

Stratham Memorial School - Regular Education Report January 24, 2006

Stratham Memorial School opened its doors to over 650 students in preschool through grade five in late August. Our students had the opportunity to engage in many exceptional programs and opportunities in the development of a well-rounded educational experience. Our veteran staff began the process of transitioning, as our professional employees have inquired about retirement. The continued impact of No Child Left Behind provided a point of emphasis in the content areas of Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.

In our curriculum areas, special focus was prioritized in the area of Reading. We have begun the process of reviewing and reflecting upon the tenets of the Reading First program. This summer many of our staff were involved with opportunities of professional development that focused upon the five areas: Phonemic awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Comprehension. We continued to receive training in two core writing programs – Empowering Writing and Six Traits. These programs are utilized and implemented across our grade levels in order to provide skills in our kindergarten through fifth grade. Our Handwriting Without Tears program has provided our children with strategies to improve manuscript and cursive letter formations for speed, accuracy, and fluency. Ms. Katy Sumberg was hired to teach fourth grade, Ms. Joanne Lazarus and Ms. Larissa Drake provided instruction at the Kindergarten levels as two teachers were off on maternity leaves.

The school continued the process of refining our school portfolio and continued their efforts with the requirements of ‘Highly Qualified Teachers’ and ‘Certified School Personnel’. Staff has received professional development in multiple concepts relating to methodology, instructional practices and developmentally appropriate programs. We have investigated the components of our school and have maintained the process for assessing our students in third through fifth grade with the Northwest Evaluation Assessment (NWEA) computer program. It focuses on three areas of our curriculum: Reading, Language Arts and Math. We anxiously anticipate the results of the state assessments with the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). This should provide critical data to us for our students in grades three through five.

Stratham Memorial School is proud to provide well-rounded, educational programs. Activities included singer/storyteller Jeff Warner, Lesley Smith and Theatre of Life Puppets, Red Cross Blood Drive, TJ Wheeler, Author Sneed Collard III, The New Hampshire Theatre Project, Lego League, UNH Theatre Ensemble, DestiNation Imagination, New England Math League and our school-based clubs.

Our field trips provided enriching experiences for us all. Some of the notable destinations were the Freedom Trail, Lowell Mills, Squam Lakes Science Center, Boston Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, Old York Historical Society, Portsmouth Music Hall, Portland Symphony, and Stratham Hill Park.

It was another year of achievements for SMS. Mrs. Pat Robinson was the recipient of the prestigious Presidential Scholars Award. Judy Lewis was a finalist for Nurse of the Year. Nominated to the Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers 2004 were Meg Driscoll, Laurie Noyes-Hand, MaryAnn Jenness and Linda Morrison. Our school volunteers put in

well over 9,500 hours to aid us in many ways, shapes and forms! Thank you to all who assisted us at SMS.

We invite you to stop by to visit or check us out on-line. The SMS website can be found at www.sau16.org. On behalf of the school community, thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas J. Foshier