Principal’s Report

to the
School Board

The month of October was filled with excitement at Lafayette Regional School. Since our last School Board meeting, we finished the NECAP testing in grades 3 – 6. Other than the spring Science NECAP testing in fourth grade, we are now officially finished with NECAP testing forever. Taking its place will be an online standardized and adjustable assessment named, “Smarter Balance”. You will be hearing a lot more about this new assessment tool in the future!

Our bi-annual Parent/Teacher Conferences were held this month. Our turnout was just slightly shy of 100% attendance by our parents! These important conversations focused on the academic and social progress of students based on classroom formative assessments, teacher observations, NWEA standardized testing, and Fountas & Pinnell reading assessments. This home/school connection is a significant variable to student achievement and success.

Lafayette’s weekly Community Meetings are held to showcase student accomplishments, to educate students in some of our “soft” curricula, and to enrich our students with activities and/or opportunities that they may otherwise not experience. This month, our students were enthralled by the sixth graders’ presentation of their First Lego League robotics demonstration. These students explained what this year’s FLL focus was (Nature’s Fury) and their solution to natural emergencies (A flashlight that runs off of your body’s electricity.) As an additional highlight, Mrs. Koehler arranged for the NH State Police to bring their much larger robot into our Multi-Purpose Room and demonstrate how they use robots to keep themselves and the public safe. (We did not use the words, “Bomb Squad”, don’t worry!) At another Community Meeting, we heard from the Franconia Ski Club that they are offering scholarships to their program to our students. Quite a few of our students asked for applications to this generous offer. We also conducted a “School Bus Safety” program at for those students who do not usually ride the bus to and from school but will be riding on a bus to Cannon Mountain or on some other field trip. The Franconia and Sugar Hill Police Departments talked to our students about “Halloween Safety” and being smart when trick or treating. They, along with the Franconia and Sugar Hill Fire Departments and Life Squad, also protected us as we paraded down Main Street in our Halloween costumes for all to see.

Our school building is being used by many different organizations. “Body Pump” classes exercise twice a week as does an “Insanity” workout group. The Dow Academy Committee
recently held their annual meeting in our library on a Sunday morning. Franconia Ski Club held their annual Ski Swap last Saturday which was attended by hundreds of eager skiers and snowboarders.

Our very supportive LPTO generously paid for new choral risers for our music program. Our old risers were very “tired” and were almost unsafe. This effectively saved School District budget dollars (Approximately $4,300.) from paying for this much needed upgrade. Thank you, LPTO! The annual LPTO Auction was a huge success with over $7,000 in profits.

Our Budget Committee is almost finished reviewing and modifying our proposed budget. The members have been thoughtful and inquisitive on every line item that could be changed. This process will be finalized and a proposed budget will be presented to the School Board by the December meeting (Thursday, December 12th).

The Energy Audit by Siemens Industries will be discussed at this Thursday’s School Board meeting. The focus is primarily on a cost efficient, new heating system.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this report or any other school-related matter. Thank you for supporting our wonderful school with your time and efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal