School Board Report

Windham Elementary School

4-1-19

**Academic Proficiency:**

-April is the final month for academic preparations leading to the Smarter Balanced Assessment or SBAC. This assessment is the final summative assessment for the year that is used to see progress of all the students.

-Presentations in the upper grade classroom will begin this month on the Ancient Civilization research that has been happening over the past couple months. Some students will be doing power point presentations, some made posters, and some may be original ideas of their own.

**Personalized Learning:**

-Our math block this month will focus once a week on any skills that are lacking from the course of this year. Students who may still be struggling with one specific content area such as decimals, or geometry or any other math topic will get the chance to really hone their skills or correct any lacking gaps that may exist within a given topic.

-In language arts we will be working on many grammar review sheets to also help prepare for the upcoming SBAC assessment. Often times, grammar topics are forgotten or just not fully remembered over the course of a year. This practice should help reinforce some skills that may be weak or may be just the reminder some students need to be fully ready to perform in May.

-Progress monitoring continues this month as part of the Aims Web assessments. All students in the upper grade class are monitored in both math and LA for extra practice with the skills, as well as continued exposure to the format and platform that is always beneficial. Interim Assessment Blocks or IAB’s are also being used this month to help prepare and practice for the SBAC. These blocks are topic specific sets of math questions on topics such as geometry, fractions, expressions and equations, and other topics specific to that grade level.

**High Quality Staffing:**

-On Wednesday, April 3rd Marvin Bentley, our technology expert in the SU, will begin working with the upper grade class on some weekly lessons related to technology skills. He will be choosing topics that are relevant to the skills needed for success in middle school and beyond. Marvin is very excited by this opportunity, as are the students. This week he is starting with appropriate resources to use when doing research, as well as an explanation of plagiarism.

-On Thursday, April 11th Mr. PJ attends his monthly half-day trauma cohort meeting.

**Safe, Healthy Schools:**

-The winter sports program ended on Wednesday, March 27th. What a great season of skiing we had this year!

-April Vacation is the week of the 15th-19th.

-Camp Keewaydin for the 5th graders begins on April 29th and ends May 3rd.

-Thursday, June 6th is the tentative day for the sixth grade trip to NYC.

-Any suggestions for where to put the new signs? Should one or two go in front of town office?

**Financial Efficiencies:**

-The KIWI science kits are still a big hit. Last month, I brought the artwork from the spinners that the older students made and the claw machine games the younger students made to show you what the first months box was. This month the younger students made mini rug sweepers and the older students will be making a hydraulic claw.

-Later this month, the sneakers the students were all measured for should be arriving.

-Progress continues to be made on the effort to get lunches for all students all five days a week for free. The West Townshend Store had not responded to me about this since the original discussion, so Tammy Mosher from the Stratton Foundation began to call around for other options. The new idea is that Chris at Leland and Gray will be able to roll us in with the other schools he is providing lunch for. He is planning a site visit up here in the next few weeks. This option will keep us in compliance with any federal laws about serving food as well. He also mentioned the possibility of providing a free cold breakfast for everyone as well to help supplement or offset our current breakfast program which has Gail and me preparing a hot breakfast for everyone daily.

-The Windham Community Organization just donated 300 dollars to the 6th grade trip to NYC and 500 dollars to the Keewaydin trip. This, along with one more pasta supper being planned for this month, gives us all the money we need for those two experiences.