Along with our friends at WES, our SME students and parents enjoyed an evening of science at the Montshire Museum on March 14. Not only were students able to see and manipulate the regular museum exhibits, but original student work and projects were displayed in the museum classroom. Even students as young as first grade made slides containing cells from their cheeks and were able to view them under the microscopes. We believe that our students and teachers benefit from district membership in the Montshire Museum and have opted to pay the new fees again next year.

On the afternoon of March 15, I had a meeting with Josh Lewis of the VT State Police and Jason Bachus, Chief of Police in Fairlee. All of the schools in Vermont are now required to complete a campus safety survey with law enforcement agencies. It was a positive and productive meeting. Officers Lewis and Bachus have since sent a request for copies of additional items they would like to include in their files including our Emergency Response Plan, floor plans of the school and a master key for access to the building. I shared with them a copy of my web letter to parents dated Feb. 28, in which I notified them that we are securing the building promptly at 8:00 AM. I also informed parents that any other material additions or improvements would require approval from our Board. SME is currently in compliance with the VT Evacuation and Lockdown Drill Schedule.

On a side note, Chief Bachus conducted a security check and found two doors unlocked prior to the town meeting. I have since reminded teachers of the need for checking locks on their outside classroom doors. Chief Bachus also conducted an on-site inspection on the weekend of March 24. Doors by the gym were unlocked. The kitchen was open and the oven on. A teacher reported this incident to John Jakubens Monday, March 26. We have known that there are unauthorized keys in the community. That said, I know John is very careful and can account for the keys he has distributed since his arrival.

Sixth graders held a combination spaghetti dinner and talent show evening program on March 23, as a fundraiser for the sixth grade end-of-year trip. Mrs. Sara Rose and Ms. Rachael Weber are our sixth grade advisors this year and will be responsible for the overall organization. This new tradition started last year when we eliminated the sixth grade three-day field trip to the Hulbert Center. Students may choose and overnight or day trip(s) depending on available budget. Students raised over $1,400.00!

We are about to begin the state mandated SBAC on-line tests in grades 3 – 6. We have Mrs. Kathy McGowan and Mrs. Gabi Martino to thank for their invaluable assistance in training teachers, creating schedules, getting the tests started and ensuring that we are adhering to all testing protocols.

SME had a small contingent of students participating in Vermont’s Special Olympics. Two of our classes attended the events to cheer on their classmates. We appreciate the efforts of Mrs. Tracy Martel who organized the training and participation of our students.
• Monday, March 13, marked the last day that Gail Keefer’s upper level French students came over to share French vocabulary, expressions and projects with Ms. Belknap’s third graders. The class culminated the event by sharing Le Roch (the Rock), a stuffed character, at our Community meeting. These kinds of well-organized mixed grade level activities benefit all involved.

• SME hosted the thirty-second consecutive Fairlee Town Meeting on March 6th. This was the last town meeting to be held in SME. I was pleased to receive on behalf of the SME community, a proclamation of appreciation from the town. It is hung by our office. Our sixth graders took copious notes of the meeting from the sidelines. Next year the town meeting will be held in the renovated Fairlee Town Hall, and our sixth graders will walk over there to participate.