January is always an “interesting” month here at school in that the students are somewhat let down after the holidays and transitioning back from a week off of school. But, the real start of winter is evident as well, so we get great excitement out of them as soon as Winter Program starts. And, then the first snowstorm hits! This year was no different from all of the rest as all of these characteristics were in evidence this month. Our Winter Program started out smoothly; we were even able to get organized for our first day of activities on the third day back to school! Mrs. Butterfield and Ms. Scott were instrumental in making sure all of the paperwork and phone calls were made in this huge logistical troop movement. We are taking 80 students to Cannon Mountain for skiing and snowboarding, 12 students to Bretton Woods for Nordic skiing, and 14 students to various venues for Winter Fun activities (tubing, skating, dog sledding, snowshoeing, etc.). We had to cancel two Fridays due to the extremely cold temperatures and/or thawing conditions this past month. Makeup sessions are scheduled but we are making final decisions based on how many parent volunteers can commit to these days. All in all, our Winter Program continues to be a great success in teaching our students how to dress/behave in our wintery conditions, how to learn a life-long recreational skill, and how to get outside and stay healthy while enjoying the many natural wonders of the mountains around us. We are indeed fortunate to have been able to sustain this program throughout the years. Many thanks go to our dependable parent volunteers in keeping us safely supervised!

No doubt you have seen Lafayette Regional School’s NECAP scores in the paper last week. We continue to perform exceptionally well on these state mandated assessments. That said, we are continually looking for ways to improve. In a cursory glance at our overall scores, it would appear that our LEIP (Local Education Improvement Plan) goals these past two years in Reading Assessment have paid off handsomely. Our Reading scores are well beyond the state averages and indicate that student achievement has improved in this area. That is largely due to the professional development that our teachers’ are committed to and implement in their respective classrooms. Our veteran teachers and hard-working students are working together in making these scores improve! Our Math scores are mostly above the state averages but could use improvement. We will be reviewing and analyzing these scores to achieve greater student growth in the months ahead.

Our technology integration, especially regarding internet connectivity, is moving slowly forward. We are currently being “excluded” from the SAU IPrism filtering system which means
that we are still having to connect through this device but are not being filtered through it. This still causes some problems but not as many as having two filtering devices opposing each other. We are in a better position now than several months ago thanks to the efforts of Profile Technologies. They are still looking for a possible way for us to being connected directly with our internet service (Time Warner) that does not have to go through any other devices such as the IPrism system. We are looking forward to a more stable internet connection so that our students and teachers can better integrate technology across the curricula. I will continue to keep all parties informed as to our progress in this direction.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this report or any other school question or concern.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal