

PRINCIPALS' REPORT SEPTEMBER 5, 2007

The opening of school at SCS brought several new students and many happy faces! Before the first day, there was a great deal of attention and commitment on the part of staff to make sure all students feel comfortable at SCS and in their new classrooms with their teachers. There were team picnics, parent/teacher conferences, new parent orientations, team scavenger hunts, open houses, dessert nights and informal "drop-bys" to promote this important aspect of our school; ensuring that each student feels a sense of "Belonging" in our school.

Our in-service days for staff were designed to also promote collegiality; through teacher and team work times, breakfast and lunch times to eat together, specific training times from our BEST team, and, most importantly time to play together (we had a great game of "Star Wars"!)

1. **Bike Rack** : SCS was awarded a Bike Rack from Vermont Safe Routes to School Program. We were one of 14 schools to receive this grant (\$1,520). SCS will now have 5 bike racks! We have definitely noticed an increase in students biking to school. We believe this is due to the wonderful weather but also the sidewalks installed on route 7.
2. **In-Service Days**: We had four in-service days before the start of school. The agenda for each day was full: team and teacher time, School Action Plan Committee work, BEST initiative (school climate) and parent meetings.
3. **Full Day Kindergarten**: This change has been very positive. The students are doing well, enjoying being here all day and have become an integral part of SCS. The lunch experience has improved greatly in a short time. We have had many parent volunteers, and teacher volunteers help us during these first days which have been incredible. We will be having eighth grade students helping us throughout the rest of the year. The bus rides have also been positive, with all busses closer to their anticipated pick up and drop off times. We currently have 91 students, with only two leaving for the 1/2 day option.
4. **Curriculum Nights**: Thanks for attending these important nights for our teams. They are very positive and the teachers appreciate your willingness to come and learn more about the teams and meet with parents during these evenings.
5. **Project FEED**: This is an amazing group of parents and teachers with a lot of energy. We had a presentation during one in-service day, and have since created our first "event" We will have a taste test for Ratatouille, with vegetables from family gardens. There are many volunteers who are helping out with this-from sorting vegetables (you can bring them in on 9/17 and 9/18) to helping cook (on 9/19) and serve on 9/20). All students

will be given the opportunity to taste the SCS Ratatouille on 9/20 during their lunch time! We have an additional meeting set for 9/13 to look at other initiatives throughout the year.

6. **9/28 In-Service Day:** SCS is working with Jude Newman to design the agenda for this SU wide ins-service day. We will be looking at the GE's and our curriculum maps to develop consistency throughout the SU.

7. **Grade 8 Opportunities:**

- Enrichment – will begin tomorrow. There has been an effort to match the students' interests to specific topics. We will keep you posted on this new initiative – as of now both teacher and students are very excited.

- Community Service:

The number one choice for eighth grade students was to work in the elementary classrooms. We currently have 19 teachers who will be having these students work with them either directly with students, or with classroom organization.

The Community Service program also includes three new sites this year: Shelburne Athletic Club, Morgan Horse Farm and the Shelburne News.

8. **Enrollment:**

EEE – 16
Kind. - 91
Grade 1 - 66
Grade 2 - 76
Grade 3 - 79
Grade 4 - 78
Grade 5 - 104
Grade 6 - 91
Grade 7 - 104
Grade 8 - 88

Total - 793