

Kensington Elementary School

Principal's Report

December 2016

Teaching/Learning

Readers' Theater in second grade has given rise to some budding actors and actresses at KES! Mrs. Lawler's second grade students recently performed "*Wishes*" for their fellow K and 1 classmates. In addition to designing their own background and making their own props, the performance was amazing despite some jitters beforehand! Readers' Theater is not only fun, but there are numerous researched benefits for enriching students' oral language and literacy skills. Readers' Theater develops students' fluency through repeated exposure to text, integrates reading, writing, speaking and listening in an authentic context, increases reading motivation by engaging students, creates confidence and improved student self-image as well as providing a real purpose (and audience) for reading.

Health/Community

KES students have certainly embraced the spirit of giving this holiday season! Led by the efforts of Mrs. Spinosa, students participated in the 9th Annual Jingle Bell Jaunt, a community-wide effort to collect nonperishable items for local food pantries and other charitable organizations. For each lap that students completed during the "jaunt", pledges for food and household items were given by parents, relatives and other Kensington residents. This year, students collectively ran **749 laps** around our track which totals **188 miles!!** We anticipate collecting approximately 5,000 items from the pledges promised! These items will be collected by members of the EHS Football Team and promptly donated to the **St. Vincent dePaul's Food Pantry** in Exeter and to the **68 Hours of Hunger Program** which supports over 100 families in SAU 16.



Our Student Council has also been busy this holiday season! They have organized a Lemonade Stand at lunchtime from which the proceeds will go to support homeless children in New Hampshire and their families. Student Council members designed posters, created morning announcements and even donated some of the supplies for the stand. When making the difficult decision about which brand of lemonade to sell, the students decided to sell the kind that had less sugar per serving - the positive effects of our health lessons in action!



Design/Philosophy/Governance

Budget season has officially begun at KES! Our School Board held its first workshop this past week to review the draft operating budget for the 2017-2018 school year. Remember that Kensington is an **SB2** town which means there are several sessions in which you are invited to participate during the budgeting process. ***Mark these important dates on your calendars now as they are all important PUBLIC meetings!***

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 - Public Hearing

The School Board will present a draft of the 2017-2018 budget to the public. This is a time for all Kensington community members to gather information and/or make suggestions for the School Board to consider. The School Board meets after the Public Hearing to make any adjustments before finalizing the adopted budget to go to the Deliberative Session.

Wednesday, February 8, 2017 - Deliberative Session

The School Board will review the budget during this session which is run by our elected School District Moderator. During the Deliberative Session registered voters of Kensington may make a motion to change the “bottom line” of the school budget (up or down). If there are no motions made from the “floor”, then the budget will be voted on as presented by the School Board. This is the budget that then goes to all registered voters in March on the ballot.

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 - Voting Day

All registered voters are able to vote on the budget. Please be sure to cast your ballot that day!

Please feel free to contact me or one of your local school board representatives if you have any questions about this process.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Ruel
Principal