

## *Principal's Report*

*August 7, 2008*

### **Summer Projects**

**Fireproofing Student Records** – A new fireproof storage unit for regular education student records has been purchased and is now in place. This purchase is part of two-year plan that will culminate in the purchase of a similar unit for Special Education and associated records next year. The cost of this project is about \$1700 in each of the two years.

**School Sign** – The school sign out front is scheduled to be refurbished in early August. We have contracted with Wood & Wood Sign Systems, of Waitsfield, to have this work done. The cost of this project is \$740 and was funded from last year's budget.

**Carpet Removal** – Carpet has been removed from two classrooms (kindergarten and one first and second grade room) plus the small testing room near the principal's office. Tile has been installed and the floors have been sealed and polished. Using the new floor buffer continues to speed these projects and make more efficient use of time and personnel.

**Air Duct Cleaning** – S.B. Farley, Inc., has completed cleaning all of the air ducts. Many people around the building have noticed a more powerful airflow since the cleaning.

**Maintenance Projects** – Numerous maintenance projects were completed in-house this summer in addition to the special projects described above. Included in these projects are: Five mercury thermostats were replaced with a non-mercury type, all summer water tests were successfully collected and received passing scores, the new buffing machine worked well to scrub and finish the concrete floors in the new addition as well as the new tile, three ventilators, filters, fans throughout the addition were cleaned, bathrooms were painted, the testing room was patched and painted and much more.

### **Fall Enrollment**

Below is the fall enrollment by grade level as of 7/25/08:

*This is grade-level enrollment NOT class size:*

Anticipated:	Change from last year:
Preschool: 16	+ 10
Kindergarten: 14	+ 2
Grades 1: 15	+ 2
Grade 2: 11	No Change
Grade 3: 19	+ 6
Grade 4: 15	- 1

Grade 5:	18	+ 1
Grade 6:	23	+ 1

Anticipated enrollment by class size:                      Class size change from last year:

Preschool:	16	+ 10
Kindergarten:	14	+ 2
Grades 1/2:	13 each	- 2 / - 1
Grades 3/4:	17 each	+3 / + 2
Grades 5/6:	20 / 21	+ 2 / + 2

**Total school enrollment as of 7/25/08: 131**

**Total enrollment last year: 116**

**Increase in students: 15 students / 13 percent**

### **Playground Turf**

Martin Patterson, our new PE teacher, will be working to aerate and seed the portion of the playground (soccer field) where the grass has become reluctant. In addition to having his education degree, Martin has an associate's degree in turfgrass management and has professionally managed golf courses. Let's see if he can grow grass in our student-trodden clay!

### **Responsive Classroom Training**

Four Fayston staff members were joined by teachers from other schools here at F.E.S. the week of July 14<sup>th</sup> for a week-long introductory Responsive Classroom training. This is the third consecutive year we have been able to offer the course at F.E.S.. Martin Patterson, PE Teacher; Heidi Griswold, Long-Term Substitute Teacher; Leah Maurice, on-staff substitute; and Nicole Krotinger, School Counselor, all participated. Martin and Heidi have elected to document and reflect on their R.C. efforts this year as they take the course for graduate credit. Their research on the approach and its effectiveness will be ongoing, guided by Cheryl Ollmann, our Responsive Classroom consultant.

### **Staffing**

New Staff:

***Martin Patterson, PE Teacher*** – Martin has accepted positions as PE Teacher and after-school Wellness Club Coordinator, continuing many of Tricia O'Regan's fitness clubs. Martin has three years experience as a PE teacher at Berlin Elementary. In addition to a Bachelor's Degree in K-12 Physical Education, Martin has an Associate's Degree in Turfgrass Management from the University of Mass. at Amherst. He has been superintendent at various golf courses, including Sugarbush. He lives in warren and is very excited to continue his work with children teaching PE.

**Leah Maurice, On-Staff Substitute** – Leah holds a BA Degree in Plant and Soil Science from UVM, as well as a fifth-year certificate studying elementary education. She has taught preschool and student taught in fifth grade. In 2004, Leah won UVM's Teacher Assistant Award. She holds a highly qualified teaching license in Vermont and her main responsibility will be to cover for staff throughout the building who need to be out.

**Lisa Hodgson, Instructional Asst.** – Lisa will replace Jean Thompson as an Instructional Assistant. She holds Liberal Arts and Business Management degrees from Community College of Vermont. She is currently majoring in mathematics and education at Union Institute and University in Montpelier. Lisa has worked as a substitute teacher, behavior interventionist, Instructional Assistant, after-school program director and teacher and special education interventionist. Her last three years were spent at the Warren Elementary School.

**Heidi Griswold, Long-Term Substitute** – Heidi holds a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Psychology, as well as a Master's Degree in Education with a Reading focus, from St. Michael's College (Magna Cum Laude). During her studies, she worked as a Resident Director at Saint Michael's. Heidi has worked as a substitute teacher at various schools, an Instructional Assistant in a first grade and has student taught in third sixth grades. She received merit scholarships from the college for five consecutive years and placed on the Dean's List four years. She has been a volunteer for America Reads, a nanny and is a Martial Arts instructor and First Degree Black Belt.

**Tracey Clements, Preschool Assistant** – Tracey has been a member of the Open Hearth at Fayston After-School Program for nearly two years. She recently completed a 45-hour class in Fundamentals in Early Childhood. She is pursuing her Child Development Associate credential. She has worked with preschool classes in Vermont and Baltimore.

**After-School Summer Camp** – Submitted by Deb Orr, Program Director

An average of 11 campers daily at the Open Hearth at Fayston Summer Camp Program have been very busy both indoors and outdoors this summer. For starters, they have been exploring the wooded areas surrounding the Fayston School. Hikes along the Catamount Trail have revealed bear claw scars in many beech trees. They are learning to identify trees, plants, and life in the first few layers of the under growth. They've seen snakes, a black slug, lots of mushrooms, and plenty of bugs, including many pesky deer flies. The campers have embraced a place not far from the school that has become their "Base Camp". There, campers sit around a fire pit to sing and play games, talk about what they have seen and learned, and relax in the presence of nature. This week the campers will be ready to have a real fire and cook some fun snacks.

Gardening projects have both continued and expanded from those started during the school year. These campers have constructed a garden tepee and planted string beans, sunflowers, squash and flowers. By the end of camp the vines should cover most of the outside of the tepee. Garden stones were finished and decorated with colored stones, seashells and rocks.

Inside themes have been just as exciting! Campers have showed great enthusiasm while making puppets and building their own theaters to stage plays. Four huge marble shoots were constructed with long lengths of PVC pipe and different lengths of empty cardboard rolls from wrapping paper, paper towel and toilet paper. A wooden go-kart was started and will be completed soon. Tin can stilts and juggling sticks were fun to make and decorate. Even more fun was practicing balance and juggling skills. A pirate ship is under construction and the campers have been having great fun making pirate hats, treasure maps and decorating treasure boxes.

Campers have been busy in the kitchen too. They have baked apple, blueberry, raspberry, cinnamon, and gluten free muffins, made fresh fruit smoothies and frozen some of them into healthy popsicles and have eaten lots of fresh fruits and vegetables. This helps them learn more about the foods they eat, as well as provide for added excitement when it's time for snacks that they made themselves.

Camp runs until August 15th. Weekly sign-up spaces are still available. Call the Fayston School for more information. 496-3636 ex. 111.

### **Summer Services**

During the summer, 12 children in grades three through six were offered and received summer services (summer tutoring) in their academic area(s) of challenge. Typically, these services were provided one-on-one, between one and two hours in duration, weekly, for six weeks. Erin Koch was the teacher for summer services this year. Almost all of the children receiving services qualify for special education and have an Individualized Education or other formal plan for remediation. In order to qualify for summer services, a team of adults must determine that the student's skills would digress during the time away from school.