The month of November is typically gray and dreary in the North Country. We actually experienced lots of good weather, however, as the students enjoyed many outdoor activities. One of them was the viewing of the super moon that initiated many interesting conversations with our students. We also experienced the 60th day of school, meaning that somehow, a third of the year has passed. How time flies when you’re having fun!

Our students are extremely busy during the course of the school day. Many also sign up for additional after-school activities. The Lafayette Service Kids is an organization that focuses on community service activities. They read to preschoolers at the Franconia Children’s Center, visit the elderly at the Lafayette Center, and help out in various other venues, including school. Parents oversee the French Club, the Japanese Calligraphy Club, and the Book Club. The Lafayette Recreational Department has started its basketball season so our Multi-Purpose Room is a very busy place. It is always interesting to see so many of our students engaged in after-school activities.

We are indeed fortunate to have our Lafayette Parent Teacher Organization provide enrichment opportunities for our students. This past week, we transported the entire school to the Hopkins Center at Dartmouth College for a performance of Cirque du Mechanic, a.k.a., Pedal Punk. This wonderful combination of dance, gymnastics, theater, circus, and simple machines (science) was riveting for our students. They were entranced as the performers bounced, biked, danced, and flipped their way through the story of a bike shop owner. Our students were appreciative audience members throughout the performance. Afterwards, we walked through the Dartmouth campus for a tour before boarding the busses back to school.

Our teachers are heavily engaged in the Performance Assessment for Competency Education (PACE) workshops and course work. Learning how to integrate performance assessments into daily lesson plans is part of the art and science of teaching. The goal is for students to participate in more engaging and authentic learning. We are being challenged by the learning curve for both teachers and students.

Our Budget Committee met for five weeks to review our budget, line by line. Many fruitful discussions were held regarding everything from dishwasher costs to healthcare plans to local economic developments. The Lafayette School would like to thank the Budget Committee members for their valuable time, efforts, and expertise in reviewing our budget. The members included:
This transparent discussion is a valuable strategy to use when dealing with taxpayer’s monies. We remain challenged by ever-increasing healthcare costs (21.4% increase over last year). The Budget Committee recommendations will be presented to the School Board at its December meeting. The School Board will then have two months to modify the budget before the February Budget Hearing. Our Annual Meeting, held in March, is when community members will vote on this final budget.

Thank you for your support of our students, staff, and school. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns regarding this report or the school in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal