of this committee, it was a pleasure working with such a dedicated group of volunteers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you may have regarding this report or any school related topic. Thank you for making the time and effort available for our students, staff, and community.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal