We experienced a wide variety of weather and temperatures during the month of January. Beautiful snowfalls and average winter temperatures preceded either significant rainfalls or icy/frigid nights. Our Winter Program had to be cancelled twice due to extremely cold temperatures (up to -37 wind chill index on the top of Cannon Mountain) combined with a multitude of sick students (not to mention sick staff members). Makeup days are rather hard to reschedule as we don’t have our usual instructors from the mountain. Consequently, we will try our best to hold five Winter Program days instead of our usual six that were scheduled.

We administered the North West Educational Assessments (NWEA) this past month in all grades. The teachers have been pouring over the results, making sure to modify their instructional practices in order to continually challenge every student in their respective classrooms. Teachers review the subcategories in each subject area. For example, when teachers review mathematics in third grade, the discussion focuses on these goal areas:

1. Operations and Algebraic Thinking
2. Number and Operations
3. Measurement and Data
4. Geometry

Similarly, when reviewing student scores in reading, teachers would review these goal areas:

1. Literary Text: Key Ideas and Details
2. Literary Text: Language, Craft, and Structure
3. Informational Text: Language, Craft, and Structure
4. Vocabulary: Acquisition and Use
5. Informational Text: Key Ideas and Details

These goal areas vary from grade to grade but help teachers narrow their focus on what areas need remediation or modification in their future instruction.

Lafayette Regional School received a Facilities Security Grant for classroom locks that can be manipulated from the inside of the classroom and security cameras around the school. This is a significant improvement on the locks that we have presently which can only be locked by a key from the outside of the door. We hope to start this project as soon as possible.

Many thanks are due to our Budget Committee who worked for five weeks, reviewing each and every line item. Our discussions were thoughtful and fruitful. In order to move forward
as an educational institution, we recommended a budget with a slightly higher increase that we would have liked, however, the committee was in agreement and justified the increase as necessary. David McPhaul, and the Burnell’s were community representatives on the committee. Kevin Low and Amy Mullins were parent representatives. Denys Draper and Amy Mullins were the School Board representatives. Toni Butterfield represented the staff and I served as Chair. We greatly appreciate all of their efforts in building a fiscally sound and educationally responsible budget to recommend to the School Board.

Our Lafter Care after-school program is proceeding exceedingly well. The success of this program is directly attributable to the two school employees who enthusiastically supervise our students. Gillian Cahill and Hannah Butterfield are displaying an enormous amount of energy, responsibility, and professionalism, each and every day. Our students are closely supervised, highly engaged, and having loads of fun at their various activities. Parents have been extremely complimentary in regards to this program.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this report or any other school related topic. Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful school!

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal