School Board Report

Windham Elementary School

12-2-19

**Academic Proficiency:**

-The winter benchmark is right after we return from holiday break for the Aims web assessment. Students have been completing the progress monitoring about every two weeks to keep them familiar with the platform and to keep up their practice with the skills being assessed. This assessment is done for both math and language arts. This mid-year data will help to inform instruction for the remainder of the year, as well as giving the classroom teachers some feedback on the effectiveness of the instruction to this point in the year.

-The k-3 class has earned over 1,000 beads through our Positive Behavioral Support System bead reward program. They were able to go the Springfield pool as a result of this accomplishment. The older students used that same time frame to have pizza and pajama day for their bead reward.

-The older students just finished their boat projects which was a culmination of a series of lessons taught by Rob Packard on wind and waves during science. Each student created a sail boat from scratch using recycled materials that had to float for at least 30 seconds. Rob was the judge for the final grade which was based on staying under the budget, floating for 30 seconds, originality, and functionality.

**Personalized Learning:**

-We are in the midst of our ceramics program at the field house in conjunction with Meadow’s Bee Farm. Brittany and Gosia area working with the students to further their coil building techniques, slab building, and pinch pots. The older students are also getting time on the wheel every week in an attempt to bolster their skills with throwing pots, cups, or bowls. The students wrote out goals for their work and presented them to the instructor last week who will help to guide them towards completion of the pieces. Some of them are working on Christmas presents as well to be given to family members for the holidays.

**High Quality Staffing:**

-Mr. PJ attended the leadership team meeting with Dave Melnick last month. This meeting was for continuing the work the SU has been doing with Dave over the past few years. One main goal at this time was connecting the catalyst group with the leadership group to be sure everyone is on the same page for where this work is headed and what should already be in place. Two agreements already in place are no student names on the board for punitive reasons and greeting all students when they arrive in the morning.

**Safe, Healthy Schools:**

-We had our first egress drill this year last month. In order to prepare the students, we first all met together to discuss when this might be used in an emergency situation. We had an open dialogue and attempted to answer all questions and put any fears to rest. Students were then sent back to their classrooms and the air horn was to be blown. At that point, we realized the air horn was not functioning, so Mr. PJ mimicked the sound and all the students went running to the woods. Once the all clear whistle was blown, the students went to reconvene at the town offices where we meet for our fire drills. As a result of this practice drill, we have ordered a new air horn to be used next time.

-The whole school went down to Leland and Gray a couple weeks ago to see the Elementary School concert practice. Although we were the only school there, we feel it is important for the students to see events like this to get excited by the opportunities offered at Leland and Gray and to see their former classmates having a good time being involved in extra curricular activities.

-Ester Fishman from the Londonderry Recycling Center came to the school on November 18th to work with all the students on recycling. She had three different bins: one for trash, one for recycling, and one for composting. She then held up several different types of materials to see if the students knew which container they went in. The students also watched a video about what happens to the materials when they arrive at the recycling center. Ester told us that a new law is going into effect this spring in Vermont that will prohibit food scraps from being put in the trash.

**Financial Efficiencies:**

-The breakfast program continues to thrive with donations from the community coming in regularly. The students continue to eat eggs, pancakes, oatmeal, English muffins, bagels, smoothies, bacon, sausage, fruit and other items donated by the families on a daily basis to help prepare them for the day ahead. We have increased to 18 eggs being used when scrambled eggs are made, up from only 10 last year.

-Chris Medina continues to try and find a plumber or heating specialist to fix the leak in the main office heating system. He has not had any luck over the past two months. If anyone knows of someone who is licensed to fix something like this, and actually has the time to do it, please let Mr. PJ know.

-Lisa Beshay has received a grant for $900 for the afterschool program in the form of two Lego Mindstorms Robot kits and two Amazon Fire tablets. She figures this will help to bring in some more older students to participate in the after school program after the holiday break.