November certainly was a chilly month with winter weather moving in swiftly. The transition was not as smooth as anyone would have liked as snow pants, snow jackets, hats and mittens appeared to be hard to find in each home. We eventually pulled out our snow shovels and sleds at school and everyone is happy that we did. Another layer of snow on top of our playground might be helpful as the surface is fairly slick out there. Kids and snow just seem like a natural mix...

Many parents, grandparents, and friends attended our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon this past month. The heartfelt support from our parents during this luncheon captures the essence of our community. The kindergartners recited a poem from a book that they read, “Albuquerque Turkey” and basically stole the show with their cuteness.

The whole school drove down to Dartmouth for a viewing of “Cirque Mechanic”, a performance at the HOPS Center in Hanover. We had an inspiring time watching a live performance in a beautiful theater. While many of our students wanted to join the performers on stage, our own Mr. Ferguson was actually picked out of the crowd to perform for about 10 minutes with the mime/clown on stage! Only complaints from our students were that the show was too short. The adults thought that the bus ride was too bumpy!

We had an interesting situation arise regarding aromatherapy this past month. A student brought in some “essential oils” to use as a therapy. As essential oils are not regulated by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), we are not allowing their use at Lafayette. There is also the factor that other students or staff may be allergic to the smell that is given off and can last up to four hours on a person. There is much discussion of the efficacy and use of essential oils in the school setting however we are of the mind not to allow these unregulated therapies or medications in our school.

The Budget Committee convened five times during the months of October and November. This eight member committee comprised School Board members (Denys Draper and Amy Mullins), community members (Dave McPhaul, Cindy and Tim Burnell), parents (Kevin Low and Amy Mullins) and staff members, (Toni Butterfield and Gordie Johnk). The time and energy of these volunteers is greatly appreciated as we have a budget proposal that was reviewed by many people with multiple perspectives. Working line item by line item, we closely reviewed each budget proposal. Many modifications and printouts later, our budget proposal is the result of many hours of hard work and prioritizing. The School Board will now make any decisions regarding the final budget put forth to the voters at the February Budget Hearing and March Annual School Meeting.

Thank you for your continued support of our fine school. We hope that your holiday season is a merry one with plenty of time for you and your family to get together and have some fun.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal