Principal's Report
to the
School Board

The month of December was filled with great learning opportunities, much excitement due to the holidays, and not enough time to fit in everything. This directly corresponds to what happens in many families’ households during the pre-holiday period. Nevertheless, we moved forward in a fast-paced manner in providing for our curricula needs to be met while also offering many enrichment holiday opportunities and activities.

Our youngest students studied the Scandinavian countries in mixed-aged groups. They used the acronym, “FINDS” to remember the countries of Finland, Iceland, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. Then, they studied the geography and culture of these countries in our weekly Global Education program. Older students were working with younger students in building gingerbread houses and reading holiday stories. Other classrooms were “Skyping” authors of books on oceanography, learning keyboarding, and reading a plethora of non-fiction books.

Part of Lafayette’s tradition is our annual Recycle Sale. The “slightly-used” items are all for sale for 25 cents and every child arrives home with wrapped presents for every member of his or her family. The smile on our students’ faces as they leave our building with big bags of presents says it all! They learn how important it is to also think about “giving” during this time and not just “getting” presents. Interestingly, our motherly elves looked just like members of our LPTO!

Other celebrations included our annual Holiday Concert. Our Multi-Purpose Room was packed with parents, grandparents, friends, and community members to see the wonderful musical talents of our students. As usual, the Kindergarteners performing the “Santa Claus Hand Jive” stole the show for pure amusement pleasure. Ask me about what showed up on the video of the performance when we watched the concert the next day..... It was a great night of musical entertainment and Mrs. Whitney is to be commended for what our students have learned musically in the first half of this year.

The Cannon Mountain Ski Patrol visited our school recently to explain the rules of skiing safely and dressing warmly. This important message better prepares our students for our upcoming Winter Program. Approximately 80 students will be traveling to Cannon for skiing and snowboarding. Others will be Nordic skiing at Bretton Woods or attending our Winter Fun Program that incorporates skating, sledding, tubing, snowshoeing, and dog-sledding into the six week schedule of activities. We had to cancel last week’s Winter Program due to the extreme
cold (Or, Polar Vortex, if you so prefer!). While the weather has not been cooperating with us (Our soccer field is covered by a significant layer of ice from the last rain storm.), we hope for better weather for each of the next five Fridays.

Our Building and Grounds Committee, with the approval of the Lafayette School Board, continues to move forward in planning for our building to be converted from a fuel oil generated heating system to a propane plant. This involves a great deal of research, organization, and collaboration. We are at the stage where an independent mechanical engineer is writing specifications for the bidding process to commence. More details will be discussed with the Board at this month’s meeting.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this report or any other school related item. Thank you for your support of our community’s youngest learners.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal

My kind of visit to the Principal’s office!