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**Florence Rideout Elementary School**

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**Lyndeborough Central School**

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## Principal's Report: 8/8/2017

### Lyndeborough Central School/Florence Rideout Elementary School

For many of our young students learning continues throughout the summer in our district. We are fortunate to be able to provide an RTI Summer Academy at Lyndeborough Central School for our students entering grades K-3. Our goal is to provide selected students with an additional opportunity to develop their academic skills throughout the summer months. Twenty-one students including four incoming kindergarten students participated in the program. The ten sessions were held throughout July and August. **Vicki Macpherson** kindergarten teacher, **Tammy Cargill** reading specialist, **Kim Swanson** Title One tutor, and our new RTI coordinator **Michelle Locke**, provided students with reading and math instruction to maintain important skills throughout the summer months. In addition, the district's extended school year program will conclude on August 11<sup>th</sup> at Lyndeborough Central School. The program, organized by **Betty Moore**, Director of Student Services, assists special education students in maintaining skills over the summer months.

Not only did we provide learning opportunities for our students throughout the summer, but our staff engaged in worthwhile professional development. **Responsive Classroom** is an evidence-based approach to elementary teaching that focuses on the strong link between academic success and social-emotional learning (SEL). Independent research has found that the **Responsive Classroom** approach is associated with higher academic achievement in math and reading, improved school climate, and higher-quality instruction. It has been described by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) as one of the most "well-designed evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL) programs". During the week of August 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> staff from Florence Rideout including, **Kristen Hebert, Samantha (Dignan) Sappet, Melanie McGandy, Erin Tierney, JoAnn Dufour, Rebecca Hawkes Julie Lemire, and Bridgette Fuller**, will participate in Responsive Classroom training in Concord NH.

We are preparing for the return of students and staff. Letters from classroom teachers and myself were mailed to all students and parents on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Included in my letter was information about first day of school procedures and brief introductions of new staff members. All incoming Kindergarten students received the book *On The Way to Kindergarten* by Virginia Kroll. Summer letters to FRES and LCS staff are to be mailed on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Included with the letter were copies of the 2016-17 daily instructional schedule, meeting/important dates calendar, specialist schedule, and a schedule of professional trainings and meetings. **Jackie Hernandez** has completed many of her summer tasks including updating and maintenance of all devices at Florence Rideout and Lyndeborough Central School. She is also working with **Kevin Veratti** to upgrade our phone system and data feeds. **Buddy Erb** Facilities Director, and building

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custodians, **Dan LaSala, Albert Boucher, Larry Turke** and **Sam Erb** have been working hard cleaning classrooms and hallways, painting and preparing FRES and LCS for the return of students and staff. The buildings looks “newer” than the day they opened!

I have spent several days this summer interviewing candidates for various teaching positions that have become available. I have nominated **Mr. Greg Lamers** for the .8 Art teaching position at Florence Rideout Elementary School. Mr. Lamers has his Masters in Art education from Fitchburg State University and over 16 years of experience as an elementary art teacher in the Lawrence MA school district. An interview team consisting of Jackie Hernandez and myself, screened and interviewed several qualified candidates for the media generalist teacher position at FRES. We will select a candidate shortly.