

Report of the School Principal

I wanted to begin my 2015 Town Report by introducing you to the new members of our Ellis School Community.

Hanna Kimball – Physical Education/Wellness. Ms. Kimball is a recent graduate of Plymouth State University where she received a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. We really got to know Ms. Kimball as she completed her Student Teaching Internship at Ellis School during the 2013-2014 school year.

Bonnie Vadala – Computer Technology. Ms. Vadala worked as a Technology Educator at Rye Elementary School in Rye, NH. Ms. Vadala attended University of New England where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Master's in Education.

Brianne Phillips – Occupational Therapist: Ms. Phillips started with us this past May. Brianne is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire. She has worked as an Occupational Therapist for Easter Seals, Community Partners in Dover and the Rochester School District, Rochester, NH.

Zachary Glennon – 3rd Grade Teacher. A recent graduate of Plymouth State University, Mr. Glennon graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Education. He completed his student teaching and also worked as a substitute teacher at the Jewett Street School in Manchester, NH. Mr. Glennon also served as an American Sign Language Tutor for the Plymouth State University PASS Program.

Lynn Noyes – Special Education Building. Lynn was a preschool teacher in Portsmouth for 20 years, worked briefly in a residential placement, and then as Evaluation Team Facilitator for the Haverhill, MA school department. She is certified in Elementary and Special Education, Principal and Special Education Administration. She has run an ESY program; coordinated after school programs; and completed staff training on writing measurable IEP goals, implementing the SPIRE reading program and completing special education assessments. Please join me in welcoming Lynn to Ellis School.

Jessica Friedman – School Secretary. Mrs. Friedman is an active volunteer and served as PTA Treasurer at the Bakie Elementary School in Kingston, NH. She has an extensive background as an administrative assistant having worked for Ed Higgins and Associates, Inc. in Londonderry, NH and Rooms to Go in Tampa, FL.

Ellis School is hard at work transitioning to the Common Core Standards and preparing for the Smarter Balanced State Testing. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a set of high quality academic expectations in English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics that define the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each grade level in order to be on track for success in college and career. In 2010, a number of states across the nation have adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Having the same standards ensures all students get a good education, even if they change schools or move to a different state. Teachers, parents, and education experts designed the CCSS to prepare students for success in college and the workplace.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment will replace the state's NECAP testing. It is a computer-based test that tests student's knowledge based on the Common Core State Standards. In preparation we are now administering our district testing, NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association), a computer based test, to all students in K-8. As a student takes the test, it adapts to their ability. By giving each student around

30 questions that are pulled from 100's of questions from their data base. The test is based on the Common Core State Standards. Testing students on the Common Core and the use of technology should prepare our students for the Smarter Balanced Assessment. For more information of the Smarter Balanced Assessment visit: http://www.education.nh.gov/spotlight/ccss/documents/faq_sbac.pdf On a personal note, the students and staff continue to work hard to make Ellis School a thriving educational institution and a welcoming community. The parents, and especially our PTA, continue to be a tremendous support in our goals. It is the drive and commitment of the entire Ellis Community that truly make it a pleasure to come to work each day.

Respectfully submitted,

John Safina
Ellis School Principal

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

~ Maya Angelou



Fremont RC Model Plane Club
Exhibit and Show at Peterson/Brookvale Farm
21 June 2014

Photo courtesy of Leo Danjou