

**RSU #16 School Board
Administrative Report
Shawn Vincent
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School
October 9, 2018**

Staffing

- Bonnie Robbins has been nominated for Maine School Counselor of the Year. In somewhat related news, she and I presented a session on Restorative Practices at the American School Counselor Association Conference in Los Angeles in July and were asked to do a follow up webinar in September. We have been invited to present at the Maine Principals Association Conference and Maine School Counselor Conference in November and in San Diego in February.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- On the October 5th workshop day, we started the day as a full staff talking about the importance of practicing writing across the curriculum. Last year, a group of teachers created a literacy handbook that we will be implementing as a full staff. We read the handbook and provided feedback of the rubrics and checklists that were developed. Teams made a calendar of opportunities to teach and assess writing throughout various classes. We are excited about the potential for consistent language, support, and expectations in helping our students grow as writers. The workshop also provided time for staff collaboration on student learning goals, continued development of common curriculum and assessments, and discussion on grading students on Habits of Work. Ed techs received CPR and First Aid training.
- Wednesday release time provides time for teaching teams to meet. The first hour of each release time is dedicated to BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks) Big Block. Academic teams meet to review student academic progress, attendance, behavior, and to schedule interventions as necessary to support student growth. We have also introduced PDP (Professional Development Posses) time this year. Teachers completed their self-assessments and selected areas of focus for their own growth. Teachers were then grouped by their selected areas. These PDPs have now met to draft their professional goals. As the year goes on, the PDPs will share texts and resources to support the work toward their goals, schedule time to observe their colleagues, work on professional portfolios together, and track growth. The feedback has been extremely positive to this point. Additionally, Wednesday time has been used for learning area teams to meet and to complete a data protocol to reflect on behavior data through the first month.

Events

- Students participated in a Socks for Students drive in collaboration with the Pink Feather Foundation. The students brought in 1,002 pairs of new socks that will be allocated to kids in need.
- We have completed five fire drills and did our first lockdown practice on Tuesday, September 25th. The students have done a nice job of meeting expectations.
- October 26th: Middle School Progress Reports will go home.
- October 26th: First dance
- November 4th: Tri-Town Family 5K - Whittier Middle School's Tri-Town Family 5K is back for our 7th annual event! Join us for a FREE community activity, open to all. Run or walk the beautiful 5K course on the Minot trails and fields, and support many runners completing their first 5Ks. Enjoy some refreshments, enter the raffle, and celebrate a healthy community. Come join us! Please register in advance through the event website.

Facilities: We have had issues with leaks in the modular classrooms. Tony Bennett has worked with

Schiavi to try and resolve the problems.