

Principal's Report February 7, 2008

Fayston Education Fund

The Fayston Education Fund, a fund established several years ago in an attempt to control the tax burden and keep education funds generated by the town local, has dissolved and all accounts have been closed. All records from the fund that were stored here at school have been forwarded to John Pike, WWSU Business Manager, for review and, if necessary, storage. The fund balance (approximately \$600) was given to the school and used to support the purchase of revised mathematics instructional materials.

Evacuation Drill

We held our first revised evacuation drill this week. Students and staff received the word via the emergency radios and we followed the new evacuation plan to the parking lot across the street. The drill was quite successful, with the entire process (over and back) in about 12 minutes. We will need to work out a system to keep the parking lot across the street as clear of snow as possible. The Town plows intermittently, however, this is not a priority and we may need to consider adding this to our contacted plowing during the winter.

Professional Development

During the Winter Sports afternoons, the staff has begun reading well-known education researcher and writer Katie Wood Ray's book, *Study Driven*. Our professional development is focused around the teaching and learning of writing, is facilitated by Carla Lewis, and aligns with the WWSU goal of improving writing in the supervisory union. Our first session focused on helping students create a vision for their writing, as well as helping children identify writing role models after which they can model countless styles in their own work. Soon, we will review the NECAP assessment scores to identify the specific areas of writing that we should focus on improving.

Technology Upgrade

Just this week five desktop computers were purchased to replace outdated existing equipment. Doug Bergstein, our technology guru, was able to purchase used computers with warranties that meet our needs at a fraction of the cost of new computers. The new computers are in place and up and running.

Modeling Healthy Choices

Betty McCaffrey, School Nurse, and Cheryl Joslin, Foodservice Director, have launched a project to help students make healthy snacking choices. Once a week for the next several weeks Betty and Cheryl will introduce each classroom to a healthy snack

alternative and discuss its health and nutritional value. For their first lesson, students enjoyed low-fat yogurt with fruit and granola. Students discussed the health risks associated with eating too much sugar, plus the nutritional value of the alternative snack.

PE Teacher Tricia O'Regan's Jump Rope Club and Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser for the American Heart Association are in full swing. Students are learning the cardiovascular benefits of physical fitness while raising money for a good cause.