



November 19, 2021

Dear Lamoille North Families and Staff,

We are quickly approaching our school Thanksgiving break and will likely have more snow on the ground in fairly short order! I want to take this time to thank all of you for your consistent and steadfast commitment and dedication to our students over the past several months and appreciate the ongoing support you will give to them as the year progresses. We recognize that no one anticipated how the year would start and what the pandemic would bring, and as I write this, Vermont has a record number of cases, the likes of which we have not seen prior to now. We continue to do what we can to maintain smooth and safe school operations so that education is not disrupted, but we also know how challenging that has been at moments. Thank you for continuing to partner with us to communicate and collaborate about these challenges as they arise. Although solutions may not always be at our fingertips, the collective wisdom that comes from many ideas and many different perspectives often leads to the best outcomes.

This week, I had the opportunity to visit many classrooms in some of our elementary schools and saw, firsthand, how well students worked together to solve multi-step word problems in a math class and were able to explain their solutions with writing, numbers and visuals. In another class, I listened to a group of students talk about how words such as “courage”, “self-reliance” and “friendship” came to life and were present in their own lives. And in still another, I observed a reading and writing workshop in an upper elementary classroom. Students are engaged, curious and appear so happy to be with their peers, teachers and staff in the classrooms!

On another note, I want to share with you a snapshot of the work our Curriculum Director, Wendy Savery, is leading with respect to our three-year Recovery Plan. Thank you to those of you who participated in our second Public Forum, where some of the conversation was about how we are using grant funds to support our school community over the next three years as we regroup post pandemic. The Recovery Plan document is by nature a dynamic plan given that priorities may change over the next three years, but you will see what we are working on in all of our schools for the 2021-2022 school year laid out in the plan. Again, the areas of focus are three-fold: Academic Recovery, Social-Emotional Wellness, and Student Engagement. You can read the document [HERE](#). If you have questions about this document or need clarification, please reach out to Wendy at wsavery@lnsd.org.

In other news, our Nutrition Director, Karyl Kent, has partnered through a USDA Farm-to-School grant with Sea to School, a group whose role is to connect New England’s K-12 schools with local seafood. More specifically, the project aims to teach students across the region about local seafood and the potential benefits that come along with it – from health and nutrition to economy and community, as well as climate impacts and marine ecosystems. We were chosen as one of eight school districts to participate in this program! We thank Karyl Kent for her work in building this partnership.

And finally, I would like to warmly thank our Lamoille North families and staff again for the kindness and support you have shown during this time. I am deeply thankful for all of you. Have a wonderful Holiday break.

My best to you,

Catherine Gallagher, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools
Lamoille North Supervisory Union