

## **Principal's Report**

**January 3, 2007**

### **Winter Sports Program**

The Winter Sports Program is gearing up to begin two weeks from today. This year, the window of opportunity for the program will be January 17<sup>th</sup> through February 14<sup>th</sup> and March 6<sup>th</sup> through April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The goal is that the program will run eight out of these ten afternoons. While the children are participating in the program, the staff participates in professional development. This year, there will be a combination of first aid training and professional development around the topic of writing. As you know, we have been reading *The Power of Our Words* as a staff and discussing the power of teacher language. As the Winter Sports Program begins and we finish that book, we will begin reading a book about the teaching of writing. Discussions around that topic will be, in part, facilitated by Carla Lewis. Carla is a Writing Network Leader for the state and we are privileged to have her expertise here in our own building.

### **PowerLunch**

Beginning next fall, we will be implementing PowerLunch, a function of PowerSchool. As you know, PowerSchool is the web-based computer program we use to track attendance, enrollment, medical and demographic information on our students. Another function of PowerSchool that is included in our current package is PowerLunch, a program that will track receipts, generate payment letters and provide real-time calculations for families. Teachers will likely transition to taking lunch count on the computer when they enter attendance, saving paper and Cheryl's precious time tabulating lunch counts. Students will have lunch cards with a barcode that may be scanned for incoming payments and lunch bills. The transition is technical, as you might imagine, and there are still logistical pieces to iron out. Hence, our decision to set up the necessary technology over the summer and be ready to begin on the first day of school in the fall.

### **Math Summit Scheduled**

Mathematics continues to be a supervisory union wide goal. Our own Doug Bergstein and others have been working to design common assessments that can be used across the SU. Doug will represent Fayston at a Math Summit scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup>. The summit will include teachers and administrators from across the supervisory union and will provide a forum to discuss the need for mathematics leadership, providing equal access to mathematics for all children, creating assessments and curriculum, aligning our work to state standards, future professional development and other math topics.

## **Responsive Schools Conference in July**

Fayston has once again been asked to highlight our work at the annual Responsive Classroom Schools Conference. Held at Simmons College in Boston this July, the FES team has been invited to speak about the power of teacher language and the work we have been doing in that area this year. Beth Abbott-Koch, Justina Boyden and I are planning to attend, along with anyone else who would like to join us.

And speaking of R.C., six members of the support staff and I will be attending a day-long workshop on addressing rule-breaking behaviors using the Responsive Classroom approach on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The workshop is being facilitated by Susan Titterton, who has spent two afternoon here at F.E.S. working with the support staff during the early-release professional development days.

## **Speech-Language Intern**

University of Vermont student Theodore Myotte will intern with Speech and Language Pathologist Sharon Cote at our school during the spring semester. Myotte, a resident of Montpelier, holds a BA in English with a minor in French from Saint Michael's College, where he graduated Magna cum laude. He studied at the University of Paris in the spring of 2004, before starting graduate work in communication sciences at UVM. He has served as a graduate teaching assistant in phonetics and English language structure at UVM. Myotte began supervised clinical hours in the fall at UVM, with a focus on the treatment of articulation, language and fluency disorders. Followed by coursework in audiology, hearing rehabilitation, stuttering, language and learning disabilities and speech sound disorders in children, Myotte will spend every Tuesday and Thursday at Fayston to continue his studies.

## **The Hampstead Players**

On Monday, December 17th, FES hosted two professional theater performances by the Hampstead Stage Company. The students watched a performance of *Treasure Island* in the afternoon and many families returned to see *A Christmas Carol* in the evening. We had a great turnout for the evening performance. The New-Hampshire-based Hampstead Stage Company has brought classic literature to life via professional actors for over 25 years. The group's mission is to educate audiences throughout the country on classic stories through live theatre, thus sparking an interest in reading the classics, instilling a love and appreciation of the arts, and preserving theatre for future generations. The group tours throughout the 48 contiguous states. Both performances (\$891.00) were funded by profits from our hosting of the Ross Greene conference.