School Board Report

Windham Elementary School

11-4-19

**Academic Proficiency:**

-Julian Leon, from the Vermont Energy Education Program, VEEP, was here this past Monday, October 28th, to work with all the students in the school. This is the fourth year that Julian has come to our school to work with students on energy education. He spent an hour in the younger students’ classroom, then spent over two hours with the older students. They worked on experiments with wind, hydro, and solar power to determine the most efficient ways of generating electricity using those renewable resources. The students used hands on materials with fans, lights, a steam machine, and an electricity volt meter to measure the best ways to produce electricity using those three options. Students then participated in a scientist discussion where they made claims about what they learned or noticed and had to support those claims with evidence from their experiments.

**Personalized Learning:**

-For art one week last month we had Mary Frazer come in to teach the students how to do weaving using Willow branches. Mary brought in some Willow that she had been soaking in water so they would flexible enough for students to use to make fish plates. Once they are more comfortable with this process of weaving, the students could use this technique to make baskets out of woven willow branches similar to those used by Native Americans.

-Next up for art is the art studio at the field house for ceramics. My understanding is that there will be two teaching artists there this year to help assist, guide, and teach the students about techniques for sculpting and glazing.

-Mrs. Kehoe is coming in this week to do some Language Arts Assessments with the students to help the teachers to better identify any gaps in their LA abilities. One assessment she will use is the Dibbles which looks at words read out loud per-minute and basic comprehensions skills. These results can be used to help determine how time is used during skills block.

**High Quality Staffing:**

-The first Grade Level Meetings happened this month with the upper grade group working on social studies curriculum. These meetings are run by the director of curriculum Jen McKusick and attended by the three grade levels that are grouped for the common core state standards.

-Open house was last week for the students to come in and show their parents what they have been learning and working on to this point in the school year.

**Safe, Healthy Schools:**

-Fire safety day week was earlier this month and the students were treated to a visit by the Windham Volunteer fire department. The fire alarm was pulled, the students evacuated, and then the fire engines came with sirens blaring to search the school as if there was a real fire. The students were able to check out the fire truck, interact with the firemen, and watch a video about fire safety.

-The most recent water tests that have come back show that our water is in great shape for drinking at all locations.

-Last month the whole school went to Green Mountain Orchards to pick apples, take a hay ride, and press apple cider. This is a yearly fall experience for the students to get outside and appreciate one of the benefits of living in Vermont.

**Financial Efficiencies:**

-Unfortunately, our grant from the Vermont Art’s Council was denied. They stated they have had several requests and could not meet them all, and given we had received one in the past few years, we were not selected again. Mr. PJ spoke with Linda Whelihan from the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center about this and they are working on a plan to keep this partnership up without the grant.

-We had our first pasta supper of this school year to help fund the 6th grade trip to Six Flags and the 5th grade trip to Camp Keewaydin. We tried something different this year by having a supper the night of Open House. It seemed to be a better idea to have the parents here on one night instead of two separate ones. We made over six hundred dollars on the supper, raffle, and dessert table.