School Board Report

Windham Elementary School

 3-1-2021

**Academic Proficiency:**

-Progress monitoring continues at all grade levels in math and language arts to help us look for any gaps in the student’s learning.

-The Kiwi Science Kits have been in use by the older classroom this year to have a more hands on science experience. The kits, of which there are two different versions sent each month, are a great way to have high interest activities that are connected to the Next Generation
Science Standards. The lessons are also great for practicing following directions, working together with a classmate, and the students end up with a final product that can be used to further their understandings of the concepts taught. Pictures of some of these projects have been in the newsletter over the past couple months. The students really engage intensely with this hands on approach.

**Personalized Learning:**

-Next week we get our second visit from teaching artist Susan Haefner. Susan met with the students once last month and will again once this month to begin introducing her month long project to the students. These first two meetings are to help Susan get to know the kids and help the students get comfortable with the idea of performing and creating their own characters.

-The second sewing project from Meadow’s Bee Farm has been completed. It is a small pouch with a button that students can use to carry their treasured possessions in. This project really challenged the students to work more delicately with the skills they acquired when making the pillow. Some students have decided to use the pouch to hold their pillow! The third project is just underway and it is a treasure bag.

**High Quality Staffing:**

-Having now settled in after the holiday break, we have been really able to focus on some targeted academics. Students are now moving freely from classroom to classroom to be where they best fit given the day’s instruction. All students in k, 1, 2, and 3 are in Mr. PJ’s room two mornings a week for a math warm up. Eventually, the third grader and kindergartener leave to work with Sara on more grade appropriate practice. This provides a great opportunity for the students to all be together and share their thinking around a given topic. This also helps the students to learn about increased behavioral and academic expectations in the upper grade classroom.

-Sara is beginning the peer review process for her elementary education teaching license. Next year she will have a provisional license provided by our superintendent, and will complete this process so that she will be a certified k-6 elementary teacher. All this is being paid for by grants or is already in the budget for next year. There will be no increased costs for us both to be here next year.

-Mr. PJ just completed the Mindful Nonviolent Communication Course through the Path to Wellness Program for teachers. He received a certificate of completion for eight hours of professional development.

**Safe, Healthy Schools:**

-Mr. PJ has begun looking into some new playground equipment to use much of the REAP Grant funds. Our playground is in need of some serious upgrading with those swings that look like they are from the 20’s and that merry-go-round that may be outlawed in other states. Over the next couple months, Mr. PJ will continue research and meet with company representatives to explore new options for outside play. If you have any suggestions or ideas where he should look, please contact him.

-A huge thank you to the WCSU IT team, specifically Marvin and Peter for setting up our remote access and alert system for the boiler. We had our first notification this week and before the school even changed temperature at all, we were able to reset the boiler and not be impacted in the least. Way to go Marvin and Peter!!!

**Financial Efficiencies:**

-Mr. PJ has applied to use ESSER funds, which are related to Covid impacts, to have a week of summer programming here at the school the first week of August. As of now, this would include Mr. PJ, Sara, Sally, and Mrs. West coming for a week of fun activities, music, art, academics, a healthy snack and some related health education, and plenty of outdoor time. More information to come as we continue to put this program together.