

**RSU #16 School Board  
Administrative Report  
Shawn Vincent  
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School  
November 6, 2017**

**Staffing**

- Bonnie Robbins was named runner-up for Maine School Counselor of the Year.
- Nicole Bryant is serving as a long-term substitute for administrative assistant Maureen Mooney while she is on medical leave.

**Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

- In October, Wednesday PD time was used to continue work in committees, prepare for student-led conferences, and start work on student learning goals. As a staff, one of our established goals this year is to work on offering highly-effective feedback to students during their learning. Teachers used the end of one afternoon to share formative assessments that we are using in our classrooms. Staff shared their assessment through a protocol and received feedback from colleagues. All staff walked away from the protocol with new ideas they could apply in their classrooms. Earlier in the month, we used an hour for tech shop. Two teachers who are very adept in using Google tools taught staff about Gmail, Google Forms, and Google Slides in a workshop format.
- As our staff has been learning about formative and summative assessment and the roles they play in students' learning, we have also been working to teach students and families about assessment. At Student-Led Conferences, students will have examples of formative assessments that they took in the first months of school. They will explain what they learned from the formative assessment and then share the summative assessment that they completed at the end of the unit. We have also been using our weekly newsletter to share information about the purposes of assessment and how grading works. While we still have a long way to go, we are making growth in working toward a shared understanding.
- Maine Boys to Men met with 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys in October. Boys to Men is a non-profit organization who works to prevent violence, particularly male violence against girls and women, and support the development of emotionally healthy boys. Over the past 18 months, they directly served over 3,300 middle and high school students in Maine. This program explores the ways that gender pressures can be limiting and harmful to boys and girls. The four-hour workshops, spread over four sessions, examines how dominant cultural definitions of masculinity can encourage boys to detach emotionally, limit their aspirations, and normalize sexist attitudes and harmful behaviors. Additionally, the program contributes to positive social and emotional development as a means to increase social support and prevent harmful, disrespectful, and violent behaviors in Maine schools. Jessica Madsen and Bonnie Robbins provided a parallel program for our girls, while the boys met with Boys to Men.

**Events**

- November 29<sup>th</sup>: Blood Drive: The Leadership Academy of Whittier is hosting a blood drive with the American Red Cross from 1:00-7:00. If you would like to sign up to make an appointment to donate go to: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter Sponsor Code: PolandME or call 1-800-Red-Cross (800-733-2767). Each appointment takes about an hour from start to finish. Jess Madsen and the Whittier Leadership Academy students have organized the connection with Red Cross.

**Facilities:** Nothing to report at this time