

## Reading Elementary School Principal's Report

by John Hansen

RES continues to offer a strong academic program for its thirty-five students in grades PreK through Grade 4. Teachers work with children in three main groupings of PreK and Kindergarten; Grades 1 - 2; and Grades 3 - 4. COVID restrictions began easing in Spring 2022, and were completely removed by the start of the 2022-23 school year.

The core academic program at RES is supported with field experiences, artist residencies, and community collaborations. In the past year, students participated in artist residencies with Burlington Taiko drummers and the Saint Gaudens National Historic Park's sculptor. Students traveled to Woodstock to visit Sculpture Fest and the Rockefeller-Marsh-Billings National Historic Park for a lesson on the Hudson River School of Painting. Students also attended a production of "Bully No More" produced at Artistree in South Pomfret and the show "Clara's Dream" at the Lebanon Opera House. Science field experiences included the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) in Quechee and the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, New Hampshire. Right here in Reading, students planted and then harvested pumpkins behind the Fire Department with a local resident; hosted several members of the fire department a couple of times to review fire safety; visited the Hall Art Foundation; and decorated graves at Felchville Cemetery on Memorial Day. When COVID caused the cancellation of the Woodstock Ski Runners for the second year in a row, parents quickly jumped in to create from scratch a hugely successful ski and snowboard program at Magic Mountain Ski Area, which is being repeated in 2023.

None of the previous mentioned activities would be possible without the support of many generous donors in and around Reading. The RES PTO and the Hall Art Foundation are both extraordinary supporters, helping to provide funding for enhanced learning opportunities for our children. Parents, staff, and the local community create a wonderful, positive environment for our children to flourish and grow. Thank you for your continued support!