

**RSU #16 School Board  
Administrative Report  
Shawn Vincent  
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School  
March 7, 2022**

**Staff**

- Teachers Logan Landry, Erica Swenson, Jamie Karaffa, Sean Galipeau-Eldridge, Kim Caron, Shannon Shanning, Kelly Adams, and Sarah McNabb should be recognized for their work on Whittier History Day. While we missed having the community at school to celebrate the students' work, the staff did a great job preparing the students for this event.

**Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

- We had another successful Whittier History Day on Wednesday, February 16th. It was great to see the hard work from the students and staff represented in the variety of topics and projects that the students created. On Friday, we announced the top projects in each category during a Zoom webinar in the morning. All students who placed, including honorable mentions, will have the opportunity to go on to the state competition.
- Grade 8 students are starting their high school transition process. This week the high school administration and counselors will host a parent night. It will be followed by an assembly for 8th graders on Thursday morning. The students will receive their course selection sheets at that time. The school counselors will meet with the students in smaller groups to answer any questions they have. Students who need the most support with change will have additional visits scheduled with high school staff.
- Our overall attendance this year is at 89.6%. In years prior to the pandemic, we stayed around 95%. We continue to work with families to get students to school when they are well enough to be here. We have scheduled a number of truancy meetings in the past month and have had some success. When families do not show up for their truancy meeting and do not communicate, we contact DHHS to make a report. We are also working with Superintendent Healey to set up meetings when we struggle to get cooperation from parents. It is crucial that we continue to work on school attendance; the habits that the students are forming now will likely follow them to high school.

**Events**

- Whittier students are doing an amazing job this year with our Maine Student Book Award/Tarin Reading Challenge. The school goal is reading 1500 books over the course of the year. In addition, the 7th grade and the 8th grade are competing against each other to see which grade can read the most books. So far this year, Whittier Middle School has read a total of 1,934 books, so the celebration is in the works.
- The indoor track season is underway and the small team from Whittier had a very successful first meet in Portland. Spring sports registration is now open.
- Students are selling chocolate from Wilbur's of Maine. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Order your chocolate before March 17th.
- There is an All Choral Concert scheduled for March 23rd at 7:00 and an All Band Concert scheduled for March 30th.