
Florence Rideout Elementary School

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Principal's Report: 1/8/2019

Lyndeborough Central School/Florence Rideout Elementary School

Members of the Watatic Grange, Mrs. Camille Twiss and Sherry Bovosky visited the third grade at Florence Rideout Elementary School on **December 13th**. During their visit they presented each third grade student with their very own personalized student dictionary and gazetteer. As an organization, the Watatic Grange supports the Dictionary Project. The goal of the dictionary project is to ensure that everyone will be able to enjoy the benefits of owning a dictionary.

Star 360 will be administered to all students K-5 during the week of **January 16th** through the **19th**. Students are assessed in both reading and math. The STAR 360 assessment gives us information about each student's instructional level and also measures academic growth throughout the year. Teachers use the information from the STAR 360 test to assess student progress, make adjustments to their instruction, and implement strategies that best meet each student's individual needs. The second reporting period will come to an end on **January 19th**. Learning Profiles, as well as Star 360 reports, will be sent home with students on **January 25th**.

The second annual Florence Rideout Elementary School Scripps Spelling Bee will take place on Wednesday **January 23rd**. The purpose of the Bee is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabulary and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives. 4th and 5th grade classrooms will hold a classroom bee to determine a class champion and class runner-up. These students will then compete in the school wide bee to determine a school champion to compete at the New Hampshire State Bee later in the month of February.

Our next staff development day is scheduled for **Friday, February 1st**. Staff at LCS and FRES will convene to analyze data collected from the most recent NHSAS modular Assessments. After analysis of student data, teams will make adjustments to their math action plans that were submitted in December. Additional training with our consultant from Demonstrated Success Ann Mordecai will also take place. The focus of this training will be effective instructional strategies to use when teaching word problems and fractions.

In response to the need for more support for students who have experienced trauma and our desire to become a trauma sensitive school, Joanne Dufour school counselor has explored the possibility of therapy dogs and their handlers to work directly with our students at Florence Rideout. Research has shown that therapy dogs reduce anxieties and stress associated with learning and school. Significant

impacts on school attendance and motivation have also been associated with students who interact with therapy dogs on a regular basis. There is no cost for this program. Our initial plan to introduce a therapy dog program is to begin working directly with individual students who classroom teachers recommend to Mrs. Dufour in late January. As we build this relationship, a grade level program will be piloted sometime in the spring.

Sincerely,

Tim O'Connell

Principal