The month of October started with serious academic activities such as Progress Reports going home and subsequent Parent/Teacher Conferences and then ended with Halloween… you can imagine which event was more exciting for our students! While the weather was unusually cold these last few months, the soccer players finished their seasons all bundled up, many at the Halloween Cup on our Dow Field. October was very cold, here is hoping that November brings more reasonable weather!

Parent/Teacher Conferences were held this month, approximately one week after progress reports were sent home. Parents conversed with teachers regarding academic and social progress. These conversations often start with test scores and teacher observations during the first 30 days of school. Interestingly, there is a marked improvement in student performance after some of these discussions. It makes a huge difference when children know that the adults in their world are caring enough to talk about them and their daily work. Our participation rate is over 95% of students being represented at these conferences by a family member.

Halloween continues to thrill everyone at Lafayette. Our friends, Franconia Police Chief Mac Cashin and Sugar Hill Police Chief Bob Mancini, gave our annual Halloween Safety Talk to all students and even brought along their dogs, Boomer and Ruger! Our students not only learned valuable safety lessons about trick or treating in the dark but also were entertained by the well-behaved dogs. We then started our parade by visiting more friends at the Lafayette Center, next door. We then met up with the Franconia and Sugar Hill Fire Departments and Franconia Life Squad for a parade down Main Street. Lots of candy later, we finally arrived at Mac’s and slowly made our way back to school on the sidewalk. Many thanks go out to the various businesses and townspeople who make this spooky day even more special for the children of our community.

Our Budget Committee is working hard in their review of each line item. Several discussions have ensued about various expenditures and their impact on student learning. We will continue to work through the end of the budget for recommendations and presentation to the School Board at their December meeting. An issue to be discussed is to budget for additional help in our front office. This may be on a part-time basis but the need is evident and the school needs to implement a plan to address this personnel shortfall. Several new initiatives have arisen that have budgetary implications. A recommendation on how to proceed forward will be addressed at the November School Board meeting.

Our abutter land issue is moving forward with land being cleared by the neighbor so that we may use our property. The deadline for this land to be cleaned is November 30th so we remain hopeful that
this project will proceed smoothly. The goal is to use this area for an outdoor classroom in the near future.

Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful school. Please feel free to contact me with any school questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal