

## **REPORT OF THE FREMONT SCHOOL BOARD**

The Fremont School Board has prepared this annual report for the 2008-2009 school year.

Several important initiatives are underway in Fremont that will impact our District significantly. We are presently in the process of developing a strategic plan for the District that will serve as a benchmark and guide for making improvements within our schools. The plan is being developed with input from citizens and parents, teachers and staff, school administrators, and school board members. We are hopeful that this collaborative effort will result in a plan that will be used to drive educational improvements for years to come. Information regarding this strategic planning effort is available at <http://www.sau83.org/>.

We are also in the process of searching for a new middle school Principal. Again, this is a collaborative effort, with parents, staff, and school administrators working to develop a profile of desired characteristics for the position. We thank everyone that attended the focus group sessions. Your contributions have helped define the qualities that Fremont values in our next middle school Principal.

Last year, we implemented a standards-based pilot program for assessment and reporting student progress within the middle school. Increasingly, performance-based assessment is transforming public school systems across the nation. The Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act of 2001 established academic standards and assessment requirements, and the states were required to develop these academic performance standards. As a result, the New Hampshire Department of Education Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) were developed, and these are specific academic performance standards that define what our students should know and be able to do at each grade level. These Federal and State programs are performance-based, and at a local level here at Ellis School, we are striving to stay abreast of these significant changes that challenge us all to evaluate our curriculum, teaching, assessment and reporting practices.

We are proud to report that Ellis School made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under NCLB for the 2007-2008 school year. For those not familiar with AYP requirements, proficiency at the GLE standards is evaluated through annual testing administered through the New England Common Assessment Program. Making AYP is a significant accomplishment, as the accountability requirements of NCLB get more difficult to achieve each year, with the goal of 100% proficiency by 2014!

As we reflect upon the past year, it is the economy that concerns a lot of folks the most. We are living in uncertain times, and many wonder how we will cope with the demands of funding public education. The School Board has these same concerns. We know that school funding must be sustainable or people will not be able to support our schools. We keep this in our minds as we make decisions, and we try to balance the needs of the District and the ability of the citizens to support our efforts. We are hopeful that we will weather these tough economic times without significant detriment to our District.

It is our responsibility to educate the children of Fremont. We believe that investing in their future is a sound choice even in these challenging economic times.

Finally, we would like to recognize the service of two board members that served for many years on behalf of the children of Fremont. It is with sadness that we accepted the resignation of Chris Kenneway from the School Board this year. During her thirteen years of service, she helped advance many educational initiatives including renegotiation of several teacher contracts; Building Committee work on both the Sanborn High School and Ellis addition projects; and cooperative efforts with other towns. Marian Guidoboni served for six years and she will not seek reelection for another term. Both Marian and Chris devoted many hours of their personal time to improve education in Fremont. The tireless effort, diligence, and work ethic of these two women on behalf of Fremont children is to be admired and applauded. From your fellow board members, thank you Chris and Marian; we wish you and your families nothing but the best.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Genthner      Marian Guidoboni      Chris Kenneway      Peg Pinkham      Jeff Rowell  
**Fremont School Board**



Parks and Recreation  
Annual Easter Egg Hunt – March 2008  
Memorial Fields  
Photo courtesy of Ellen Canty