Principal’s Report  
   to the  
   School Board  

This past month was filled with wonder, excitement, festivities, and ….no snow! Our students displayed their many talents at our annual Holiday Concert, showed their compassion by singing Christmas carols with our neighbors at the Lafayette Center, and learned about different cultures by exchanging Christmas and Chinese New Year’s cards with students in Taiwan, China. While these types of activities will not show up on any standardized test items, they are nevertheless, important learning opportunities for our students.

Our Winter Program started last Friday with all students participating in some form of outdoor activity. Approximately (This number changes from week to week….don’t ask!) 75 students travel to Cannon Mountain for Alpine (downhill) skiing or snowboarding lessons. Another 14 students participate in our Nordic (cross-country) ski program at Bretton Woods. Nineteen students signed up for our Winter Fun program which incorporates sledding, skating, tubing, snowshoeing, and other winter activities. All three of these important programs integrate winter safety, an instructional skills component, and lots of fun! Lafayette’s Winter Program could not exist without the commitment of our parent chaperones. This group of adults helps our staff members adequately supervise all of these activities as we take our classrooms outside of the school grounds.

Several professional development opportunities are being conducted during this time of year. Seven of us participated in a recent Crisis Prevention/Intervention (CPI) training here in our SAU. This workshop focuses on the safe and appropriate use of verbal interactions and physical restraints when dealing with a student who becomes out of control. This training is mandated by the state when dealing with these types of situations. Another training, also initiated by the SAU, is a science workshop to help implement the new Science NEXT Generation Standards. All of our classroom teachers are involved in this training. Another group of staff members will be traveling to Lyndon State College for Eureka Math training during our day off of school for Civil Rights Day next Monday. These teachers and paras were not able to attend last spring’s training in Durham, NH.

Northwestern Educational Assessments (NWEA) are being given to students in all grades this week and next. These formative assessments give teachers standardized information regarding each student’s progress. We will communicate these results to parents and work with our students to set goals for the next assessment period.
Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this report or any school item in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal