School Board Report

Windham Elementary School

 2-1-2021

**Academic Proficiency:**

-The winter benchmark for the Aims web assessment was administered last month to the five students that have been here all year. The scores in math were excellent and are very much above the state average. The scores in language arts were not as elevated as math, which leads us to examine our LA block so that we can gain similar improvements in LA as we have already seen in math. Our skills block, which is the fifteen to twenty minutes after lunch recess, is now mostly devoted to reading skills and language arts. In math, for the winter benchmark our school average is at the seventy-eighth percentile. Eighty percent of the school is above the seventy-fifth percentile.

**Personalized Learning:**

-Next week we get our first visit from teaching artist Susan Haefner. Susan has worked with our students many times over the past several years as part of the Early Stages program through the Weston Playhouse and comes to us with extensive performance experience including a stint on Broadway. Susan is meeting with our students once this month, once next month, and then will come twice a week during the month of May to help the students develop their own performance. These meetings are able to be done outside if need be or in a socially distanced space so that every one remains safe. The culminating project will be a performance by the students that can either be viewed in person outside or will be recorded and made available for others to view.

-The second sewing project as part of the sewing badge from Meadows Bee Farm has begun with all students working on improving the sewing skills they developed with the first project around the holidays.

**High Quality Staffing:**

-Sara and Mr. PJ continue to evolve with our understanding of how to best meet the needs of all students in this school. Over the past month, with the addition of three new students, we have been able to modify our schedule such that students can move freely from one classroom space to another depending on their level with relation to a given subject. The traditional way of students working on “grade level” work is slowly fading away so that students can be working at the appropriate level in any given subject. In such a small environment as we have, we can make these adjustments to best meet students where they are whether that is on grade level or not. Given the decline in public school students nationwide, this is exactly the kind of unique programing that sets Windham apart and may attract those families that are leaving the traditional public school setting for something that can better meet the individual needs of today’s children.

**Safe, Healthy Schools:**

-Monday, January 25th was our report card day for the supervisory union. Mr. PJ and Sara met to work together on the student report cards so that the most complete reporting could be done for our families. Report cards went home with students on Friday, January 29th.

-On Tuesday, January 12th Mr. PJ met with Reva Stover who is the new director of education at the Weston Playhouse to discuss the Early Stages program this year. Reva is coming from Florida and excited to be working and living in Vermont.

-On Friday, January 29, we did a lockdown and shelter in place drill.

**Financial Efficiencies:**

-All the work on the heating and cooling systems is finally finished. Sara and Mr. PJ met with Tyler and Doug from Alliance on Monday, January 11th to go over the remote control system now accessible from our desktop computers. This allows us to see all the heating zones, adjust temperature set points, view all the data related to heating and cooling, and to make any changes that are necessary to keep the building comfortable.

-The recorder box that is part of the video recording system here at the school has been replaced. When Mr. PJ went in to look over some video of possible unauthorized entry into the school, he noticed the recorder was not functioning properly. He spoke with Mike from Amity Alarm and met him here at school on Monday, January 18th to replace the box. Everything is now hooked up and functioning properly.