School Board Report

Windham Elementary School

1-7-2019

**Academic Proficiency:**

-There are no Professional Learning Communities (PLC’s) with Jen this month, nor are there any grade level meetings. The focus this month is preparing for reporting out to parents on their child’s progress at the mid-point of the year. This leads to increased awareness on the part of the parents and students, possible changes to the individual student’s program of study, as well as increased collaboration between the family and school to meet the specific needs of the student moving forward.

-Tuesday, March 22 is our report card day at school. This is a day without students given to teachers for use in preparing their report cards. This day allows teachers to be very comprehensive with their grade analysis and more importantly, to be specific about comments related to each individual student.

-On January 29th, Mr. PJ is again attending his monthly trauma cohort meeting for two and a half hours at Leland and Gray to continue this work with Dave Melnick.

-We now have 17 students in school as a new student joined Sally’s class after vacation.

**Personalized Learning:**

-Progress monitoring has continued into this month with the Winter Aims Web summative assessment right around the corner. This mid-year assessment gives teachers a great deal of information on the progress made so far by their students. This is the final summative assessment before the end-of-year one that happens in June.

-Skills block is now planned on being used in the upper grades as more of a flex time, similar to what is in place at Leland and Gray for the middle school students. If there is a weak skill area, a particular student or small group of students may need to get some extra instruction or have more practice in that specific area. If there are old missing assignments, students may be asked to work on one that the teacher feels is most important to get finished or to redo. If a student is all caught up on their work, does not seem to be struggling in any current areas we are working on, and has no major corrections to do on old assignments turned in, they are then permitted to work on homework, a research project of their own choosing, or another academically based idea that has been approved by the classroom teacher.

**High Quality Staffing:**

-The Green School Energy Challenge project is now underway and being worked on by the students in science class with Sally. As a result, Julian Leon from the Vermont Energy Education Program, VEEP, came down to work with our students on a day of experimenting with electricity and various sources of energy. It was a very full two hours of work in the all-purpose room with many hands on activities and experiments using the materials Sally obtained when she went to the day long meeting with VEEP up in Montpelier last month. The students are learning about renewable sources of energy and why that is preferred to other finite sources of energy.

-Anna Portea, who came last year to work with the students in art on the extremely popular hot air balloon project, is back again next month for art class. Anna was supposed to be here this month but has had some personal issues and requested to come next month instead. She is very generously donating her time to come and do three classes with the students. Her mother, a former art teacher, has helped to guide her lessons and set up activities that are engaging and artistically educational. Thankfully this month, Lillie Beshay has agreed to step in at the last minute and will be doing art with the kids.

**Safe, Healthy Schools:**

-The winter sports program will begin on Wednesday. There will be eight students going to Stratton for downhill skiing, eight students going to Grafton Ponds with Sally for cross country skiing, and one student who goes to Bromley for downhill there. All seventeen students are participating in our winter sports program this year.

-The heater in the upper grade’s class has been fixed after the power surge that made it start smoking and smelling. Thermal Environmental Sales (TES) came in on December 12th and fixed it and reset it to a lower temperature, so we are hopefully not forced to shut it off anymore to keep from getting over heated.

**Financial Efficiencies:**

-We received approval from Laurie for part of our Rural Education Achievement Program, REAP, grant that was awarded earlier this year. We are using the money to buy science kits for each student to work on individually or in pairs and then share out what they have learned with the rest of the group. This money will support our work on the Next Generation Science Standards through hands on projects and experiences, as well as oral presentation skills.

-The grant money spent on our new entrance security system has proven to be very well spent. The buzz-in system works very well and has not been a disruption to the staff or students. It is a welcome relief to know there is no one entering the building without our knowledge.