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Principal's Report: 9/12/2017**Lyndeborough Central School/Florence Rideout Elementary School**

The 2017-18 school year is off to a great start! We welcomed staff back schools on August 29th. The afternoon at Lyndeborough Central School and Florence Rideout Elementary School was spent reviewing initiatives and goals for the school year as well as expectations procedures and protocols. RTI Coordinator, **Michelle Locke** introduced to staff a proposed model of tiered instruction that we will implement this school year. On Wednesday, August 30th staff prepared classrooms for the arrival of our students for our "Meet and Greet" sessions the next morning. Thursday, August 31st staff engaged in training with our Literacy coach Stephanie Maze-Hsu. This time was devoted to planning classroom Launch units in support of our Balanced Literacy/ Readers Workshop initiatives. Several staff including **Bridgette Fuller, Sandy Reid** and **Kristen Hebert** conducted brief training on Mystery Science a new multimedia approach to Science Instruction. School Counselor **Joanne Dufour** briefed staff on how conduct effective classroom morning meetings aligned with the principles of Responsive Classroom. The time staff spent was very productive and engaging.

Our first days with students was **September 5th**. I am always amazed how much growth occurs with our young students over the brief summer vacation. Our first day enrollment is as follows:

Preschool 3's	6
Preschool 4's	11
Kindergarten	32 Extended Kindergarten = 19
First Grade	47
Second Grade	45
Third Grade	41
Fourth Grade	38
Fifth Grade	49

One of major focuses for elementary teaching staff this year will be the adoption of a new approach to teaching reading called “Reader’s Workshop.” Our goal is to help every student become joyous, passionate readers, writers and thinkers by having them read and talk about real literature during reading instruction times. Classroom teachers will follow a proven, rigorous, standards aligned curriculum that shows us the grade level skills we need to teach and also allows us to individualize instruction for our students. Teacher’s plan daily lessons that teach new skills and during those lessons, we will model exactly how to do those skills and have the children try them out. Teachers will provide student’s time to read their own books to practice, while they meet with students individually or in small groups to help support them while they practice, remind them of things we’ve already taught, or teach something else that they need as an individual to become a better reader.

We will be supported in this endeavor by trainers and coaches from Teachers and Learners Alliance. Staff from TLA will serve as coaches modeling their instruction, observe classroom lessons and provide feedback to staff. I will share more information as the year goes on, and welcome your support and questions!

The importance of safety is my focus with students and staff the first few weeks of school. We conduct several emergency drills in coordination with Police and Fire Departments. These include building evacuations, lock-down, and off-site evacuations. Time is also spent discussing how to get to home and school safely. I conduct several bus safety sessions with representatives from Steve’s School Bus with our students.

Forging a strong relationship between school and home is beneficial to student performance and academic growth. We begin this process immediately and will be hosting *Open Houses* on **September 12th** at Lyndeborough Central School and **September 14th** at the Florence Rideout Elementary School from 6:30-7:30 pm. Teachers will provide two consecutive half-hour presentations for parents highlighting classroom expectations, curriculum, and advice on how parents can support their child’s learning at home. On **September 8th** the first issue of the FRES “Fox Flyer” was disseminated to all families. This monthly publication will contain an overview of upcoming events, classroom updates, and other important information for students and parents. A special “Kit’s Korner” section will update families regarding the Early Learning Center events.