Principal's Report

to the
School Board

The bright colors of October’s foliage have changed to the dreariness of November’s grayness. In that short period of time, however, we have been extremely busy with the work of the school. Our Responsive Classroom model is working smoothly and engaging students in both the social/emotional realms as well as the academic areas of study. Recess issues are minimal as students know the rules and expectations of each game and thus, are less prone to arguing over the same. All in all, the school is running smoothly during these first 3 months of school.

We enriched our regular curricula in many ways so far this year. One of these opportunities came to us from a federal educational watershed program called, “Watershed on Wheels”. This program taught our students all about watersheds. How streams and rivers are formed, how they change over time, and how important it is for us to protect these sensitive areas of our geography. The displays and trailers that these instructors brought with them enhanced their instruction and engaged our students. Another activity/presentation came to us out of the kindness and generosity of our local car dealership, Littleton Chevrolet. They sponsored our recent “Puppets in Education” workshop which offered all of our students’ lessons in healthy eating, bullying, and learning differences. Each lesson was facilitated by the puppeteers who were aided by very large puppets. Our students were thrilled by the entire experience and came away with important lessons that they can use in their everyday lives.

We hosted a free flu shot clinic for all students and staff members on two separate days this past month. Many parents took advantage of this opportunity for free flu shots. On a different safety subject, our local Police Chiefs held a Halloween Safety meeting with our students, delivering the message that children need to always think in making good decisions during Halloween night…, and every other night as well! We then held our annual Halloween Parade down Main Street where we were greeted by many townspeople. A great time was had by all of our students, many parents, and delighted onlookers.

The discussion regarding the possibility of instituting a full-day kindergarten program at Lafayette continues at the School Board level. Beverly Frenkiewich will answer any questions that folks may have regarding this idea. Presently, the majority of the parents surveyed were in favor of expanding the school day from 7:45-12:00 to a dismissal time of 2:30. These extra two hours per day will allow us to better handle the increased rigor of the Common Core State Standards that are written for a full-day kindergarten program. We will keep our
developmentally appropriate program intact but also expand upon our academic program at the same time. For those voters who want to know what the costs would entail, it will cost approximately $19,000. For comparison purposes, we are the last local school who still has a part-time kindergarten program.

Several Building and Grounds Committee issues are being discussed in great detail. Our wood pellet heating system will not be installed this winter as we had no bidders to install this hybrid heating system. The plan is to re-bid this project in January and have construction start shortly after school lets out for the summer. We also have an estimate to paint the trim around our building. This painting needs to happen in a timely manner to preserve the wood that is exposed to our harsh weather. The window replacement and insulating project also has an estimate and will be prioritized and discussed at the School Board and Committee levels.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time regarding this report or any other school issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal