

**Summit Street School
Principal's Report
2008-2009 Annual Report**

Summit Street School, a collaborative student-centered learning community, seeks to ensure achievement within a safe and respectful learning environment. Contributing factors to Summit's success includes a diverse student body with supportive parents and community members, a dedicated faculty and staff as well as district level partnership that combined provides outstanding learning opportunities for members of our school community.

We are fortunate to serve a student population that comes ready to learn. With student enrollment at 227 we maintain relatively small class sizes. 121 males and 106 females comprise our classes distributed throughout pre-kindergarten through third grade. 20 percent of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch; 10 percent study English as a second language; 6 percent receive specialized instruction through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Celebrating differences and similarities is a common theme through the study of international holidays and customs as viewed through music, art, movement and literature. Unlocking the potential within the whole child occurs through integration of the arts. A multicultural perspective is highlighted during school wide concerts, at a multicultural potluck dinner, and at various assemblies. With the addition of a semester's study of French as a world language, students grow in their appreciation of different cultures. A presentation of flags from foreign countries representing our student population, or a visit from Spanish speaking students from Panama and Nicaragua seek to involve children in celebrations with international families and guests.

An established priority is maintaining a positive, safe learning environment. Routine review of behavioral data sources results in ongoing efforts to maintain a learning community where children and staff thrive. Assemblies and counseling classes that incorporate *Second Step*, highlight prevention and reporting bullying. *Stars of the Week* showcases value in personal characteristics such as leadership, friendship, kindness, and helpfulness. Regular safety drills practice a system response in the event of an emergency. A social worker from Howard Mental Health provides a home school connection along with a fully staffed health office both link community resources to families in need. Local churches and private donations to the discretionary Angel Fund as well as a comprehensive support network taps resources within our school to optimize efforts to meet the needs of individual children.

To ensure achievement, we monitor and continually analyze student progress on local and state assessments. Summit students continue to exceed performance by their peers across the state. 87 percent of second graders in spring '08 met or exceeded the standard on the Developmental Reading Assessment. On the New England Common Assessment (NECAP) of Progress, 80 percent of third graders in the fall of '07 met or exceeded the reading standards and 80 percent met or exceeded the math standards. 86 percent of our current third graders met or exceeded the standard on the fall '08 NECAP in both reading and mathematics. 82 percent of our current third graders met or exceeded the standards on the Gates MacGinitie reading assessment. Seeking continuous improvement, we monitor the progress of our students.

Summit's highly qualified faculty and staff remain committed to ongoing professional development. Throughout the summer, faculty read the book *A Whole New Mind* by Daniel Pink outlining the *Conceptual Age* and the 21st century skills. Studying the highlighted six essential aptitudes served as the kick-off focus of the school year for staff and faculty. Additionally, literacy and science coaches provide on the job professional development for teachers with small groups of students, grade level teams, or modeling lessons in classrooms. Faculty members develop annual professional learning goals based on sound research dedicated to improving the progress of students.

Improved learning opportunities are also made possible by expanded technology resources and trainings. Thanks to a grant from Four Winds and the initiative of staff member Michael Wolfgang, a Davis 6152 Vantage Wireless Pro 2 is mounted on a mast on the Summit roof that transmits weather data to a display console and computer connected to our server and school web site. In January this weather station was, among other tools, showcased at a Technology Day intended to further support faculty in incorporating technology within the delivery of curriculum. Three additional SMART boards were installed in classrooms to expand student access to remote learning. Digital storytelling, netTrekker and other computer programs provide options for students to showcase their learning. Continual expansion of the web page enhances communication with postings of newsletters, field trip photo galleries, and snapshots of learning journeys.

Demonstrating competencies in health and wellness standards is another major goal for our school community. The *Path Adventure* Program supports physical fitness and nutrition for the adults within the community; while each child participates in physical activities such as bowling, ice-skating, snowshoeing, and many other fitness activities through physical education. A semester study of the *Know Your Body* curriculum informs children about the benefits of good nutrition, safety and exercise. A school health office serves individual medical needs. Healthy

breakfasts and lunches are offered through our district food program that strives to promote nutritious meals.

Parent and community involvement is valued and evident at Summit with an active Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) taking the lead in participating in such events as the annual Memorial Day parade, hosting a spaghetti dinner, cooking up pancakes for a spring breakfast, assisting in classrooms as well as leading a playground renovation project. Promoting reading at the annual Book Fair and Book Swap, the PTO also treats faculty and staff throughout the year to delicious meals. Parent volunteers implement the Four Winds science program in each classroom and provide a variety of other services. The many contributions of parents add to the nurturing, enriching and positive atmosphere at Summit.

In closing, Summit Street School is a thriving learning community that prioritizes safety and achievement for each child. We are proud of our school; thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hughes, Principal