Principal’s Report

to the
School Board

The first month of school has been filled with great excitement and a few surprises. For example, we received three new students just last week! Our enrollment figures number 110 students which is a slight increase over the first week of school and closer to last year’s enrollment numbers. All of our students are over the first-of-the-year transitional “jitters” and are engaged in their respective classrooms. The month of October is filled with NECAP testing, Outdoor Program hiking, monster building (Monster Project), Fire Prevention, Halloween, soccer, as well as working hard on our various curricula.

We made the decision to convert our Kindergarten classroom to a “nut-free” classroom due to a medical issue involving allergic reactions to nuts. Every Kindergarten parent has been notified and the entire staff is aware of this serious issue (The letter to Kindergarten parents is attached with this report.). As prevention is the best possible strategy to employ, we are taking various steps to make sure that every student in our school is as safe as possible. This year we also have a student who is prone to seizures and are taking the appropriate measures to ensure a safe environment at all times.

Our recent Open House was a huge success with almost every parent participating in this exciting evening. The Lion’s Club provided a delicious spaghetti dinner for all families starting at 5:00. They served approximately 175 dinners! At 6:00, we opened the doors and each family visited the classrooms to view the remarkable work that each student presented. Many complimentary comments were heard and nary a nasty word directed my way!

Our Friday Community Meetings have been filled with wonderful educational and enrichment type of activities. Included on this list would be, a rules and expectations review with students on the first day of school, a traveling exhibit of birds of prey, two community meetings for Pinwheels for Peace, and a folk singing concert by outside performers singing children’s songs. Upcoming meetings will include Fire Prevention, Halloween Safety, and an explanation of the fourth grades Monster Project. Our sixth graders have been sitting with and mentoring our youngest students during some of these activities. The benefits of our older students working with our youngest ones are powerful and long-lasting, with both groups learning from the other.
New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) testing is taking place these last two weeks. This accountability measure for the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal law assesses our students in grades 3-6 in mathematics and reading. Grade five also completes the writing portion of this test. Our students are taking these assessments seriously and working hard on them. Science is assessed in grade four in the spring. We have received last spring’s Science NECAP scores which will be sent home to parents next week. 79% of our fourth grade students tested “proficient”, 14% (2 students) tested “partially proficient”, and 7% (1 student), tested “substantially below proficient”. A more detailed explanation of these tests and subsequent results will be presented at the School Board meeting.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you may have regarding this report or any school issue in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal