

EES REPORT
OCTOBER 20, 2011
MARK VALLONE

COMMUNICATION

- **Enrollment:** Pre-school 27; Kindergarten 83; First Grade – 81 ; Second Grade – 81; Third Grade – 84; Fourth Grade – 65; Fifth Grade 83; **Total Enrollment** as of October 17th –506
- **Monster Mash October 28** No school for students that day but there will be the annual PTO Monster Mash from 6-8.
- **Veterans Invited to Lunch** Epping Elementary School has extended its annual invitation to Epping veterans to have lunch at EES during the week of Veterans Day (November 8-9-10). Invitations were dropped off at Post 51 of the American Legion here in town and notices were also sent out via Cool News and the District Web Site.
- **Veterans Day Assembly Program scheduled November 9.** The assembly will start at 8:45 a.m.

ACCOUNTABLE AND COLLABORATIVE CULTURE

- **Budget** I have submitted a draft of the 2011-12 budgets to the SAU office and plan to discuss with the School Board on October 27 or November 3.
- **Grade 3-5 Report Card Modifications.** What started as an attempt to simplify the grade 3-5 report card has led to the Advisory Council recommending some modifications. The format remains virtually the same. The grading system still uses letter grades, effort grades and skill grades. The goal was to make the report easier to read and to show quarterly letter grades in context with national and state assessments. I emailed the PDF version of the changes which are summarized below:
 - Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies and Spelling are still reported in letter grades
 - Added NECAP, NWEA, and Reading Benchmark Assessment Data
 - Reduced or eliminated some skill grades that either did not reflect changes in curriculum or were deemed not needed. E.G.
 - Shifted penmanship from a fully graded subject to a skill listed as part of the writing grade.

STUDENT LEARNING

□ **NECAP TESTING THIS MONTH**

- Grade 5 is completing its state testing this week. Grades 4 and 3 have already tested.
- Testing for EES officially began October 4th and will end October 26. Completed tests and all related testing material will be shipped to Measured Progress on October 26.
- This September, EES teachers in grades 3-4-5 taught test taking units in both reading and math. Math NECAP preparation actually began last spring with the use of a math workbook based on NH GLEs that was carried over by each student to the next grade. The books enabled this year's teachers to review key elements of the previous year's math curriculum right at the start of the year and to be more familiar more quickly with individual student needs. Teachers also used

released items from the previous tests to model lessons in how to write an answer to an open response question- an in-depth question that asks students to write effectively using details from reading passages or logical explanations of solving a math problem.

- EES employed an incentive program in which students received raffle tickets for daily attendance, for effort during reading and math testing. Daily drawings of the names helped reinforce the importance of attending school and doing one's best to apply what one has learned. Rules about gum chewing were relaxed to help relieve some of the anxiety associated with the testing.
- Thanks to the PTO for providing free snacks. The school provided bottled water to ensure students could focus on the test.
- Thanks to Guidance Counselor Marianne McDonough, Dean of Students Erin Milbury and the rest of the staff for doing an excellent job of scheduling, staffing and preparing for these demanding tests.
- Thanks also to the teachers and paraprofessionals who really worked diligently to ensure that students were well prepared and very focused on doing their best in the NECAP. Everyone has demonstrated a great deal of effort and persistence.
- Thanks to all the students in grades 3-4-5 who did their best in demanding circumstances.

□ **Math Improvement 2011-12**

- EES made AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) which means it remains in Year 1 (SINI (School In Need of Improvement))
- The EES Math Improvement Committee has updated the SINI plan for 2011-12 which now includes the Implementation of Math in Focus program K-5. The committee met today and will continue to meet on the third Thursday of the month at 3:30. School Board members and other members of the public are welcome to observe.
- The major activities of the SINI plan for improving math during the 2011-12 school year are:
 1. Implement a new math series (Math in Focus) K-5
 2. Continue to conduct special weekly planning periods for grade levels to meet with math specialists. This year the meetings run on a 6 day meeting cycle)
 3. Revise math curriculum trajectories to incorporate Math In Focus & "I Can" statements.
 4. Develop and use common assessments to monitor progress during the school year.
 5. Provide extra tutoring to students with educational disabilities and economic disadvantages. That program will begin in November.
- Parent Math Night on November 1st. Knowing how anxious parents can be regarding math and math homework, the Math Committee has scheduled a special presentation by the publishers of the Math in Focus series and by EES math teachers. Parents will learn how to use access and use the online program, Think Central. There will also be hands-on math activities for parents to do in the art room that will demonstrate what and how students are learning.

TECHNOLOGY/FACILITIES

- **Technology Committee Meeting 10/19** The committee was scheduled to meet to discuss:
 - How well the introduction of sets of laptops, projectors and document cameras was working.
 - The rollout of Think Central, the online math program, to parents on November 1.
 - Contact information regarding Technology issues
 - Technology professional development activities for EES. (See a demonstration of Jotter)

Calendar

October 21	First Grade Field Trip to Charmingfare
October 26	TLA day for grades K-1
October 27	Eagle Day Assembly: Halloween Safety Faculty Meeting/ June 2011 Writing Walk Through Review
October 28	District PD Day/ No School Grades Close PTO Monster Mash
October 31	2 Fiddles Residence Gr 3
November 1	Grade 3 (1/2) Field trip to Science Museum Parent Night for Math In Focus
November 2	TLA for grades 3-5
November 3	Advisory Council Report cards due in office
November 4	Grade 4 Field Trip to State House Grade 3 (1/2) Field Trip to Science Museum
November 7	Dental program Grades TBA Literacy Committee Meeting
November 7-9	Veterans luncheon program
November 8	Dental program Grades TBA 2 Fiddles Residence Grade 2
November 9	Veterans Day Assembly Dental program Grades TBA EES flu clinic 2 Fiddles Residence plus Barn Dance and PTO Chili Cook Off at night
November 10	Parent Conference Day (No students)
November 11	Veterans Day Holiday
November 14	TLA with grades 2 and 4 Dental van at EES
November 15	Dental van at EES
November 16	TIGER Assemblies TLA for grades K-1
November 21	Last UNH reading practicum visit to EES