

Principal's Report

May 1, 2008

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Each year, the Vermont Department of Education calculates every Vermont school's determination of adequate yearly progress based on the standardized NECAP assessment scores. I am pleased to report that Fayston met adequate yearly progress expectations in all four required areas – reading, mathematics, other academic indicators and participation in state assessments.

Getting Acquainted

I am very pleased to report that Heidi Griswold, who will teach first and second grade during Jean Goldhammer's leave next fall, will also be Jean's Guest Teacher this spring for two days while Jean administers the Developmental Reading Assessment. This will allow Heidi two days in the classroom with Jean nearby. Additionally, Heidi will shadow Jean in the classroom for a couple of additional days later in the spring. Both of these opportunities will greatly ease the transition between teachers in the fall.

Upcoming Event – April 28th

"Butterfly Guy" Jerry Schneider will present a 45-minute slideshow entitled *Long Distance Flyers* on Monday, April 28th, at 7:40 AM, as part of our Whole-School Meeting. Schneider will discuss various types of Northern butterflies, their characteristics and migratory patterns and other behaviors. Schneider is the inventor of the award-winning *Butterfly Game* and lives in Hardwick, Vermont. Following the show, Schneider will create butterfly t-shirts with kindergarten, first and second graders using various butterfly and plant cutouts placed on the shirts and sprayed with dye.

Red Clover Day

Students and staff celebrated Red Clover Day in April with assorted activities in the morning that related to this year's Red Clover book nominees. The Red Clover Book Award Program promotes reading and discussion of the best contemporary picture books in nearly all of Vermont's elementary schools. Each year over 29,000 students read the ten nominated books and vote on their favorite. After a morning of activities Fayston students enjoyed a Chinese luncheon, also based on one of the Red Clover books. The Red Clover Book Award Program is sponsored by the Vermont Departments of Education and Libraries. The Fayston School has participated in Red Clover day for several years.

Spirit Week

Student council members organized a Spirit Week just before vacation. Themed days included pajama day, hat day, sundae day, 70's day and mismatch day. The week gave all students and staff a chance to show their school spirit and have fun!

F.E.S. "Whole-School Message" featured in Responsive Classroom Newsletter

In Each Responsive Classroom Newsletter, the editors pose a question about the RC philosophy and then select two educators to answer. In the April issue, Fayston School's Whole-School Morning Message was featured as part of answering the question, *How do you create all-school messages that work well for your school community?* The newsletter has a circulation of over 75,000 educations nation-wide.

New Goal Padding Installed

As part of a service-learning project by sixth grader Brennan Degen, new padding for the playground soccer goals has been installed. After identifying the need for the safety measure, Brennan researched the quality and cost of padding and worked with Mr. Withey to install the new material, which was partially funded through the PTO.

New Library Computer

The automation of our library is one step closer to being complete. A new computer has been purchased that will serve to host the searchable database (card catalog) of library materials. Many of our newer materials do not have the older "paper" card catalog cards. Rather, they are entered into this electronic database that may be searched more thoroughly and efficiently than a typical card catalog.