

# Principal's Report

## Amherst School District

School: Clark-Wilkins Elementary School

November 2017

Gerry St. Amand, Nicola Fraley

Elementary School  
Excellence

- **Veteran's Day:** Students and staff at Clark and Wilkins honored Veteran's Day on Thursday, November 9 with school-wide assemblies. At Wilkins, the program included the reading of a poem written by second-grade students in Mrs. Gould's class, Honor Guard by the Boy Scouts, and singing patriotic songs led by Mr. Allwarden. The Clark program was tailored to align with the developmental needs of students in pre-school and kindergarten and included singing patriotic songs, watching a slideshow of our C-W Wilkins community veterans. In addition to these programs, students have written letters and cards that have been sent to soldiers on active duty and our veterans.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Following progress reports being sent out in late October, teachers and families have been meeting to discuss student progress, identify strengths and build goals focusing on areas for growth. The conferences have been exceptionally successful. Teachers and families have shared that their meetings have been positive, collaborative, and student-focused.
- **Professional Development:** Member of the C-W staff have been participating in various in and out of district professional development opportunities over the last month.

**Building Goal: Develop and implement high-quality curriculum, assessment, and instructional practices to support personalized student learning.**

PACE: Teachers have been participating in the NH PACE task development process with colleagues across the state in other Tier I and Tier II districts. Clark-Wilkins has representatives working in the areas of mathematics, science, and literacy.

Grade 4 Humanities teachers met with Liz Manolis, District Literacy Coach, to streamline elements of the Great Minds Reading Program to be able to increase options for differentiated, targeted instruction within the core humanities block.

Grade 2 teachers worked collaboratively to develop science units as a continuation of the work they started over the summer. Teachers were able to develop initial scope and sequences for upcoming units focusing on Matter and Ecosystems.

Kindergarten teachers met to work on their literacy curriculum. Teachers will engage in curriculum review and development throughout the year in small groups and as a full grade level.

---

NWEA Report Mini-Sessions have been offered to staff members before school to highlight the features of the NWEA reporting system.

**Building Goal: Establish a community, classroom, and school-wide, that fosters and ensures the social-emotional development and growth of all students.**

Responsive Classroom Leadership Conference: Kathleen Murphy and Nicola Fraley attended this two-day conference focusing implementing RC with the adult community, planning and preparing for building level professional development, developing core values founded on the school's mission, vision, and goals, and moving towards being a "school-wide Responsive Classroom school."

Guidance Counselors and School Nurses are participating in a series of three webinars, 504 & Your School: Everything that you Need to Know. The webinar provides practitioners with legal and practical knowledge to support students that are eligible for accommodations and services under ADA

---

Diligent Fiscal Oversight

- **FY18 Budget:** The C-W Administrative team is continuing to approve requisitions as they come forward.
- **FY19 Budget:** We continue to work to prepare a comprehensive and fiscally responsible budget that meets the current and project needs of our students and staff.

---

Inspirational & Effective Teaching

- **Enriching Educational Programs and Opportunities:** In collaboration with community partners, many students at C-W have participated in curriculum enrichment opportunities in the last month. Children have planted thousands of bulbs with the Amherst Garden Club and experienced hands-on science learning during sessions with P MEC. Students have also traveled off-site on field trips that bring the curriculum from the classroom to life. Fourth graders traveled to Concord to visit the NH State House and Historical Society and Mrs. Strauss, Wilkins Librarian, has led weekly walking field trips to the Amherst Town Library with first-grade students.

---

Innovative Technology Integration

- **Tech Tips:** Staff receives professional development in bite-size chunks during each faculty meeting. The 5-minute "Tech Tips" target skills that have been identified as a current need and will help staff to work more efficiently to communicate with colleagues, prepare for instruction, and support teachers to more effectively meet the learning needs of their students.
- **Owl Update and Owl's Nest:** Using the Office 365 platform, C-W Administrators have developed the "Owls Nest," a cloud-based SharePoint site that aims to streamline document handling and information sharing for the C-W staff community. Also, a weekly newsletter is sent to staff that shares timely information and updates in a digital format.

---

SAU #39 Strategic  
Planning

- **Current Enrollment at C-W:** As of Monday, November 13, **678** total students are enrolled at C-W in grades PK-4.  
Preschool - 36  
Kindergarten - 109                      Clark Total - 145  
First - 137  
Second - 118  
Third - 133  
Fourth - 145                                  Wilkins Total - 533                      **Total - 678**

---

Summary of Upcoming  
Events

- November 13: Teacher In-Service Day
  - November 14: Late Start - Assessment, Grading, and Reporting
  - November 16: Picture Re-takes
  - November 20: Thanksgiving Feast - Clark School Kindergarten
  - November 22-24: Thanksgiving Break
  - November/December: PMEC Programming for Grade 4 and Grade 3
  - December 1: Grades close for Trimester 1
  - December 1: PTA Holiday Story Time, Clark School 6:00-7:00 PM
  - December 6: Staff Meeting
  - December 7: Bubbleology - Pre-School, Kindergarten, First Grade
  - December 12: Late Start - PACE
  - December 15: Report Cards sent home
-