

Principal's Report

October 20, 2009

- As part of the supervision and evaluation process, all staff members have set goals for the year. Everyone was asked to write one goal that aligns with a WWSU initiative (writing or math.) A second goal was at the discretion of the staff member. Goals three and four align with our school Action Plan and include creating a process that supports students with pervasive behavioral issues and using teacher language consistent with the guiding principles in *The Power of Our Words*. Those guiding principles are: Be direct and authentic. Show faith in children's intentions and abilities. Keep it action oriented. Keep it brief. Know when to be silent.

Some sample staff goals:

I plan to create a scope and sequence for health education. I will identify what health prevention topics will be taught and at what grade level. I will coordinate with the nurse, counselor and PE teacher to capitalize on instructional strengths and promote efficiency. I will model and support the integration of health education across the curriculum.

---Patty Smith, Health Education Coordinator

I will continue to explore new materials and techniques for improving writing skills in my own classroom, as well as sharing this knowledge through professional development opportunities. This will include leading the WWSU Professional Development Group, Formative Writing Instruction in the Elementary Grades, as well as serving as a Network Literacy Leader for the State.

---Carla Kotas Lewis, Grades 3/4 teacher

To further training and education related to PowerSchool use in order to more efficiently use data school-wide.

---Cally Schober, Administrative Assistant

I will create an evaluation system for support staff based on current job descriptions. This system will include at least two in-depth conferences during which we will discuss the support staff member's goals and performance. I will continue the implementation of the PathWise evaluation system for professional staff. This includes establishing a cycle that indicates who is being evaluated when, and what stage in the process they are in. I will work with the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for WWSU to co-observe some teachers and calibrate my responses and observations.

---Chris Dodge, Principal

- Doug Bergstein will be participating in the EarthWatch program in Guanacaste, Costa Rica January 19-22. He will be monitoring, assisting and studying leatherback turtles while communicating with his students at F.E.S. via various forms of technology from the field. Visit: <http://www.earthwatch.org/exped/paladino.html>
- The NECAP science test results from last May have arrived and 94 percent of FES fourth graders scored proficient or proficient with distinction. Seven percent scored partially proficient. No students scored substantially below proficient. Students in grades three through six are currently finishing NECAP assessment in reading and math. Additionally, fifth graders are tested in writing. We generally have these results in late winter.
- LaRock Property Maintenance has been awarded the contract for snow removal this year for a total cost of \$1,850. Proposals were also received from Green Stripes Landscaping and Griffin & Griffin.
- The fifth grade trip to Boston is scheduled for November 6th and 7th. We will be sharing transportation with the Warren School. Students will visit the Boston Science Museum and participate in other fun and educational activities.
- The Community Thanksgiving Dinner is set for Wednesday, November 18th. Please mark your calendars and join us. Cheryl Joslin will be working with many of our classes on food preparation for the event.
- Our students participated in the WWSU spelling bee on September 30th at the Waitsfield School. They placed a very strong second out of five schools and showed exceptional sportsmanship and positive attitudes.
- Our school-based H1N1 flu clinics are scheduled for November 2nd and 30th. To date, 90 of our students are signed up to receive the vaccination. The Vermont Department of Health will provide and fund a Home Health nurse to administer the vaccine here at F.E.S. It has been a common misconception that parents will not be allowed to be with their children during the vaccination process. This is untrue with the type of clinics we are running.
- Waitsfield resident and artist Elizabeth Kendrick will be our Artist-in-Residence this year, during the first two weeks in November. She will work with class on painting murals to be on display in the gym. The murals will have Vermont and nature themes.