

RSU #16 School Board
Administrative Report
Shawn Vincent
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School
January 2, 2018

Staffing

- Susanna Johnson was hired as an Ed Tech III.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- In December, Wednesday PD time was used to work in learning area teams, develop our rubric and share understanding of the Building Assets and Reducing Risks (BARR) initiative, and continued “Big Block” meetings to create team plans to support students. Our learning area teachers do not have shared preparation blocks during the school day, so their meeting time is limited. We are taking advantage of the January workshop day to allow teachers to work on common assessments in learning areas, but we will also plan to provide additional time for teachers to work together on curriculum in the new year. The work we did on BARR was very important and timely. Our August staff days were dedicated to BARR training, but we haven’t revisited the training since that time. We used the hour in December to come to some common agreements about appropriate interventions for students performing at each level.
- Students have been working on a bridge design project in technology education. They completed a research lab on forces, structures and materials and then began the process of designing their bridge solutions. Students worked in groups of two and were given a budget of \$1,000,000 with which to work. Materials and other resources were priced proportionately to the \$1,000,000 budget with percentage discounts and tax fluctuating on a daily basis. Students tested their bridges to find the proportional relationship between the mass of their bridges and the mass they supported.
- Social studies classes are researching topics for National History Day (NHD) and students will soon decide on their topic. Research in class will officially start on January 3, 2018. We are looking for parents, family and community members to be judges for our annual Whittier History Day which will take place on Wednesday, February 14, 2018. The time commitment would be around 8am-noon. The students will be creating projects based on the theme "Conflict and Compromise". The judges will be trained on what to look out for and assess. We need about 80 judges. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Logan Landry at llandry@rsu16.org. We greatly appreciate your support of this special yearly event!

Events

- Seventh grader Dominic Ferry, counselor Bonnie Robbins, and the Whittier Middle School Kindness Club organized a blanket drive for people displaced by domestic violence. The effort is connected to Dominic’s non-profit foundation, Quiet Cries, and works in partnership with Safe Voices. The drive has resulted in over 430 blankets and more than \$450.
- Nolan Greenwald is the 2017-18 Whittier Middle School Geography Bee Champion. He was crowned champion after surviving several rounds competing against nine other finalists. Since the school competition, Nolan has completed an online assessment to try and qualify for the Maine Geography Bee.

Facilities: Tony Bennett and his crew are doing the best they can to keep us warm.