

# **FLORENCE RIDEOUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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Timothy O'Connell, Principal

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## **Florence Rideout Elementary School and Lyndeborough Central School**

### **Principal's Report 3/5/19**

During the next few month's students will be taking the New Hampshire Statewide Assessments. These assessments are taken by all students in third through fifth grade throughout the state. The assessments measure a student's understanding of academic content and skills in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science (5<sup>th</sup> grade). The testing will occur in stages throughout April and May. Throughout the month of March student will participate in content area benchmark assessments. Results from these assessments will be analyzed by teaching staff in March to guide further instruction.

The second session of our school-wide enrichment program, Odyssey, begins the week of March 4<sup>th</sup>. Several enrichment clusters or courses were created for this spring session. These include an Egg Drop competition, We-Do Lego Robotics, Stop-Motion Movie making, Papier Mache Vessels and Percussion ensemble.

We are planning another round of instructional walkthroughs with our math consultant, Ann Mordecai, from Demonstrated Success. These will take place throughout March and will focus on mathematical problem solving through the use of math performance tasks. Our goal will be to deliver feedback to staff that will promote self-reflection of current practices and instructional strategies.

We are excited to welcome our Artist in Residence, Theo Nii Martey. Theo is the director/leader of the traditional African drumming and dance ensemble called Akwaaba. He was born and raised in Accra Ghana, West Africa and has taught and performed African drumming, dancing, and music in Ghana, England, and the United States. Students is grades 1-5 will have master classes with Theo, while the third grade will have daily classes that will be culminated with a performance on the afternoon of Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Parents and community members are welcome to attend this wonderful event. A special thanks to the PTO for their continued support for our Artist in Residence Program.

Through a collaborative effort with the Children's Dental Network and the Alexander Easton Foundation, FRES will offer a pilot in-school dental program this May. With parental consent, all students will have access to free dental treatment in school (cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants, temporary fillings, etc.) and grade specific dental education. This partnership has been made possible through the efforts of Kim Sheridan, School Nurse at FRES.

Students and staff will celebrate Read Across America Week, March 18<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. This week is sponsored by the NEA and will focus on the literature of children's author, Mo Willems. Several events are planned that week to promote literacy including DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) periods throughout the week, creating favorite character "Potato People", adding to our school-wide book worm, and participating various themed dress-up days throughout the week. WLC National Honor Society students and Community Guest readers have been invited to read to students.

Mrs. Rebecca Hawkes will be taking a maternity leave in the beginning of April 2019. Her maternity leave will continue for the remainder of the school year. During this time, we are fortunate to have Ms. Lori Farina serving as a long term substitute for Mrs. Hawke's class. Ms. Farina is a certified teacher and graduate of Keene State College and Antioch College. She holds a Master's Degree in Education. Ms. Farina will have the opportunity to spend some time in the classroom at the end of March to become acquainted with the students, procedures, and curriculum so that this transition can be as smooth as possible. Please join me in wishing Mrs. Hawkes and her family the very best with the new addition to their family.

Congratulations to our kindergarten students of the month Koryn Blais from Mrs. McArdle's class, Emma Heinstrom from Mrs. Dane's class. We are all very proud of them!

The third reporting quarter comes to an end on March 29<sup>th</sup>. STAR 360 benchmark assessment will be administered the week of March 25<sup>th</sup>. Learning Profiles and STAR progress reports will be sent home with students on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Tim O'Connell  
Principal