

RSU #16 School Board
Administrative Report
Shawn Vincent
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School
December 4, 2017

Staffing

- Christina Meader is serving as a long-term substitute for administrative assistant Maureen Mooney while Maureen is on medical leave.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- In November, Wednesday PD time was used to work in committees, build understanding of focused learning goals to drive instruction, training for our Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS), and continued “Big Block” meetings to create team plans to support students. The PBIS training was designed and implemented by teachers Erin Kennedy, Clayton Jones, and our dean Jess Madsen. The focus was on building consistency about documenting and responding to student behavior. We used several scenarios to calibrate our ideas and responses. We have found that our Big Block meetings need review to ensure appropriate time necessary for follow-through on student plans.
- We are using a new curriculum for training students in digital citizenship this year. The curriculum *Be Internet Awesome* by Google was suggested by the RSU 16 Technology Committee. So far, we have found the lessons engaging and very applicable for the experience of our students. The mini-units cover sharing online, avoiding false information, online security, kindness, and appropriate communication. Maine State Police Detective Abbe Chabot is scheduled to meet with parents about online safety on Tuesday, December 5th and then will present to students on Tuesday, December 12th.
- Our *Own It!* Committee has taken on the challenge of bridging student and teacher responsibility and working on steps to help educate our students about their roles in managing their education. The committee developed the agenda and materials for student-led conferences in November and followed with a survey to teachers to check on the outcome of conferences. They are also seeking feedback about student and parent understanding of summative assessments versus formative assessments, where kids could be “owning it” more, and some processes that we should be teaching students such as the steps necessary to successfully retake a summative assessment. Members of the committee are piloting possible tools to use with students. The team also plans to evaluate and refresh the Habits of Work Camp curriculum that we use to transition the students into middle school each fall.

Events

- The Whittier Leadership Academy organized and facilitated a very successful blood drive on November 29th. They took advantage of student-led conferences to draft many parents and went to speak with teachers at the elementary schools and high school students to find additional donors.
- We had 236 runners and walkers complete the Tri-Town Family 5K on November 12th. We were also pleased to see that over 80% of middle school students showed improvement from the beginning of our full-school run program to the end. This data was measured through a PACER test or mile time trial (students’ choice).
- Our Student Council’s Thanksgiving Food Drive was one of the most successful we have had in recent years. The healthy competition to provide the most food seems to drive Roundtable groups to donate in higher numbers.

Facilities: We are very grateful for the towns’ willingness to support the Whittier building project.