Principal’s Report  
to the  
School Board

The last month of school is always full of excitement, field trips, and some anxiety regarding what the future holds in the next grade level. This end of the year is no different. While the weather has been rather soggy, teachers can feel the energy rising by the day. One of the “treats” of the springtime is when we take our classrooms off school grounds. Multiple field trips have enhanced our curriculum this month as well as being just plain fun. Our students traveled to the Belknap Mill interactive museum where they learned how millworkers made socks for soldiers in World War I. Our annual Boston trip included whale watching, visit to the Aquarium, an IMAX movie, and dinner at Faneuil Hall. The youngest grades will travel to the Montshire Museum in Norwich, VT for a completely interactive science experience. Another trip is to visit farm life at the Remick Farm. We close out our field trips with a local visit to the Franconia Heritage Museum to study what early life around here was like. Similar to our Outdoor Education Program, these off-site visits greatly enhance our classroom instruction.

We participated in standardized testing consisting of North West Educational Association’s (NWEA) assessment to determine academic progress of each student. These results will be sent home to parents with the end of year report cards. Third and fourth graders participated in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) testing. This assessment is part of our Performance Assessment for Competency Education (PACE) program that mandated performance assessments in grades 3-6. This new format of assessing what students know is based on how to use their new knowledge on real time problems rather than simply regurgitating information that is not connected to the outside world.

Our Spring Concert was simply wonderful. Our students performed at a rather advanced level for an elementary concert. Mrs. Whitney deserved the standing ovation that she received at the end of the performance. It is with sadness that we say good bye to Mrs. and Mr. Whitney as they retire into the proverbial sunset. We wish them all the best in their next adventures.

We are also extremely respectful of the time that Beverly Frenkiewich and Wendy Kern have spent at Lafayette Regional School. Combined, they constitute approximately 60 years of teaching at our school. It is with sadness that we say goodbye to these two wonderfully kind ladies. Our school community would also like to thank Kim Koprowski and Amanda St. Jean for their time as para-educators at Lafayette. Their efforts helped numerous students over the years here. This is the highest staff turnover we have had in a number of years so we have been busy filling these slots this spring.
Our major summer professional development activity will be to spend two days with Martha Dubuque, a reading and writing consultant and former principal. This is a follow up to last summer’s work in literacy which was hugely beneficial to our teachers. We will be focusing on implementing a Writer’s Workshop model of instruction in each classroom. Other summer plans include thoroughly cleaning the building, facilitating the Lafayette Recreation Department Summer Program here in our multi-purpose room, holding our summer school, and hosting a summer reading program. As soon as we finish the paperwork for this year, we will be starting the necessary purchasing and planning for next year. And so, the cycle begins again!

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this report or any other school issue. Thank you for your time and efforts on our behalf.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal