Principal’s Report
to the
School Board

The last month of every school year is a combination of both excitement and trepidation. The exciting part is natural as every student eagerly awaits the start of summer. Some students, on the other hand, miss the consistency and safety of a daily schedule and, thus, miss school during the summer. This dichotomy of feelings is hard for elementary aged children to deal with. Combine these feelings with the stress of finishing off a hard academic year, baseball/softball season, dance recitals, field trips, karate practice, and one can have great empathy for families during this time of year.

Our sixth graders, under the tutelage of Emily Clark, Shelley Koehler, and Kathy Ross stepped up to the proverbial plate to hit a grand slam with various activities this spring. They developed and facilitated our annual Festival of the Arts day with nine different stations that the student body rotated through. Both art and athletic stations were present and our younger students were enthralled with the many creative opportunities that were presented. The sixth graders also held a “Greek Museum” night at school and invited parents and guests to join them to learn more about ancient Greek culture. We learned quite a bit from these Greek experts! They recently traveled to Boston for an amazing whale watch experience which included these fascinating creatures swimming 20 feet from our boat! The trip also included a New England Aquarium visit, an IMAX movie (Sharks in 3D), and dinner at Faneuil Hall. Some of the students, however, still thought that one of the best things about the trip was the coach bus experience!

Other field trips included the third graders going to Copper Cannon, the fourth graders traveling to Remick Farm, and the K-2 students visiting the Montshire Museum. Our students do an outstanding job of representing our school in an exemplary manner whenever we take our classes to visit other places. We get many compliments from guides and facility administrators. We set the behavioral and academic expectations high for our students and are especially delighted when our students strive to match them!

A mandate that we had to implement that was not as exciting as these trips was our recent Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) state online testing. These tests were rigorous and long! Our students struggled to persevere on such long and detailed answers to multi-stepped questions. It is with great interest that we look forward to the results. We also held our Northwest Educational Assessments that summarizes each student’s progress over the
course of the year. These results will be shared with the Board at a future meeting as they were finalized this week.

The Lafayette School’s Vision Committee will start meeting this summer. The goal is to write a Vision Statement for our school. This will differ from our Mission Statement in that it will be more specific as far as timing and goals. Staff members have been identified as committee members and both Board and community members will be a part of this process as well. The final draft will come before the Board for final approval.

We will need to hire an additional para-professional for the academic year 2015-2016 due to a new student arriving in town. Advertising for this position has begun and several strong candidates have already applied. We look forward to welcoming this newest member to our staff.

Sixth grade graduation is scheduled at 6:00 after our 4:00 School Board meeting on Thursday, June 11th. You are cordially invited to attend if your schedule allows. These exercises are approximately one hour in length and are appropriately elementary in nature and design. Students will read one of their writings and play a song on the bells.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have regarding this report or the school in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal