

**Principal's Report**  
**August 2, 2007**

**Staffing Update**

Jeff Warner, Behavior Interventionist, has resigned in order to return to school at Vermont Technical College. He hopes to earn a degree in Civil Engineering. Pending Board approval, James Kinne will replace Jeff. James has a BA in psychology from Hartwick College in New York. Most recently, he has been working with developmentally delayed and behaviorally challenged students at The New School in Montpelier. He lives in Warren.

Jean Thompson will be calling on her Bachelor's Degree in Education as she transitions from Administrative Assistant to Instructional Assistant this fall. Jean has a wonderful rapport with children and will be a welcome addition to the instructional support staff. Pending Board approval, Caroline "Cally" Schober will replace Jean as Administrative Assistant. Cally has over 20 years of experience in the Washington Central Supervisory Union as an Administrative Assistant, Executive Secretary, Bookkeeper and Stenographer. Most recently, Cally was the Administrative Assistant at the Berlin Elementary School.

Damariscotta Miller has found one of those rare full-time art teacher positions within the Chelsea Schools. While we will miss her skilled teaching and sense of humor, the opportunity for Integrated Arts teachers to work full time is rare, and we wish her well. Pending Board approval, we are very pleased to welcome Nora McDonough as our new art teacher. Nora was a student teacher at Fayston, Warren and Harwood two years ago. Most recently, she has been teaching art at Waitsfield Elementary, where her peers rave about her collegueship and creativity.

Laura Viens will not be returning at an Instructional Assistant this year. While she focuses on her family and their family business, Michele Ballard will increase her hours to full-time and assume many of Laura's responsibilities.

Ruth Denis, Occupational Therapist, will not be returning to Fayston in the fall. Instead, she will focus on her teaching and research at the University of Vermont. In her place will be Lauren Briere. Lauren graduated Magna Cum Laude with honors in Occupational Therapy from Russell Sage College. Most recently, Lauren has provided OT services for Waitsfield Elementary and Central Vermont Medical Center.

**Website Update**

Justina has been working tirelessly to update our website with a fresh look and lots of new information. The site is still under construction, but will be ready for the beginning of school. Justina is planning to attend the Board meeting in September to review the site with the Board. Included will be a School Board page. At our meeting in August we will need to discuss: (1) How would the Board like Board contact information

listed on the website and (2) What other information would the Board like to see on the Board page? We are already planning to list agendas, warnings and meeting minutes.

### **Responsive Classroom Conference and Course**

Beth, Justina and I returned from the Responsive Classroom Schools Conference in Amherst, MA on Wednesday evening. We had an opportunity to present our school showcase on Wednesday morning. We were one of only four schools showcased at the conference, and were chosen for our very successful implementation of the R.C. approach. Additionally, I served as a panelist for other discussions on the successful implementation of the R.C. philosophy as well as roadblocks and solutions to the same. We had an opportunity to network with other educators and hear some of the Responsive Classroom “gurus” speak about the development of children and the role of the R.C. approach.

Additionally, for the second summer in a row, F.E.S. hosted a week-long Responsive Classroom course during the end of June. Carolyn Adams, Nancy Coombs, Mary Hoyne, Cheryl Joslin, Betty McCaffrey, Nora McDonough, Linda Moulton, Leslee Torsell and Robin Twombly all completed the course this summer. We are very, very close to having all of our staff trained at the basic level in this approach.

### **After-School Program Update**

A group of parents and community members, working with the Open Hearth group, has received a 3-year grant in the amount of \$24,000 to design and implement an after-school program here at F.E.S. beginning in the fall. The group has successfully completed the licensure process for the new program, which may serve up to 26 children from all grade levels. Interviews have begun, with one candidate for Director having been interviewed on Sunday. The group continues to work closely with the school, including having school representation in the interview process.

### **Safety Committee Update**

The installation of two-way radios throughout the building is now complete. This required some minor electrical work to add outlets higher on some walls, out of children’s reach. The portable radios are located strategically to allow for an emergency message to be broadcast simultaneously to all locations. Beginning this fall, we will expand our typical fire drills to include three primary commands including “secure the building,” “clear the halls” and “evacuate.” The Safety Committee will meet the second Tuesday of each month this year, at 6:00 PM. Our primary goals will be to establish protocols for the radios and support whole-school drills on all three commands this fall.

### **Fuel Oil Contract**

Previously, the Board authorized the WWSU Business Manager to enter into an agreement for fuel oil. Fayston has accepted F.G. White’s fixed prepaid rate of \$2.32 per

gallon for 8,000 gallons. Any unused fund balance will be refunded to the school by July 31, 2008. Maintenance will be billed at \$70 per day during business hours and \$105 per day after hours.

### **New Freezer and Copier**

It has become necessary to buy a new chest-type freezer for the kitchen. The seal on the existing freezer is not functional and state inspectors have started to make note. Cheryl Joslin is coordinating the purchase, which will be financially shared with Waitsfield.

The lease for our copier expires this fall. Cally and I are researching options.

### **Outstanding Construction Bill**

Jean Wry has approved the outstanding construction bill from Ingersall Electric that was discussed at a previous meeting. The amount is \$1818.00 and the bill is processed in this week's Board Order. The budget balance will be reduced by this amount to account for this bill.

### **Upcoming Special Events**

September 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:40 AM – Musical performer Steven Lindholm will entertain during our first Whole-School Meeting of the year. Steven is a Parenting Media Award Winner, a Parents' Choice Award Winner and the Children's Music Web Award Winner. His 45-minute performance will focus on self-esteem and, while he performs nationally, he lives in Newark, Vermont.

December 7<sup>th</sup> (Start Time TBD) – Internationally known child psychologist and author Dr. Ross Greene is brought to the Big Picture Theater by the Fayston School. Dr. Greene is well-known for his book, *The Explosive Child*. Dr. Greene will conduct a day-long workshop on collaborative problem solving with children.

December 17<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 PM and 6:30 PM – The New Hampshire-based Hampstead Stage Company will present an afternoon performance of *Treasure Island* for the whole school. At 6:30 that evening, the group will present Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* as a free community performance. The Hampstead Stage Company's mission is to educate youth audiences throughout the country by bringing classic literature to life through theatre.