

Annual Report

2008-2009

Superintendent of Schools

It is my pleasure to present my first annual report to the voters of the Grantham School District and to serve as your superintendent of schools. The largest part of my work since July 1, 2009 has been to assist and support in the additions and renovations to the Grantham Village School. This project has added 17,000 square feet of new space for primary education as well as classroom spaces for art and music. We have never had classroom space for art and music so the new spaces are a welcome addition. The rest of the building has been almost totally renovated with additional insulation, new heating, ventilation, air handling, cooling systems, new electrical wiring and new flooring. The library has been moved and expanded and a new computer lab added. The cafeteria and kitchen have been redone and added to. New boilers have been installed. The net result of the renovations and additions is that the building should be much more energy efficient, use less water and use less electricity. Electricity supply has been bid so that we can purchase kilowatts at a reduced rate and we have also received rebates from the Public Service of New Hampshire for installing more efficient motors and appliances. Recently, the gym floor was replaced due to damage this past summer. The insurance settlement paid for most of this cost. The Grantham Village School is a lively center for learning with better air quality and heating. I would like to thank all that contributed to the success of this project. We had an excellent architectural team including local resident Karolina Burt. The Trumbull-Nelson Company as construction manager did an excellent job under the direction of local resident and vice president Ron Bauer. Project Superintendent Jon McKeon was thorough and expedited all issues during the project, the Owner's Representative/ Clerk of the Workers-Gordon Bristol was superb and insured we got the best value for our money. I would like to thank members of the building committee Bob McCarthy, Andy Schmidt, Leslie Brow, Carl Andrysiak, Laurie Hanks, Kurt Gergler and Jim Palermo for their many dedicated hours and expertise which led to the success of the project. The project was completed on time and on budget due to the collective effort of everyone. The new Grantham Village School will be an excellent center for learning for years to come. The building is being used during the school day as well as the after school use has been expanded. It is our desire the school be used as a true center for learning by the community.

A long range planning committee under the leadership of school board member David Armstrong has been at work for over 6 months. Their plan for the school district and the Grantham Village School when complete should map out a ten year future for the school district. The committee is very thoughtful and deliberate and I appreciate their hard work.

The school board and I have been working on ways to increase communications with the Grantham community. We have tried to place more information on the school's web-site and the town list serve. The school district has purchased and is utilizing a call system to maintain better communications with parents and guardians. The school board has held a number of public forums and will continue to do so to inform the public about school affairs.

The Grantham School Board has been holding active discussions about the present AREA agreement with Lebanon School District and Plainfield School District. These discussions have been fruitful and give the school board an active voice in issues like the education of Grantham students at the junior high and high school as well as the tuition rate. The Grantham School Board now has non-voting seats on the Finance and Facilities Committee and the Education Committee of the Lebanon School Board. We appreciate Lebanon School Board's willingness to allow us to be part of these discussions.

The Grantham School Board has begun efforts to revise and review the school board policies that govern the school district; this will be an on-going effort.

Through savings in the health insurance program for staff, the Grantham School Board was able to maintain staffing patterns at the Grantham Village School. This has allowed us to continue to offer a high quality education to all elementary children. We continue to focus on providing and building a foundation in reading, mathematics, and writing that will be a spring board to all future learning. Our state assessment results reflect that we perform in the upper quartile in reading and mathematics. We have instituted a new mathematics program that focused on all four strands of mathematical learning: numbers and operation including computations, algebra and reasoning, measurement and geometry. This type of mathematics is not like the type of mathematics that most of us learned because it emphasizes not only learning about computation and mathematical facts but also application of math skills. The need to understand and to be able to use mathematics in everyday life and in the workplace has never been greater and will continue to increase, thus our math instructions most focus is on: Mathematics for Life; Mathematics as a Cultural Heritage; Mathematics for the Workplace; and Mathematics for the Scientific and Technical Community. It is our hope that through our new math program that our students will be well prepared for the global world they will enter.

We had several new staff join our ranks this year including Amy Dressler to provide special education services and as paraprofessionals in the special education program Susan Cormier and Nicole Stratton. I would like to thank our staff for their efforts in providing a high quality education and having a child centered approach to learning. We continue to strive to the best quality education that we can and we work consistently on our delivery of education.

Again, it is a pleasure to serve the Grantham School District and I look forward to continuing efforts to improve our delivery of education and providing a high quality education to our students as they prepare to enter a complex and global world.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith M. Pfeifer, Superintendent of Schools



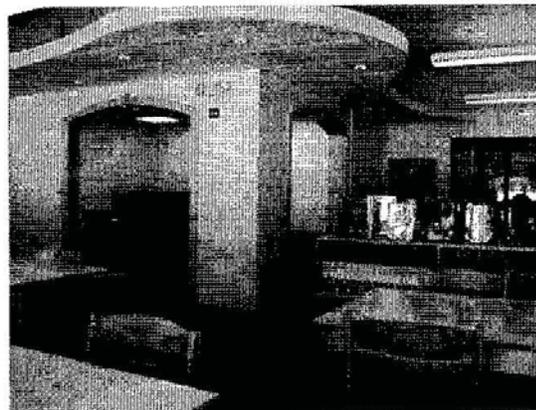
Principal's Report
January 2010

The mission of the Grantham Village School, in partnership with the people of Grantham, is to provide excellence in education. Together we mentor our students to become critical thinkers, creative learners and independent problem solvers. We aspire to nurture in each student a life long love of learning. As competent, responsible, and caring citizens, our students will know and apply the skills necessary to make positive contributions within a diverse global society.

After an incredibly supportive vote at the March 2008 School District Meeting, after two and a half years of Building Committee meetings, after eight school months of construction, and a summer of amazingly frenetic construction, we have a beautifully functioning school. We have comfortable spaces, good air quality, and increased security options. I encourage all Grantham residents to come see the building as the Grantham Village School is something to bring the town's residents pride.



The Cafeteria



The Library

This school year has been wonderful as we have more time to focus on the business of education. In years past some of our time and energy has been dedicated to working within a substandard building. This year there is adequate instructional spaces and everything has its place. It feels like we went from preparing a meal with a hot plate on a TV tray to preparing one with a full-sized oven, plenty of counter space, and a plethora of pots and pans. A good space makes a big difference in the education of the children.

With our refreshed look at education, we have expanded the new math curriculum materials (Everyday Mathematics) to third grade, worked together to excel in our teaching with the new math materials (K-3), continued focus on our positive school climate goals, and continued to provide



The Music Room



reading intervention to those that need it regardless of plans, diagnoses, or disability status. With intervention services moving from closets, halls, and vestibules into actual small group meeting spaces, our intervention work is more efficient and the children enjoy the working environments. We now have a wireless computer network, a computer lab, and new computer notebooks to support our continued work with computer technology. I have never lived through a school construction project so I could have only imagined the impact on education, but now I can say the impact is obvious and positive.

The Art Room

With the new space we have seen a wonderful increase of afterschool activities. We have activities for children every day after school. Some are sponsored by the GVS, but most are sponsored by other groups or parent volunteers. We see 4H, Daisies, Girl Scouts, Destination Imagination teams, Chess Club, Sewing Club, Jam Band and Grantham Recreation teams. It is fabulous that we have the space and we are happy to see the building used for the enrichment of the children well beyond the school day.



We have welcomed several new staff members for the 2009-2010 school year. We are happy to include Susan Cormier (special education paraeducator), Amy Dressler (special educator), and Nicole Stratton (special education paraeducator). Our contracted Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) is now June Adinah and our contracted Physical Therapist is now Francie Prosser-Riessen.

I look forward to continued work towards our GVS Mission Statement in a facility, and with a staff and community, that supports high quality public education.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kurt Gergler
Principal



Grantham Village School Staff List

Ms. June Adinah	Speech Language Pathologist
Mr. Scott Allaire	Grade 4 Teacher
Mrs. Jackie Atherley	Kindergarten Teacher
Mrs. Debra Bailey	Food Service
Ms. Deebee Bechta	Grade 5 Teacher
Ms. Kristen Bitler	Nurse
Mrs. Mary Boyea	Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant
Mrs. Denise Buckman	Grade 3 Teacher
Mrs. Patricia Canning	Special Education Teacher
Mrs. Wanda Clark	Music Teacher
Mrs. Diana Conine	Media Specialist
Mrs. Susan Cormier	Paraprofessional
Mr. Rob Crutchfield	Grade 3 Teacher
Ms. Janet Correia	Contracted Occupational Therapist (Part-Time)
Mr. Roger Dontonville	Physical Education Teacher
Ms. Amy Dressler	Special Education Teacher
Ms. Nancy Edgar-Howard	Reading Specialist
Mrs. Tara Evans	Grade 6 Teacher
Mrs. Laurie Field	Paraprofessional
Ms. Barbara Foster	Speech Assistant
Mr. Kurt Gergler	Principal
Mr. Kevin Gianini	Grade 5 Teacher
Mrs. Michele Gilliatt	Paraprofessional
Mrs. Marsha Googins	Paraprofessional
Mrs. Anna Harwood	Grade 2 Teacher
Mrs. Andrea Head	Paraprofessional
Ms. Kim Johnson	Grade 4 Teacher
Ms. Celina Lariviere	Paraprofessional
Ms. Betty Larrabee	Art Teacher
Mrs. Linda Malnati	Paraprofessional
Mrs. Katherine Martin	Grade 2 Teacher
Mrs. Brenda Molloy	Secretary
Mrs. Jeanne Mouser	Grade 1 Teacher
Mrs. Deloris Netzband	Guidance Counselor
Mr. Michael Palermo	Custodian
Mr. Jim Palermo	Maintenance
Ms. Francie Prosser-Riessen	Physical Therapist
Mrs. Kristen Reed	Grade 1 Teacher
Mr. Oliver Renehan	Custodian
Mrs. Mary Richard	Paraprofessional
Mrs. Gay Sabin	Grade 6 Teacher
Mrs. Mary Sanborn	Paraprofessional
Ms. Jennifer Stark	Kindergarten Teacher
Mrs. Wilma Stearns	Food Service
Mrs. Nicole Stratton	Paraprofessional
Mrs. Nora Tilton	Administrative Assistant
Ms. Alissa Vassileva	Strings Instructor
Mrs. Lynn Wallace	Reading Interventionist Teacher
Mrs. Misty Word	Food Service
Mrs. Pam Waltzer	Instrumental Music Teacher