

**ANNUAL REPORT
BOW MEMORIAL SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
2008 – 2009**

Greetings:

The 2008-2009 school year at Bow Memorial has been very positive, with one tragic exception.

As you know, in January one of our eighth graders died suddenly and tragically. This type of loss is always difficult to accept and it is particularly difficult for middle school students to grasp the enormity and finality of it. Fortunately, Bow Memorial is a very closely knit community and together as a school we are moving forward, always mindful that we must be vigilant to each other's needs.

By all accounts the faculty, staff, and students of BMS worked together to assist each other through the initial stages of this tragedy. It is in these most difficult times that the character of a community shines brightest and all of Bow surrounded the students to make them feel safe.

The highlights of our academic year include another year of very strong results on the State of NH NECAP test. BMS made very high marks in Reading/LA and Math. We are very pleased to report that these test results also demonstrated solid individual student growth from year to year. As I reported to you last year, we are focused on examining how each of our students is progressing both within a school year and from year to year. The NWEA tests that we administer twice a year, along with the NECAP, and interval evaluations provide us with sufficient data to make some informed assessments that will drive our instruction going forward.

While all testing data is useful, you can be assured that we still rely very heavily on teacher assessments of students and their work. Tests cannot know students as people and teachers certainly do.

This year we are most pleased to announce that Mrs. Heidi Proulx was honored as a semi-finalist in the 2008 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year process. This award is the top honor given to an educator in the State of New Hampshire and we are very happy that Heidi received this public recognition, which she richly deserves.

This year Bow Memorial launched a pilot program to provide intensive short-term remediation to students who struggle to obtain specific learning objectives that are deemed critical to future success in school. This joint effort between regular education and special education teachers has shown some very positive and encouraging results to date. We will continue to monitor the data to determine whether or not the program merits continuation.

This is our second year of having students determine and write their own academic goals. As expected, results of this effort are mixed. Who among us hasn't set a goal that we haven't attained? However, at this point we still believe there is merit to this activity and we plan to continue its implementation. We view this as a logical step in moving toward a more personalized approach to learning.

Finally, BMS continues to change and evolve. As enrollment declines, opportunities exist to look at our program of study and use of time, in different ways. What will not change is our commitment to provide a high quality education for each of our students in a safe and caring school environment.

Sincerely,

Kirk C. Spofford, Principal

Bow Memorial School