

## Principal's Report

January 8, 2008

### Mission and Vision

The Mission and Vision Committee is finishing its work with consultant Valerie Gardner. The Committee met just prior to break to outline specific areas of commitment for staff, community and students that will support the overall school mission. Individual Committee members dedicated themselves to editing the various sections of the document prior to January 8<sup>th</sup>, the Committee's next meeting date. The goal is to have a relatively complete draft of both the mission and vision for staff and the Board to review in mid-January. Ultimately, the Board will vote on the document, probably in February.

### Safety Committee

The Safety Committee has reached the point of being prepared to disseminate large sections of our School Safety Plan to law enforcement, EMS and Rescue agencies. In addition to all of the building security and safety protocols that have now been tested, Committee member Nancy Mongeur recently completed a professional schematic of the entire building that includes room numbers, designated classroom safe spaces, doors and windows, etc. This legal-sized drawing is perfect for quick reference. Our first packet of information will be mailed to the appropriate authorities in the next few days. Future components of the Safety Plan will include a video tour of the school as well as a photographic tour for reference by outside agencies. Boiler plate contact information pages and other standard parts of the Safety Plan are also being completed.

The Safety Committee has decided to take on two major initiatives in addition to the continued compilation of our School Safety Plan. First, the group will be creating a plan for educating Guest Teachers and Volunteers on our emergency procedures. This will likely be part of a much larger orientation for Guest Teachers and long-term volunteers that will outline the necessary information for daily life at FES.

The Safety Committee will also begin discussion about Pandemic disease preparedness, with School Nurse Betty McCaffrey leading this discussion.

**The Automated External Defibrillator has been ordered.** Thanks to generous local support, we have ordered an A.E.D. for placement in our main lobby. This simple-to-use device has saved lives in Vermont schools and around the world by "shocking" a person's heartbeat back to normal during atrial fibrillation, a non-productive "quivering" of the heart that avoids pumping any blood. . It is virtually foolproof to operate, though much training will be provided.

## **WSP Professional Development**

Our Winter Sports Program is gearing up to start shortly after vacation. That means the staff has time weekly to spend together on professional development. Past topics have included mathematics and writing. This year, Differentiated Instruction will be our focus. Differentiated Instruction is the notion that students differ in their learning styles and they should be active decision-makers and problem-solvers, rather than passive recipients of a one-size-fits-all curriculum. In a differentiated classroom, “covering information” takes a backseat to making meaning out of important ideas. Three major components of D.I. include providing students multiple options for taking in information, providing multiple options for making sense of the material and multiple options for showing what they know. The concepts of differentiation for challenging and advanced students will be discussed.

## **Confidentiality Training**

Renowned special education attorney Patti Page will be at FES on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, from 2:45 to 4:15 p.m., to provide confidentiality training for staff. The event has also attracted participants from other WWSU schools who will pay a small fee to attend. Attorney Page will discuss student records and confidentiality from a number of viewpoints. Board members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Ms. Page is the premier special education attorney in Vermont.

## **Staffing Update**

On Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, we said farewell to first and second grade long-term substitute teacher Heidi Griswold. Heidi has been a valued member of our staff during Jean Goldhammer’s maternity leave. We welcomed Jean back to her classroom on Monday. Heidi will begin a second long-term substitute position in Calais (where Kaiya Korb, Principal, is from Fayston!) in a few weeks.

Rhonda Gadhue has successfully assumed responsibility for Erin Koch’s classroom. Erin began maternity leave at the beginning of December and will return after 12 workweeks. By all reports, Erin and Dani are enjoying being with son Robert. Rhonda is a “natural” teacher and is experiencing much success in the classroom.

## **Book Fair**

The annual Scholastic Book Fair brought in \$1218.41. This money is forwarded directly to our major book dealer, who allows Librarian Robin Twombly to purchase off the credit throughout the year. Thanks to the many volunteers that make this possible every year.