

Report of the Ellis Elementary School Principal

This report reflects the activities that have taken place in the Elementary grades at the Ellis School. It is with enthusiasm that I report on another successful year at Ellis School. In a small school district like Fremont, collaborative leadership and shared responsibility been the cornerstone of the administrative structure. John Safina and I share the duties of many administrative functions that attend to the developmental, academic, and social needs of students. Though at times a building that serves kindergarten through grade eight students presents many challenges, it also promotes a sense of security, community, and the development of long-term relationships between students, teachers, and parents. There is hardly a day when our high school students don't stop by to say hello, visit a favorite middle or elementary teacher, or just to report on how they are doing.

This year we were able to welcome five new elementary teachers to our staff, Jessica South and Jamie Carrier in first grade, Kellie Booth and Andrea Smith in second grade, and Shona Emery in fourth grade. All bring the latest knowledge of teaching and learning, experience, and of course, the love of education. They have been wonderful additions to the Ellis community.

In coordination with our District goals, our classrooms are filled with engaging and innovative activities. In addition to core instruction, some examples include the fourth grade Science Fair, the third grade Wax Museum, and in grades one and two, adventures in learning about other cultures. Our weekly community meetings focus on being prepared, respectful, and responsible. In concert with our community meeting, our guidance counselor, Ms. Genest, visits weekly in all elementary classrooms working on guidance grade-level expectations such as anti-bullying, conflict resolution, and effective communication. The Pennies for Peace campaign was a success and a great learning experience for our students of all ages.

In addition to our holiday concerts, our first theater production was a great success. The Wizard of Oz opened to a full house and included many talented students at all grade levels. Our chorus continues to be an inspiration to the younger students. The 2010 Deerfield Fair showcased our artistically talented students, as many first and second place ribbons and awards were results of their imagination and skill.

As we continue with our Go Green environmental efforts, the students of Ellis school are designing a solar panel system to heat our green house without the use of electricity, thus making it a four-season learning environment. An early Spring fundraising effort netted over \$500.00 in pennies, and the project received a \$1,000.00 grant from the Lands End Clothing company. Also, a recent \$5000.00 grant from the Lowes Corporation was awarded to the PTA for the solar project. Results of fundraising efforts will assist with the project design, materials, and building costs.

Community is the heart of the Ellis School; outreach efforts included classes in parenting, bullying, child development such as language acquisition, motor growth, and behavior management, as well as reading, writing, and math. Parents, area preschool teachers, and daycare providers attended these events. We continue a collaborative relationship with town committees, the Fremont Recreation Department, and of course, the Fire and Police force.

Our PTA continues to support our school and students. Their commitment to service, Field Day, PTA mini grants, and volunteers are some of the hallmarks of this organization. When the Wellness Committee discussed the need for a larger stove in our school kitchen, the PTA found a way to make it a reality.

In summary, I would like to thank the many dedicated individuals that continue to support the students of Fremont. As we enter 2011, we will face many challenges, but I have no doubt with the talented staff of the Fremont School District, the concerned and supportive parents and community members, we will succeed in providing the students with the best possible educational experience.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Lewis
Elementary Principal

“Don’t waste life in doubts and fears; spend yourself on the work before you, well assured that the right performance of this hour’s duties will be the best preparation for the hours and ages that will follow it.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson