

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

FEBRUARY, 2018

STATE LEVEL ASSESSMENTS COMING THIS SPRING

In addition to the SBAC test given to all children in grades 3-8 between March and June every year, as part of VT's Every Student Succeeds Act Plan, this spring all grade 5 and 8 students will be taking a new science assessment – aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards, and all grade 4 and 7 students will be taking, May, a physical education assessment called FitnessGram. I wanted to include the following quote from the Vermont AOE website, to give you more information about the FitnessGram.

The Vermont ESSA State Plan, developed by the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) with significant stakeholder feedback, received official approval from the US Department of Education in September. As Vermont works to implement an accountability system that better reflects the state's education priorities as stated in Education Quality Standards, changes will need to be made at the state and local level. One such change is the implementation of Physical Education assessments. The AOE selected FitnessGram to serve as its statewide physical education assessment for state and federal accountability purposes. FitnessGram is a non-competitive fitness assessment and is currently the most widely used fitness assessment tool nationally. FitnessGram will be field tested statewide in the 2017-2018 school year. And it will be formally incorporated into the state's accountability system beginning in 2018-2019.

WE CELEBRATE READING AND WRITING MONTH IN FEBRUARY!!

During the month of February we celebrate reading and writing. We are planning a number of activities to highlight the importance of these two critical disciplines. James Taffel will be reading a book to all PK-4 classes. On Thursday, March 15, all of the students will participate in the Vermont Writes Day. Across the state, in most schools, children and adults will pause for 7 minutes and spend that time writing. We will be posting the writing pieces in our hallways. Our library staff has again organized a reading incentive program where children in grades 5-8 write the title and author of books they read on special pieces of paper and drop those in the slot of a TV set that has been hollowed out by our maintenance worker, John Walker. Over the course of the month our goal is to fill the TV with an enormous pile of these papers! Children in grades K-4 will be participating in a contest, based around the Winter Olympics where they will write the name of every book they read on a bobsled, and at the end of the month, the children reading the most books will be given a special award! At the conclusion of the month-long celebration of reading and writing, books will be awarded to children who have read the most books and all students will enjoy a fruit bar for participating in the

reading/writing activities. Hopefully, these activities will be a wonderful experience for the children and will serve to motivate them to want to read and write more.

LITERACY AUTHOR AND APPETIZER NIGHT COMING FOR K-4

We will be hosting an author/appetizer literacy night on Thursday, February 15. From 5:30 until 6:30 parents and children will have an opportunity to hear guest author, Alex Hastings share his writing experiences. Alex is the husband of one of our grade 4 teachers, Mrs Denise Martin, and he is a teacher himself. Everyone will be able to enjoy complementary appetizers prepared by our food service director, Mr. Craig Locarno

RETURN OF CAMP INVENTION

We are very excited to announce that Camp Invention will be back for its 4th summer at Barre City Elementary Middle School for students entering grades 1 – 6 (current K – 5). Camp Invention is an innovative, hands-on camp that explores science, math, and art. Students work together to create, build, and have fun! Like last summer, it will be a full day program from June 29 – July 3 from 8:30 – 3:00. The full tuition is \$220, but there are early registration discounts available

“GIRLS ON THE RUN”

“Girls on the Run” is a national experiential learning program for girls in grades 3-5. Although its apparent goal is completion of a noncompetitive 5k walk/run to be held in Essex, VT, in May, “Girls on the Run” is as much about good health, friendship, positive body image, and self-esteem as it is about running. Through its focus on positive emotional, social, mental and physical development, since 1996, “Girls on the Run” has helped more than 30,000 girls gain a strong sense of self as they enter adolescence. Chris Farnham, one of our math lab teachers, and Amelia Abraham, one of our grade 4 teachers, will be acting as the head coaches for this group. They are both excited about getting young girls to appreciate the joy as well as the many benefits of running.

Sincerely,

James Taffel

Michael Dreiblatt