

**Principal's Report**  
**February 16, 2010**

**Administrative Workgroups**

The Washington West Central Office and Building Administrators have formed workgroups that will meet at Central Office on the opposite Mondays of our Administrative Team meetings. The purpose of these groups is to thoroughly and efficiently push forward supervisory union-wide work in several important areas. My workgroup has begun outlining a process for consistent WWSU support staff evaluations. In the coming weeks, we will address the process for criminal records checks, the implementation of VCAT (the Vermont Common Assessment Tool, a system for monitoring student learning), the length of the school day and bussing, service learning throughout the WWSU and various policies that need updating across schools. Other groups will address the use of professional development days, creating a Local Assessment Plan, the implementation of the Connected Math Program at grades 6-8, preschool offerings, use of inservice time, guidelines for employee use of technology and developing a common report card.

**VCAT The Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Tool**

VCAT is a web-based curriculum storage and data collection tool specifically designed to meet the Vermont School Quality Standards requirement for a Local Comprehensive Assessment System. Through our local development work, curricular objectives and local assessments are created and stored in the system for access by teachers and administrators. Student assessment results are then entered into the system, which monitors student progress over time. Data analysis of these local assessment results combined with the tracking of state level assessments allows us to modify curriculum as needed to improve student learning, and to develop meaningful professional development offerings for teachers in support of this same goal. For more information about the VCAT system, visit the VCAT website at <http://www.vcat.us>.

**NECAP Scores**

Scores from the New England Common Assessment Program were received late last week. Below are the scores from this year's tests, given in October. FES scored higher than all other WWSU schools in all but one section of one grade. Our scores exceeded the state average across the board.

Subject	Fayston Avg.	WWSU Avg.	State Avg.
Math – Grade 3	100.00%	83.00%	66.00%
Math – Grade 4	84.00%	79.00%	69.00%
Math – Grade 5	93.00%	82.00%	57.00%
Math – Grade 6	95.00%	78.00%	67.00%
Reading – Grade 3	100.00%	89.00%	75.00%
Reading – Grade 4	84.00%	80.00%	70.00%
Reading – Grade 5	78.00%	82.00%	73.00%
Reading – Grade 6	80.00%	79.00%	71.00%

\* Scores represent the percentage of students that achieved the standard or achieved with honors.

## **Fundraisers for Haiti**

Several fundraisers for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti are being organized. Some fifth and sixth graders made French baked goods to sell during the Winter Celebration of the Arts. They raised over \$400. Art teacher Nora McDonough has organized an art auction. Both student work and that of local artists will be available. Students have written letters to artists asking for donations. This is a multi-school event as Nora works both at Fayston and Waitsfield. Mrs. Lewis's class will be selling handmade valentines and has placed a collection jar in the lobby. These efforts not only connect to academic skills through math and other areas, but strongly support the skill of empathy, as emphasized in the Responsive Classroom approach.

## **Spring Luncheon**

The annual community luncheon has been scheduled for Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. As you'll recall, we postponed the Thanksgiving luncheon during the flu season. Our spring luncheon will take the place of the postponed event this year. A letter will be sent home closer to the time.

## **Mr. Bergstein Is Back**

Mr. Bergstein recently completed an amazing trip to the west coast of Costa Rica that involved working with leatherback sea turtles. One of the really great things about the trip is that he was able to share it with so many people in real time. He spoke to his class daily via Skype and touched base with each of the other classes using the same free software. He led a whole-school meeting one Wednesday morning. This allowed for visual contact and he could also share photos and video of his experiences at the same time. In addition, he kept a blog of his experiences and was able to share his reflections through that blog as well as receive feedback from those reading about what he was doing. Lastly, he maintained a website for photos and videos that was easily accessible for anyone with interest. Not only was he able to teach about the important aspects of the leatherback as a species, but he was also able to share about the environmental impacts and human involvement that has placed these creatures on the endangered species list. He believes this really tuned students into a world-wide issue, despite the fact that it was not happening in our backyard.

## **Technology Update**

Several teachers have asked for professional development time to explore the new technology resources in their classrooms. We will begin this process during two of our Winter Sports afternoons. We have an exciting "exchange" going on between FES and the Waitsfield School whereby our literacy teacher is providing some professional development for them and in return, their technology person will support our teachers during these Winter Sports technology exploration times. I believe this type of collaboration between schools is critical to our sustainability and providing the best opportunities for children.