April has been an extremely busy month here at school. Despite the third week off of school for vacation, we managed to integrate plenty of academic learning, enrichment opportunities, professional development activities for teachers, and general, good clean fun. The year is flying by and many students, teachers, and parents, are wondering how we got here so quickly.

Our second graders visited the Senior Center in Littleton to visit a “zoo” presentation. The fifth and sixth graders presented a play, “Theseus and the Minotaur” to our whole school and then again to their parents that night. The “Hampstead Players” offered our whole school a professional production of the “Wizard of Oz”, paid for by our wonderful LPTO. We held a Table Tennis Tournament which was a great success. The local electrical companies offered our students a “Lights for Learning” presentation in each classroom that focused on electricity. We had 53 poets bravely read or recite their poetry at our recent Poetry Night. Sixth grade parents met to discuss the graduation exercise regarding decorations and refreshments. Fourth graders spent three days completing this year’s NECAP Science Assessments. We also held our annual Kindergarten Registration at which 6 students registered for next year. Volunteer Moms organized a program called, “Fit Girls” in grades 3-5 that focuses on running but also includes important message to young girls regarding self-esteem, body image, confidence building, and peer group pressure.

A group of ten committed volunteers joined together to form our 2nd Grade Teacher Interview Committee. We processed 49 applications and interviewed seven very strong individuals. The final candidate was also interviewed by the Superintendent of Schools and will be brought forward to the School Board for final approval. Many thanks go to the Interview Committee consisting of Meghan McPhaul, Amanda Clough, Linda Gaitskill, Luther Kinney, Beverly Frenkiewich, Melissa Lanin, Amy Kelley, Erica Sieberg, Toni Butterfield, and Gordie Johnk.

All teachers and support staff have received and signed their evaluations. The teachers visited classrooms in other schools and wrote reflections on this experience. We used the Danielson Model of Teacher Effectiveness as our guide, including the rubrics provided. These important documents provide a rich conversation between teachers and principals with improved student achievement recognized as the ultimate goal. We are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated and veteran teachers working with our students.
We are working through a NH Department of Environmental Services Asbestos Compliance Inspection. Some paperwork still has to be documented from our asbestos abatement project of two years ago. This is an interesting process especially since the only asbestos left in our building is on the boiler room ceiling.

Our fantastic LPTO conducted a Staff Appreciation Week which was met with huge smiles and much appreciation. Every day this week they did something special for the staff members. From favorite snacks, breakfast, chair massages, and lunch at Chef Joe’s, we had a very special week. Thank you to our LPTO!

We are advertising for a Food Services Director to run our kitchen next year. At the same time, we are conversing with a Food Service Program (Café Services) to see if they can propose a reasonable plan to run our kitchen. There are pros and cons with contracting kitchen services to an outside group, however, the economy of scale plays a major role. We would like to see an improved lunch count next year as a goal for whoever runs our kitchen.

Our three-year Technology Plan is in the final stages of being written. When the final draft is complete, we will ask the School Board for final approval. The Technology Committee meets every month to discuss long range planning, curriculum issues, budget items, and instructional goals.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this report or any other school question that you may have. Thank you, again, for supporting our students and staff members by your hard work and efforts.

Respectfully,

Gordie Johnk
Principal