

## **Concord School Principal's Report 17-18**

I honored to write my 5th principal's report for the town of Concord. We have learned a lot from the work we are doing transitioning to Kingdom East, and we are looking forward to our association with this system of teachers and learners. We feel that we will have many increased opportunities for our students and teachers.

Concord School prides itself in educating the whole child – we are a progressive learning community that cultivates engaged, creative and resilient citizens. The mission of the Concord School is to partner with community members and parents to foster a love of learning in an innovative, cooperative climate. Our student-centered philosophy will empower all learners to be prepared, involved, and proactive.

### **Engaged Students:**

We focus each year on a theme to help guide our planning and learning. This year we are focusing on “How Can Kids Change the World”. Student have spent their time studying how they can reduce the carbon footprint of Concord School; how specific people have changed the world; and how small actions can add up into large change. Students are Concord are engaged because they have student voice and choice through our Genius Hour.

Our students have really embraced this theme and are working diligently to explore change makers. They are quickly realizing that they are the true change makers.

### **Creative Students**

Our unbelievably gifted essential arts team works with our students to expand their minds creatively. Whether it is all our students in grades PK-8 leading a community meeting; our middle school wide play where all students participate on stage, in lights/sound, in costumes/set, or publicity; our arts integration that includes performances with the Lyndon Institute dancers; or our residency of Shakespeare to Hip Hop – we know that the arts are central to our school. growing body of studies presents compelling evidence connecting student learning in the arts to a wide array of academic and social benefits. For example, exposure to art education promotes self-directed learning, improves school attendance and sharpens critical and creative skills.

### **Resilient Students**

We are excited to announce that our school is one of 5 in the state to receive a \$15,000 award from the state of Vermont for work in Farm to School. We are working to plan for the next two years to include reaching our goal of having the best, healthiest, and most local cuisine that our students have grown. Farm to school provides all kids access to nutritious, high-quality, local food so they are ready to learn and grow. Farm to school activities enhance classroom education through hands-on learning related to food, health, agriculture and nutrition. We are committed to our mission of helping our students make the best choice for their future and making them resilient and strong, teaching about tolerance and diversity is also helping them do this.

We are so grateful to all the supporters of the Concord School. We are quite proud of the progress our school and students continues to make thanks to our dedicated faculty and staff. Thanks to our faculty, staff, students, parents, community, school board, and to our supervisory union for all their support. If you haven't visited 173 School Street in a while, we encourage you to come out and see all the wonderful things happening.