Principal's Report
of the
School Board

The month of April saw Lafayette Regional School pilot the Northwestern Education Association (NWEA) online assessments. This method of web-based, Common Core Standards aligned, and adaptive testing is becoming increasingly popular as schools continue to seek out ways of assessing student achievement. When students take these tests, they are presented with test questions at different levels of difficulty, that adjust based on their responses. Test results are immediate, allowing teachers to use this information to then modify their instruction in a timely manner. This is significantly different than waiting a few months for test results as we do with the NECAP and/or Terra Nova tests. Our students are stepping up to this latest challenge of computer-based testing and most of them think it is rather cool if a bit more difficult than previous standardized tests. We are already using this testing data to determine how to improve student achievement.

There is always a plethora of field trips in any school as soon as the weather starts to turn spring-like. The fourth grade visited the Currier Museum of Fine Arts and the Zimmerman House, a Frank Lloyd Wright designed mansion. The fifth and sixth graders, as part of their Outdoor Program, participated in a field and lake study at the Squam Lakes Science Center. Our Chess Club participated in the annual NH Team Chess Tournament and came home with numerous trophies. Poetry Night was a complete success as approximately 36 students stood tall and brave to recite their lines in front of a packed house. A table tennis tournament was scheduled, postponed, and then finally held as Sam Greene and his mom, Mary Jo, took championship honors.

Our Multi-Purpose Room continues to hold community events non-stop. Garnet Hill held their annual Wellness Expo in our MPR recently and held workshops for their entire staff (And ours as well!). The symbiotic relationship that we have with our close neighbor pays off in dividends as Garnet Hill helps and supports many of our endeavors. Adult basketball and body pump activities hold twice weekly events as well. The Life Squad and Fire Departments of our towns also use our building for regional educational workshops.

The Building and Grounds Committee continues to research alternative energy potential for heating our building and have had several conversations with companies representing various methods of saving energy costs. We are also moving closer to finalizing our front-door security system arrangements. The initial proposal for a locked front-door did not work out and we
cancelled that contract. Stan Sawicki, Head of Maintenance, and Michele Leonard, School Nurse, and I, attended a Blood Borne Pathogens training at the Franconia Town Hall. This was part of a town-wide effort to help keep town employees safer from these issues.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you may have regarding this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal