The month of December was exciting in so many ways. We started with early snow on the playground that got everyone excited about winter..., until the rains came. Our winter concert was on everyone’s minds as practices and rehearsals became more serious. On concert night, our multi-purpose room was packed and the show made everyone smile. Our concerts are certainly different in many ways from those in the past and the responses to these changes have been largely positive.

The Lafayette Parent/Teacher Organization (LPTO) put on a stellar Recycle Sale, once again, to benefit every child at our school. The multi-purpose room was set up over the weekend (even our sixth graders helped out) and by Monday morning the room was transformed into a Christmas wonderland. For twenty-five cents, each student could bring home a wrapped present to family members. The “elves” were so eager and happy to be doing the wrapping, one could just feel the holiday magic of giving filling the air. Our students participated, first hand, in learning that giving is as good as receiving. In this day and age, that is a very important lesson to be learned.

Three days after coming back from winter vacation, we held our first Winter Program day. Temperatures and snow all cooperated and we had a great time either Alpine/ Nordic skiing or tubing. We just cancelled our second day due to frigid temperatures in the forecast. We had approximately 74 students skiing/riding at Cannon Mountain, 18 students Nordic skiing at Bretton Woods, and 14 students tubing at the Franconia Inn. These outdoor educational experiences are the foundation of life-long skills that every student can be proud of in the years ahead.

The North West Educational Association (NWEA) testing is taking place during the month of January. This is the second phase of three test assessments over the course of the academic year and indicates progress gained over the first half of the year. Breakdown analysis of these scores by each teacher will help guide instructional efforts over the second half of the year.

Teachers meet every week during lunchtime in professional learning communities (PLC’s) to discuss ways to improve instruction and implement curriculum. Currently, our teachers are assessing writing prompts that are given to each student during the year. These conversations are extremely important collaborative sessions that are focused on ways to identify best practices in instruction and appropriate high levels of expectations for our students.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal