Principal’s Report
to the
School Board

This winter’s mild temperatures and subsequent low snowfall is making itself felt in our academic setting. Many recesses are held out front in our parking lot due to the ice buildup on our playground. Seasonal activities are also disrupted such as skiing, snowboarding, skating, sledding, and building our annual snow forts. All of this leads to more than the usual number of disgruntled children. We are hoping for better snowy weather and less colds among our population!

Our students participated in our annual North West Educational Association (NWEA) standardized tests recently to monitor progress halfway through the year. We are currently reviewing our results to better meet the needs of our students. It should be noted that with the more rigorous demands of the Common Core State Standards, our test results are not as spectacular as in past years. Nevertheless, we strive to improve every student’s achievement and growth levels and use these assessments to do exactly that. Teachers are using these test results to improve their instruction and to modify curriculum to better meet the standards.

Enrichment activities include our students’ participation in the North Country Film Festival. Our students are reading and researching positive contributions that organizations make to their respective communities in the North Country. After this preliminary work, they then collaborate to construct storyboards, they go out into the “field” to film still and video shots of interviews and locations, work in small groups to communicate their thoughts in selecting pictures and videos for their presentation, and then creating and presenting a final product. All of this work is evidence of our school’s commitment to integrate the 21st Century Learning Skills of communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking in a project-based model with connections to real-life issues surrounding our students.

Our Vision Statement Committee has been working since last spring on our new Vision Statement. Vision Statements differ from Mission Statements in that they describe how the Mission Statement will be implemented. If Mission Statements describe what we do, then Vision Statements help the community to understand how we carry this out. This Committee recently presented a draft Vision Statement to the rest of the staff for input and discussion. This document has been revised multiple times and a great deal of effort has gone into this process. The staff felt strongly that the following concepts be included in our vision:
Rigor in the classroom
Standards-based instruction
Respond to individual needs
Every student and staff member believes that they can learn (growth mindset)
Students can tackle challenges
Persevere and problem solve
Expectation of excellence
Varied assessments
Student engagement

After many meetings and discussions, the draft that will be presented to the School Board for their input reads:

2/11/16 Lafayette Regional School
Proposed Vision Statement

Lafayette Regional School creates a culture of educational excellence by providing challenging, engaging, and personalized learning experiences for all students. Deep learning develops through the implementation of standards-based and research-based instructional models as evidenced by academic growth of at least one year. Critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity cultivate intrinsically motivated students who believe they can learn. Partnerships with supportive parents and community members model social awareness and civic responsibility.

The next step would be to present this draft Vision Statement to parents for their input. Then, the Committee will prepare a final draft for School Board approval. We hope to finalize this project in the next couple of months and have the best possible and fully-approved Vision Statement for our school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments regarding this report or the school in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal