

**RSU #16 School Board  
Administrative Report  
Shawn Vincent  
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School  
March 5, 2018**

**Staffing**

- Nothing to report at this time

**Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

- In February, Wednesday release time was limited by a snow day and vacation week. The time available was used for teacher team meetings (Big Block), a Whittier History Day debrief, science safety training, and learning area planning.
- Students participated in Winter NWEA testing in February. We are currently preparing staff and students for state testing starting near the end of March.
- Students participating in the MidKnight Fire Slayer program obtained their First-Aid and CPR training and certification. As part of this of this training, students were required to participate in two days of instruction which included simulated activities, training videos, and quizzes. For their final assessment, they had to maintain 5 cycles of 30 chest compressions and 2 breaths, and demonstrate their ability to perform CPR both manually as well as with an AED assist. Since starting this program in 2011, there have been more than 100 middle school students in our tri-town community who have received this CPR training and certification. Thanks to the staff at the PRFD for their continued support.

**Events**

- Whittier History Day was a great success! Students were well-prepared and invested in the research and work they completed over the course of the project. It is always interesting to see the topics students select and the connections they make to the National History Day theme. There were certainly some nervous students, but this experience helps students improve their researching skills and their ability to meet deadlines and expectations. The project also provided a great deal of choice and opportunity for students to let their creativity shine. The students came to school dressed for the occasion and looked fantastic! Erica Swenson, Logan Landry, Sheryl Walters, Jamie Karaffa, and Shannon Shanning provided outstanding leadership on this project. I am grateful to have the opportunity to be part of such a great, student-focused teaching team.
- On February 9<sup>th</sup>, each Whittier teacher recognized one student who showed outstanding grit through the first semester of the school year. As teachers spoke about students, it was clear that grit can be shown in many different ways, and it was exciting to hear about the positive work students are doing in their classrooms and in our school. These awards were created to recognize students consistently doing their best to learn and grow. Students received a certificate with a quote from Angela Duckworth, “As much as talent counts, effort counts twice.” Duckworth wrote the *New York Times* best seller Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance. She previously worked in schools, and her research is often referenced in working with students.

**Facilities:**

- We had a number of roof leaks on the back side of the building. Tony was able to resolve the problem areas during February vacation