

# Kensington Elementary School

Principal's Report

October 2017

## Teaching/Learning

I am pleased to share our most recent Science NECAP results. I have included our proficiency scores from the past few years to illustrate our continued consistent upward movement in student achievement.

2014-2015: 54% Proficient

2015-2016: 64% Proficient

**2016-2017: 71% Proficient**

I would like to express my appreciation to the School Board for supporting my request to place a certified teacher in our STEM Lab beginning in 2015. In addition to the increased attention on student inquiry in our regular classrooms, I believe having a certified professional in that position has contributed to our students' increased proficiency scores. Over the past few years at KES, there has been a greater focus on the Next Generation Science Standards, more opportunities for students to engage in real-world problem solving and a commitment to promoting STEM as a career choice for our children. When I spoke to the School Board a few years ago, I shared that I had never met a child who didn't like science. I believe that the children of Kensington LOVE science.

## Health/Community



On Thursday, October 5th, students participated in **Trash On the Lawn Day** at KES.

Throughout the day, each class spent about 45 minutes sorting and analyzing a day's worth of our school's trash. An outside organization, the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA), was on hand to assist with this slightly stinky but engaging activity. The day's events immediately sparked conversation among students about recycling, reducing, composting and so much more! They have even begun making plans on how to reduce the amount of food being wasted and thrown out in our cafeteria. Thank you to our new STEM teacher, Sarah McCarthy, for organizing this learning opportunity and to our custodians for helping to properly store and

prepare the trash for the day's events! The NRRA will be making recommendations to our school as well on how we can improve our recycling and sustainability at KES.

**Design/Philosophy/Governance**

Of our 118 students in Kensington, 7 of those are preschool aged children. Since many of the smaller schools in SAU 16, such as KES, do not have preschool programs housed within our buildings, the SAU has developed Memorandums of Understanding with 8 local pre-schools. KES pays tuition to these pre-schools for our young students who have been identified as needing early supports and interventions. Currently, we have pre-schoolers attending the *Exeter Developmental PreSchool, Exeter Day School, Appleseeds, Building Blocks* and *The Wright Start PreSchool at SST*. We are fortunate to have the assistance of the SAU Pre-School Coordinator, Karen Ringuette, to help us to screen young students and facilitate the placements at our local partner pre-schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Ruel  
Principal