The months of May and June literally fly by when viewed from a school’s point of view. The warmer weather puts smiles on peoples’ faces, baseball season makes sure that dinner time is a random event, field trips keep school exciting, and somehow we manage to squeeze most of what we have left to cover, curriculum wise, all in, by the last day of school. This year was no different. Our students did a tremendous job of staying focused, (With the help from their teachers.) working hard, and were rewarded by a number of exciting events during this last month.

The Kindergarteners went on two field trips. The first was the combined K-2 trip to see the SEE Museum in Manchester. This Natural Science Museum anchored many of their curriculum topics and certainly opened up even more questions from our inquisitive five year olds. The second adventure, was the annual trip to Mrs. Frenkiewich’s house for a picnic. Unfortunately, this year it was held indoors due to inclement weather. Our first graders also went on the aforementioned SEE Museum trip. Second grade traveled to the Littleton Coin Company, had an indoor picnic with their regular Senior Citizen friends, and also attended the trip to Manchester. Third grade went to the Basin and Flume to explore our local natural wonders, traveled to Copper Cannon for a stream study, and walked to the Franconia Heritage Museum for a local history presentation. Our fourth graders were bussed to Belknap Mills to learn how the mill industry produced millions of socks for the military during World War I. They also enjoyed a pizza/ice cream party for coming in third place in the most recent NH Tourism video contest. Fifth and sixth graders, as a culminating experience in our Outdoor Program, hiked, studied, and spent an overnight at the Highland Center in Crawford Notch. They also traveled to Boston last week and saw numerous whales on our Whale Watch adventure as well as visiting the Boston Aquarium, watching an IMAX movie, learning about tidal pools from a marine biologist, and enjoying dinner at Faneuil Hall. The fifth graders led multi-aged groups during our annual Festival of the Arts while the sixth graders designed and led each of the ten stations that the entire school enjoyed. Their enthusiasm was contagious as they facilitated the younger students at each exciting station. The theme was super heroes so you can imagine how engaged our students were throughout this day.

Our students did an excellent job in participating in the Northwestern Educational Association (NWEA) assessment program. This pilot testing window assessed students in reading and mathematics, using an online computer test. Our staff will use these results in their upcoming
professional development activity this summer to better analyze the strengths and weaknesses of each student. The NWEA tests will be administered three times a year, starting this fall. This will help in differentiating instruction for all students. As these tests are aligned with the Common Core Standards, our goal is to be better prepared for the upcoming assessments that will accompany these new standards.

Our Spring Concert was a fun-filled, exciting display of our students’ talent. Once again, the kindergarteners stole the show but our chorus and advanced band were also highlights of the evening. At the end, a tribute was paid to Kathy Ross as part of her retirement. The sixth graders, working with Shelley Koehler, also put on a “poetry slam” to say goodbye to Mrs. Ross as they wrote poetry to her. We will also miss Ms. Robyn Scott, our para-professional for the past two years who will be moving to Florida for work.

Nine teachers and the principal will attend a Summer Literacy Institute at Lesley University next month. This exciting professional development opportunity is funded by grant monies. This will further align our reading and writing instruction with the Common Core Standards as well as making the transition from grade to grade more seamless. This is an excellent example of using our “choice days” in an efficient manner. We are looking forward to modeling what a life-long learner can accomplish over the summer months!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have regarding this report or any other school issue. Thank you for your support of our students and school throughout this past year. Our wonderful school continues to thrive due to the extremely strong support of our community members, School Board representatives, and parents. We will be working hard this summer to further improve in selected areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal