

TO: SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FROM: ERIC WADDELL

DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2018

RE: REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 20th SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The school year is surely flying by. The winter sports seasons is drawing to a close, and the elementary students have celebrated their 100th day of school this week. I know I speak for students, staff, and parents when I say that next week's February break couldn't come at a better time. We all need a little rest and relaxation (and perhaps some winter fun!). As we hit this point in the school year, I asked the Leadership Team and Department Heads to share some thoughts about their work, school, or department going into February Break. Here's what they had to share:

- "Going into the February Break, I am proud of the work that the Leadership Team has done with the **FY19 Budget**. They have been thoughtful, reasonable, and thorough with balancing the needs of the students while being fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of Kittery from which we receive the vast majority of our funding. We aren't there yet, but we are making great progress." ~ Eric Waddell, Superintendent of Schools
- "Going into the February Break, I am proud of the hard working **special education staff**. As the director I receive a great deal of positive feedback from parents and students about the work being done in our school community. We are fortunate to have skilled special educators who are tenacious about all around student success. Our special educators, communicate with families, consult with school staff, evaluate students, gather and track data, create and update IEP's and at the forefront of all of these duties they are effectively educating kids with disabilities. This hard working group is doing an exceptional job." ~ Jane Durgin, Special Services Director
- "Going into the February Break, I am excited that in the month of February we have planned and organized an after-school intervention program for 2nd and 3rd graders. We have invited forty (40) students to participate in the "**After the Bell Program**" to improve students reading or math fluency. This twelve-week program starts in March and runs to the end of May!" ~ Marcelle Durost, Principal
- "Going in to the February Break, I am pleased with the dialogue and work faculty members are doing around **student engagement** in their classes. Recently they had students in each of their classes complete surveys and met with a colleague or two to share results. This will help inform their work going forward. Teaching is a very personal endeavor and it takes a great deal of trust to open up your classroom evaluations to a

colleague. The work continues, of course, but the beginning has been positive. In a recent staff survey, all but one faculty member agreed or strongly agreed that they were 'actively involved in our work.'" ~ John Drisko, Principal

- "Going into February Break, I am proud of the discussion our Shapleigh staff had regarding our 2016-2017 **MIYHS results**. Our focus for how to use the data productively lead us to brainstorming a list of over 100 ways in which we as educators can connect with our students. Our staff gleaned new ideas from the list we collectively compiled and each of us committed to trying out a new way of building relationships in our school community." ~ Katelyn Beach, Assistant Principal
- "Going into the February Break, I am excited that both the **girls and boys basketball** teams won Class C South preliminary playoff games. They will represent the Kittery School District at the Maine Principals' Association Invitational Basketball Tournament taking place at the Augusta Civic Center during school vacation week. I am also proud of the three student athletes who will compete as cooperative individuals at the Maine Principals' Association Class A Alpine **State Ski Championships** being held at Mt. Abram on February 20th & 21st." ~ Michael Roberge, Assistant Principal/Activities Director
- "Going into the February Break, I am pleased that so many Traip Academy students are pushing themselves by taking **online classes**. This semester we have 25 students taking 27 courses online. Online classes are often fast paced, require time management, self - discipline and the ability to communicate understanding of rigorous content in multiple ways: in a .doc, on a blog, in a Wiki, through video, via Skype, using YouTube, and using Black Board. Traip Academy students, some with IEPs and others in AP classes, are pushing themselves hard this semester." ~ Susan Johnson, ELO Resource Coordinator
- "Going into February break the nursing staff is pleased that **flu activity** in our school district has been low compared to other areas of the state and country. The prevention strategies and environmental cleaning have been impactful." Shay Stathopolos, RN
- "Going into the February Break, I am intrigued by an unanticipated outcome of our **HiSET Academy pilot**. Given the choice to determine their final grade, KAE high school diploma students are committing to the extra online coursework required to raise their grades to well beyond the passing score." ~ Lorraine Robida, Adult & Community Education Director
- "Going into the February Break, I am grateful for our **mentors** and their relationships with our students. I am also very pleased with the warm welcome that they receive from staff and students each time they come to school. Together, we are creating a deeper sense of belonging and community." ~ Carol Lombardi, Mentor & Volunteer Coordinator

- “Going into the February Break, I am proud of the School Nutrition Staff for going above and beyond **creating fun theme days** and healthy treats for students. The Nutrition Program is thankful for the continued support from staff, students and the Leadership Team.” ~ Wendy Collins, School Nutrition Director
- “Going into February Break, I am delighted about how the 4th and 5th grade students are using their new **iPads** and how teachers are using their new **Promethean interactive whiteboards** to enhance instruction.” ~ Marilyn Woodside
- “Going into February Break, I am so proud to be a part of a **team of counselors** who consistently advocates for individual students while promoting initiatives and programs that speak for larger groups. We work with every student and his or her specific needs, yet we find the time to implement Kindness Matters week, work with social skills groups, and see to it that future training and educational opportunities are explored by all.” ~ Mat Kiernan, Director of School Counseling

Looking Ahead

- February 19 - 23rd ~ February School Break
- February 20th ~ School Committee Meeting
- February 27th ~ Exploring Later School Start Times Meeting #2 6:30 PM Traip Academy Library
- March 6th ~ Supt. and Business Manager present budget to School Committee (during regular business meeting)
- March 7th ~ Winter Sports Awards Ceremony at Traip Academy 6:30 PM
- March 7th ~ "Shadows Fall North" A Documentary Film 6:00 PM KCC
- March 9 & 10 ~ Regional Drama Festival at Thornton Academy
- March 20th ~ School Committee votes on budget during regular business meeting
- March 23rd and 24th ~ Shapleigh School's production of 'Seussical'
- April 9th ~ School Budget presentation to Town Council
- May 7th ~ Town Council votes to adopt school budget as it will appear on the June 12th ballot
- June 12 ~ Town of Kittery School Budget Referendum Vote