

December 6, 2020

Dear Lamoille North Families,

Greetings on this December weekend! This is the first December I can remember in a long time when we did not have snow on the ground, but I am sure that this long stretch will end soon! I hope that all of you had a safe and peaceful holiday break; even saying that, it feels like the next holiday will be soon upon us. So much of our year has been filled with news of COVID-19, and while I am going to provide some updates on that, I first want to highlight some wonderful things that are happening in our district schools.

First, we are thrilled to announce that we have two students who were selected as Vermont 2021 Presidential Scholars, one from Green Mountain Technology & Career Center, as Presidential Scholar for the Arts through the Creative Media and Design Program, and one from Lamoille Union High School, as Presidential Scholar for Outstanding Leadership and Service to the community. You will hear more about both students from their respective schools. Both students selected at the Vermont level will have their names submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) for consideration as Presidential Scholars at the national level.

Our middle school students completed their student-led conferences, which provided them an opportunity to demonstrate their leadership and public speaking skills and identify how they are meeting their learning goals and proficiencies.

Our elementary schools also have much of which to be proud. Cambridge Elementary School students had their first Celebration of Learners' Assembly for the 2020-2021 school year, facilitated by sixth graders following the "Some Good News" theme. They also watched a fire prevention video created by the Cambridge Fire Department, and recognized students for good things they are doing.

Eden Central School students are raising funds to support the Vermont Food Shelf over the holiday season. Additionally, the upper elementary school students are examining their own math assessment data and setting goals to track progress.

Hyde Park Elementary School students continue to explore their environment with projects that examine nature through writing and analysis, specifically how people, animals and vegetation interact with each other and the outdoor environment.

Johnson Elementary School students in one classroom are exploring the question of how humans impact the earth and are delving into identifying renewable and nonrenewable resources that are important to their question. They discussed ways they can all help the earth and what can be done in the classroom and at home to support the environment.

And finally, Waterville Elementary School achieved their school-wide goals for being supportive and kind to their peers which culminated in a “safe” dance celebration in their classrooms. In addition, one upper elementary class researched on-line safety practices that culminated in a class presentation with their findings.

We are so proud of our community of students and their ability to be engaged, curious, and compassionate in their learning and understanding of their peers and other members of the school teams.

While we have much to be excited about, we also are reminded of the presence of COVID-19 in our midst. We learned this weekend of a positive case in the Cambridge Elementary School community and contact tracing and cleaning, as needed, have occurred over the last 48 hours. All close contacts have been notified. Because we had a full two days of investigation, school will resume as normal on Monday, December 7th, except for those under quarantine.

On a similar note, we are standing by to support our communities of Lamoille South and Orleans Southwest who are also navigating COVID-19. We are committed to supporting all members of communities in Vermont who have been adversely impacted by this virus. The number of contact tracers employed to assist us has doubled and our teams from the Vermont Department of Health (VTDOH) are working seven days per week. The collaboration we are getting from our Morrisville teams is exemplary. They are working alongside us to provide guidance to ensure safety for all members of our school communities.

Time and time again, this community comes together in moments of hardship to support everyone’s wellbeing. We need to continue to be vigilant in our safety precautions – always wear a mask, keep a safe distance from others, keep children/students home when they have any symptoms, and wash your hands often. We can get through this and whatever else comes our way in regards to this illness. We have all been touched by COVID-19 either directly, or through the effects of this pandemic on our jobs, families, or our health and wellbeing. We will meet this challenge together as a supportive and compassionate community.

My best to you,

Catherine Gallagher, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools
Lamoille North Supervisory Union