Principal's Report
to the
School Board

The month of September was a colorful one around Lafayette and it was not only due to our beautiful foliage season. The Peace Flags that our students made for International Day of Peace are still flying in our front circular area and serve as a reminder for us to be kind to one another...every day. Peace Day was a great example of how our project-based learning model is supposed to work. Our fourth grade students, after being introduced to the concept and website of the International Day of Peace (http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org/) were excited to spread their new learning to the whole school. This engagement caught on and teachers facilitated three Friday Community Days of multi-aged small groups in building “blocks of peace”, making pinwheels, writing stories and skits, drawing posters, making slideshows and videos, presenting a skit, and learning how Peace Day is celebrated across the globe through shared videos with students in other countries. We covered numerous Common Core State Standards in every grade and made great progress in our goal of using authentic project-based learning opportunities and integrating technology throughout our curricula to implement 21st Century Learning skills (Communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and technology integration.)

Other examples of our project-based learning would be the second grade’s Fire Prevention skit that they performed in front of the whole school, the third grade’s Unity Day against bullying that permeated throughout our school, the fourth grade’s Monster Project, and the fifth grade’s Wetlands Project.

Teachers have administered two new and different assessments to form a baseline data set for each student in the first few weeks of this year. The Fountas and Pinnell reading assessment and the NWEA online test will be used as formative data to better focus instructional practices in all grade levels. These new assessments allow data to be used in documenting student progress and overall achievement.

Our students have been hard at work, taking the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) state-wide tests. These tests are administered in grades 3-6 in the areas of Reading and Mathematics
(Grade 5 also has Writing, Grade 4 has Science in the spring). Assessment results will be shared with parents and be used to document student achievement in the previous grade. Our NECAP Science results from last spring have arrived and will be shared with parents as well. These tests are part of the accountability measures of the No Child Left Behind federal law and are mandated at both the state and federal levels.

Lafayette held our annual Open House and had a strong showing of parents that are interested in their child (ren’s) learning. We started the evening with the famous Spaghetti Dinner that the Franconia Lions Club served. Parents and students then visited the classrooms. Students were, for the most part, the tour guides for their parents in showing and explaining what they have been doing during the first month of school. Parents also had the opportunity to meet each teacher, including our Unified Arts teachers (Art, Music, Physical Education/Health, Library, Technology, Reading Recovery, School Counselor, and Special Education). This was a great introduction to a new grade, teacher, and classroom. Next week we will hold our first Parent/Teacher Conferences where parents can talk specifically about their child’s academic and social/emotional progress.

Thank you for your continuing support of our very successful small school. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments regarding the school.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordie Johnk
Principal