

**RSU #16 School Board
Administrative Report
Shawn Vincent
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School
October 10, 2017**

Staffing

- Bonnie Robbins has been nominated for Maine School Counselor of the Year.
- Logan Landry has been selected to serve on the Social Studies Leadership Cohort through the Maine Department of Education.
- I will be serving on the University of Southern Maine Educational Leadership Advisory Council.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- Maine standardized testing results were recently released, and we will mail home individual student reports later in the week. Whittier students continue to perform better than the state average in the spring testing. On the 2016-17 English Language Arts test (Reading and Writing), 55% of Whittier students met or exceeded the standard (compared to the state's 52%). In Math, 51% of Whittier students met or exceeded (compared to the state's 39%). Additionally, 70% of Whittier 8th graders met or exceeded the standard on the state science assessment (compared to the state's 62%). We continue to work toward supporting all students in meeting state standards. Whittier students recently completed the Fall NWEA test, and we plan to send home those reports with the state testing results. The intention of the NWEA test is to measure growth over time. Teachers use this data to help make instructional decisions to support students.
- On the October 6th workshop day, we started by reviewing the recently released school results on the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA). Teachers made suggestions about next steps and requests for additional information. Teachers then participated in a text protocol on a selection from the book Seven Strategies of Assessment for Learning. We also talked about the challenge of moving people to a learning goal approach. Many of the practices we currently use in school drive students toward a task-completion approach. We discussed the JumpRope grade book and the way we provide feedback to students during learning. As the year continues, we have committed to focus on formative assessment, regular feedback, and helping students learn to self-assess in a productive way. Friday also gave our committees some time to meet. This year, teachers are broken into four groups: Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS), Roundtable, Own It! (student ownership and responsibility), and Literacy. The rest of the day was spent working on class curriculum and assessments. Teachers used a protocol to review their units in teams to make sure that the skills being assessed were aligned with the standards. Then, they analyzed their assessments to make sure they were also an appropriate match. This is very valuable but also a time-intensive process and will be ongoing throughout the year.
- We are very pleased about our start as a BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks) school. We have implemented a team meeting format that allows us to talk about every student every week in a productive, solution-focused structure. Students in need of support are getting it right away.

Events

- October 27: Progress reports
- October 27: Harvest Dance
- November 9: Student-led Conferences
- November 12: Tri-Town Family 5K: We would love to have you join us for our 6th annual 5K event on the Minot Community Trails at 10:00am. Register for free on the race website: <http://tritownfamily5k.weebly.com/>
- November 29: Blood Drive: The Leadership Academy of Whittier is hosting a blood drive with the American Red Cross from 1:00-7:00. If you would like to sign up to make an appointment to donate go to: www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code: PolandME or call 1-800-Red-Cross (800-733-2767). Each appointment takes about an hour from start to finish!

Facilities: We are very excited about lights being replaced in the middle school gym.