

School Board Report
Donna Beeley
March 3, 2010

Recognition:

Mrs. McKinney was selected as our staff member for the month of February. Mrs. McKinney was recognized for all the support she offers to staff in understanding reading, assessments and her leadership with RISC.

Jane McKinney is responsible for developing an excellent brochure that will be used to help parents learn about RISC. The brochure will be given out at our evening dinner event in March. She also has worked with students on the topic of what makes our school a great school to attend.

A big thank you once again to Rob Cotiaux for the Atlantic Salmon involvement with our school. This effort is possible because Mr. Cotiaux is associated with the Atlantic Salmon Federation. Our school will once again raise atlantic salmon to be released in the Royal River in the spring. Last year our school deposited salmon in the river for the first time in 200 years. We appreciate the opportunity to be involved in this effort to restore fresh water salmon to nearby rivers. It's a wonderful experience for our students. The salmon tank is in our school library. We encourage parents to come in and see.

Topics of Interest/Successes:

The Memorial teachers and support staff are reading "Delivering on the Promise." This month our work involved activities for chapter 2 of "Delivering on the Promise" book. The second grade staff was responsible for leading a really fun time line activity to demonstrate their understanding of Chapter 2. The support staff is able to be involved the morning after the faculty meeting.

Our students celebrated Hundred's Day on February 8th. Students were involved in a wide range of activities to help them understand what the number 100 represents. Included in school wide activities was a week long collection of food for the New Gloucester Food Pantry. 187 food items were delivered.

Our students have been participating in lessons delivered by staff to help clarify the expectations we have of students around the building in our common areas. A ticket system has been developed as a part of PBIS to acknowledge students for doing the right thing. Rocky Racoon was here on Feb. 22nd to kick off the event. The children loved it! Students will have the chance to earn time in a special activity planned weekly that will occur to recognize positive behaviors around the common areas in our school. Karen Licht at the high school will help organize some high school students to partner with us to provide the activities along with staff members from Memorial. This work is a tribute to the excellent PBIS team at Memorial School. Those members are Katie Banks, Paula

Spruill, Donna Skilling, Martha Bartlett, Lynn Bancroft, Susan Paris, Jenn Leask and Andy Higgins.

On our early release day this month our K-2 staff had an opportunity to discuss RISC and observe some of the work being done by our Beacon teachers. This provided teachers a chance to discuss the classroom routines that can be done at the K-2 level that allow students to become more responsible for their learning. Kelly Thornhill and Martha Frost did an excellent job sharing their activities.

One of our parents, Mrs. Beverly MacCallum is working with Mrs. Ledger's and Mrs. Austin's classrooms to present some lessons from Junior Achievement on the topic of communities. This topic is in line with our social studies curriculum. Mrs. MacCallum works for Androscoggin Bank, which sponsors this outreach to schools. Thank you Mrs. McCallum.

Challenges:

Not enough hours in the day.

Short-Term Goals:

We have completed the winter benchmark assessments and teachers are evaluating the results. Some of our teachers are grouping students across the grade level to address the needs of students.

Continue to utilize our Technology Ed Tech, Tara Hannan to work with students and staff to connect curriculum and technology. Students have been using the laptops and computers in the library with her help. Mrs. Hanan has been providing teachers and parents with many resources for using computers at home and school.

Emerging Long-Term Goals:

Continue our work with PBIS.

Continue our work with staff and community about the concepts of a standards based program and shared vision.

Meet the needs of all students and ensure that all students are on grade level in literacy and math by the end of grade 2.