**RSU #16 School Board**

**Administrative Report**

**Shawn Vincent**

**Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School**

**October 10, 2023**

**Staff**

* Kudos to our nursing staff for staying on top of and communicating required vaccinations for middle school students, while also providing exceptional care of our kids.

**Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

* Friday, October 6th was a workshop day for staff. At Whittier, we focused on providing students with clear expectations through the use of rubrics. Teachers gave examples of rubrics that they use within their disciplines. Teachers Clayton Jones and Holly Patenaude led a session on Outdoor Education and shared ways to bring students and their learning outdoors more often. We also worked on Roundtable curriculum and wrapped up the day with some text-based discussion on high expectations for student behavior.
* We completed state testing on October 3rd and 5th. Attendance on testing days was strong, even with the draw of the Fryeburg Fair. Students did a nice job of meeting the expectations of an appropriate test environment. We will be doing makeup testing over the next couple of weeks.
* Chorus is rolling with over 50 students this year. Bandmaster Larry Williams has split the band into two sessions - first year students and returning students. This allows him to meet the students where they are in terms of appropriate training and practice.
* Senator Eric Brakey and Representative David Boyer visited 8th grade classes to do a simulation of the lawmaking process at the state level. Laws that students suggested and voted on included: (1) Lowering the work permit age to 13, (2) Paying students from 5th grade up based on grades used for college or school expenses, (3) Having no school on Fridays, (4) Allowing hunting on Sundays until 1pm, (5) Mandating a 20 min break in school for MS and HS students.

**Events**

* Many of our clubs are now active. Stitch Club had its first meeting and was very well attended. Teachers commented on how great it was to see kids helping kids. Technology Club had a smaller crowd, but they will likely build the group through the year with a variety of projects and topics of interest. The Math Club interest meetings were small, and Mrs. Goss is open to adding students. We need to build our competition team for upcoming meets. The classroom for Dungeons & Dragons Club was full; it continues to be our biggest draw.
* The Tri-Town Family 5K will return for its 12th year on the Minot trails. The event takes place November 12th at 10:00. Come run, walk, volunteer or cheer on the participants. All are welcome. This is a big community event for our school.

To prepare for the 5K this year, students and staff have been challenged to walk or run a mile every day in October. We will wrap up with our first Great Pumpkin Mile on October 31st.