

Plymouth Elementary School
Annual Report
January 2018

The school year opened to our music teacher playing his guitar at morning recess, a wonderful way to ease the first-day-of-school jitters. When the bell rang for the first day, students entered, relaxed and ready to learn! Our PTA is a special organization full of vibrant, engaged parents who not only want to support learning through fundraising but who also understand the changes that are happening in the world of learning. The Community Barbecue at the beginning of the year was well attended--a joyful experience for all families.

During the first opening days of school, students were introduced to the four Be's:

Be Safe ~ Be Respectful ~ Be Responsible ~ Be Your Best You!

Teachers focused on one expectation each week, reviewing how to be safe in key universal areas of the school like hallways and the cafeteria. The 4 Be's have provided students and staff with common language and consistency.

The foundation of academics, arts, and athletics is the social-emotional development and well-being of our students. SAU 48 schools have focused on creating safe, calm, positive learning environments. The 4 Be's supports that calmness. We also focused on creating positive and calming transitions. Morning meeting, at PES and other SAU 48 schools, is an integral moment to setting a calm, focused tone for students. In the classroom, we continue to concentrate on the Work Habits--**Participation, Preparedness, Perseverance and Collaboration**. These are lifelong skills that are recognized locally and globally for people to succeed in college, career and as a citizen.

Writer's Workshop is another important block of time each day. We use Units of Study that provide guidance in Narrative, Explanatory, Opinion/Argument writing. While writing has a focus, the Writer's Workshop will be a time and place to nurture and develop student voice and choice.

After two years of rich professional training on designing quality performance assessments, Plymouth Elementary School has joined a cohort of New Hampshire schools called PACE. PACE stands for Performance Assessments for Competency Education and is an innovative approach for assessing a student's and a school's overall performance on competencies. Through PACE assessments, students work with competencies in a more connected and direct way. Assessments are curriculum embedded and reflect classroom learning. Our teachers are leaders in New Hampshire for designing the PACE assessments. The PACE process aligns with more locally created, authentic work assessments. Our many field experiences include a performance assessment that is connected to the community as well as the competencies. Perhaps you have seen our first graders on the Town Common or at the Historical Society, gathering information for projects at school. Many of our sixth graders have partnered with community experts/mentors as they explore a personally designed project. Our third graders walk to the state of the art meteorology department at Plymouth State University to gather ideas for their weather unit. The results are more locally created, relevant, and authentic work assessments that engage our learners!

Plymouth Elementary School offer a rich variety of learning opportunities to build confidence academically, physically, socially, and beyond. Whether before, during or after school--Plymouth Elementary School is a hub of learning:

- ASK, Academically Supporting Kids, is for middle school students and is offered before school. The program is monitored by teachers and designed to build student confidence and positive academic attitudes.
- Last year, the Math Team came in first place out of 14 middle schools in our region;

- Student Council organizes and leads many great initiatives, including Community Service Days, Rachel's Challenge, school-wide assemblies and pep rallies;
- Visiting authors like Ted Scheu, the Poetry Guy, inspire reading and writing;
- Technology Student Association (TSA) where students extend learning and practice engineering, design, collaborative problem solving--and have fun;
- Winter Program: To support exercise during the winter months, PES parents and teachers have coordinated five weeks of activities--skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and skating--that get all of our students moving.
- A full array of athletic opportunities with exemplary coaches who represent the philosophy of developing the whole child through teamwork, sportsmanship, self-improvement, and fun.
- A middle school drama that uplifts our community with student talents!

We have a wonderfully balanced approach to technology. Most classrooms have a station of 20 Chromebooks that provide flexibility and access. Our STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) program engages and challenges students in hands-on problem solving. Beyond learning to type, our computer class integrates with classroom teachers and introduces students to a computer coding curriculum.

In addition to having strong safety measures and an established safety committee that organizes regular drills and training, we work daily to provide a culture where we build each other up--not put each other down. Much of our kindergarten through grade 5 guidance program is based on TIGER. TIGER was developed through Plymouth State University and has proven effective in supporting students with problem solving language and tools. We are fortunate to have compassionate adults who are committed to keeping students safe and strong.

We proudly take time during the year for important ceremonies. As always, we integrate these rituals into learning opportunities. From Memorial Day to Law Enforcement Appreciation, Veterans Day to Earth Day, teachers work with students on history, civics, writing, and presentation skills. Those who attend leave uplifted and proud.

As always, we are grateful for the many partnerships we have that support student safety and learning. Please visit our website, <http://pes.sau48.org/>, to learn more about our school, to view events, or to access some of our learning resources. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, we encourage you to contact us via email, phone or simply stop in for a visit.

Thank you for your constant support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Flynn, Principal

Educating children to become caring, capable citizens and lifelong learners in a global community.

PES Mission Statement