We experienced some varied and significant weather patterns during the month of January. On the first Friday of our Winter Program, the mountains had a -23 degree temperature reading with wind chills of -41 degrees. Needless to say, we cancelled our program for that day. On the second Friday of the month, it was pouring rain for the entire day. We cancelled our Winter Program on that day as well. We were able to squeeze in the next two Winter Program days by the end of the month. The logistics of our Winter Program is not to be underestimated. Mrs. Butterfield does a fantastic job of pulling all of the details together during the three months that she works on this project. In the end, our students learn the valuable lessons and life-long skills on how to stay safe and have fun in our winter mountain environment.

Lafayette teachers made the decision to withdraw from the Performance Assessment for Competency Education (PACE) initiative. The decision was an interesting one, given that we do believe in performance assessments being an integral part of documenting student achievement. The real issue was the amount of time and energy that went into the state and federal system of accountability. Our teachers were spending hours upon hours making graphs, writing performance assessments in teams, missing school to do so, and then multiple scoring of countless papers to “jump through the hoops” to meet state guidelines. We would much rather have teachers spend their precious time writing powerful lesson plans, researching best practices, integrating technology, and making connections with their students than spend hours making the bureaucratic process shine.

Our winter North West Educational Assessment (NWEA) results show the progress of each student in our school. These standardized, online assessments are given in September, January, and May. Our January scores indicate appropriate and often significant progress towards each student’s achievement over the last four months. These results are attached to this report.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions concerning this report or any school related matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal