

## Principal's Report

September 15, 2009

- As a result of the Granville/Hancock School closings, F.E.S. has been gifted with all of their math teaching materials, including teacher guides and unit books. They used the Investigations math program, as we do. These materials have been offered to teachers, home-school families and parents, in that order.
- Last week was the first edition of this year's school newsletter. We are trialing an every-other week version this year, limited to two pages hard copy, and sent home to everyone. The website will host an expanded version of the newsletter including items we were unable to print in the paper version as well as photo galleries. On opposite weeks, we will be sending home either a *Reading Connection* or *Science Connection* newsletter. These are ready-made newsletters with high quality literacy and science activities that are grade appropriate. (See attached examples.)
- Tracie Hultgren will be joining the F.E.S. staff as a counseling intern this year on Thursdays and Fridays. She will be supervised by myself and, in addition, work closely with Nicole. Tracie has significant experience working with children in a school setting, most recently at A.D. Lawton school in Burlington as a school –based clinician through the Howard Center for Mental Health. Tracie will work with whole classes, small groups and individual students. She lives in Waitsfield.
- As has been the case for the past two years, we will one again be participating in the once-a-month Wednesday early release time for professional development. Below is a list of the strands our teachers have chosen. (Some teachers that work in other schools may not be listed, but have registered under their other school.)

Abbott-Koch, Beth	Pre-K Creative Curriculum
Boyden, Justina	K-2 Mathematics: PNOA
Cote, Sharon	(Facilitating) SLP Group
Goldhammer, Jean	SmartBoard Technology
Joslin, Jean	6-8 CMP2 Implementation
King, Tracy	K-6 Formative Writing Instruction
Koch, Erin	K-6 SmartBoard Application and Use
Lindberg, Erika	K-12 Foreign Language
May, Lauren	K-6 Responsive Classroom
McCaffrey, Betty	K-12 Health/Nurses (HAPCO)
Moulton, Linda	Para-Educators Seminar
Smith, Patty	K-12 Health/Nurses (HAPCO)

Twombly, Robin	K-12 Library
Dodge, Christopher	(Facilitating) Responsive Classroom
Vasseur, Cristal	K-6 Formative Writing Instruction
Bergstein, Doug	Mathematics
Lewis, Carla	(Facilitating) K-6 Formative Writing
Patterson, Martin	PE Teachers' Group

- Sharon Cote, SLP, and MJ Wright, Literacy Teacher, have been trained in the newly required preschool assessment, *Creative Curriculum Developmental Continuum*. The assessment is based on a continuum of development that measures four domains: social/emotional, cognitive, physical and language. This is an observational assessment that includes 50 observable objectives. The assessment may be used throughout the year to measure student progress. The cost of assessment materials is about \$115. for 25 children and is being picked-up by WWSU this year.
- More science than ever before is being taught at the fifth and sixth grade levels. Mr. Bergstein is teaching back-to-back science classes thanks to a creative schedule and the flexibility of Doug and Mrs. Vasseur. Currently, Mr. B. is teaming with Patty Smith, our Health Education Coordinator, to teach about the human body. On a similar note, all fifth and sixth graders are now receiving 75 minutes of math instruction per day, again thanks to creative scheduling by the 5/6 team. While Doug sees all students for math, Cristal sees all students for reading, writing and social studies. In addition to providing more science, Doug and Cristal can focus their planning time and zero in on specific subjects more in depth.
- Mr. Bergstein has created the “Just Three” challenge for his class. The challenge asks students to pick up “just three” pieces of outdoor (roadside, parking lot, etc.) trash each day and add it to the growing pile in the classroom. Mr. B.’s goal is that it becomes second nature for students to pick up trash.
- Attendance at the After-School Program has been less than expected. Currently, nine students are participating. The program assisted the Waitsfield After-School Program last week by taking in 4-7 Waitsfield students each day while that program searched for a director. More collaboration between the two programs is planned. Funding for FASP was discontinued this year and fundraising efforts will take place. \$400 in funds was raised last year through fundraising.
- Martin Patterson, PE Teacher, will once again be offering after-school sports clubs, but with several new twists. New activities have been added and the clubs will include field trips! Martin has designated Wednesday clubs to K-2 students and Thursday clubs to students in grades 4-6 so that the activities may be more

developmentally appropriate. New activities will include advanced biking, golf skills, flag football, frisbee golf, tee-ball, tumbling and balance, foot bag (Hackey Sack), and ice skating!

- Instrument Night was held last week and already 18 students in grade 4-6 have signed up for lessons. Many more sign-ups are expected.
- Betty McCaffrey, RN, School Nurse is coordinating several flu preparedness initiatives including a letter home to parents, educating families on an upcoming community discussion and forum on the flu, making sure each classroom has had sanitizer and disinfectant wipes and reminding staff of general good health practices. She is assisted by Patty Smith, Health Education Coordinator, who is visiting classrooms to teach good health habits and has created a bulletin board on hand washing in the lobby.