

K.A. Brett School
May 18, 2017
Principal's Report

Arts Council of Tamworth — Karim Nagi came to our school and worked with all students in music classes. He is a native Egyptian drummer, DJ, composer and folk dancer. He has released four internationally distributed CDs of this unique brand of Arab House/Electonica using acoustic instruments. Karim has authored instructional DVDs for the Tabla/Doumbek, Riqq tambourine, Maqam & Taqsim, Drum Solo for Dance, and Arab Folk Dance. He is well versed in the ultra-traditional styles of music, and has lead the Sharq Arabic Music Ensemble since 1999. He promotes and fosters the study of Arab dance in the USA as the director of the Arab Dance Seminar. Karim Nagi's Arabiqa program has conducted over 300 school assemblies across America, exposing young audiences to Arab traditional arts.

Gardening —a big thank you to community member, and “decomposer”, Marc Albee, for tilling up a small new plot for us next to our existing raised beds. This new space has already provided much more opportunity for student involvement and class ownership of beds that they have helped with. Thanks to Roy and Principal Hawkins for helping to figure out the siting for the new plot as well. We have approximately 750 square feet of new garden space now!

Student participation in the school gardens has increased dramatically since spring weather has hit. I have spent time in the garden with students from five of the nine grades at our school so far this spring, with plans to involve more students in the future. All students have had the opportunity to taste food from our garden and local farms. I have had the pleasure of having weekly garden time with Mr. Nordlund's fourth graders. They are always excited for garden afternoon Thursdays and have been involved with seeding, compost spreading, weeding, transplanting, and more. I had a great time planting potatoes with Mrs. Bachman's third graders, who were also very excited! Sra. Greene and I have worked together to involve Spanish classes in the garden, and will be planning a bed around a Mexican dish with the sixth graders that they will be planning to cook with garden produce in the fall. Mrs. Booska and Mrs. Dostanko's first graders are transplanting their sunflower seedlings this week. They will take data on their flowers next year as second graders and compare findings to hypotheses they made this year as first graders. We are almost ready to harvest our first spring greens and radishes, seeded by Mr. Krug's fifth graders back in April! I am working with Vicki and the rest of the kitchen staff to go beyond taste tests, and incorporate school-grown produce in meal offerings. With enough planning, it is easy to do, especially on salad bar days!

In our most recent cafeteria “taste test”, we offered asparagus from our school garden and from Windover Farm in South Tamworth. (Thanks for the donation, Harold Cook!) We also offered a salad with bok choy and tat soi from White Gates Farm in Tamworth. (Thanks for the donation, Letartes and crew!) 52% of students loved the asparagus, 22% thought it was “OK”, and 26% did not like it. The mixed greens did not get as warm of a review, with 25% “love”, 23% “OK”, and about half disliking it. Thank you to all of the students who tasted this week, and thanks to our farmers for your generous donations!

8th Grade Trip — The 8th grade trip was phenomenal. Our students were well behaved and considerate. The trip brought us from Tamworth to New York City, Liberty Island, Washington D.C. and Six Flags in NJ. Even with long bus rides and intermittent rain showers students were exposed to history and culture at every stop.

PTA Golf Tournament — The Tamworth PTA hosted the 8th Annual Golf Tournament on June 3rd at Indian Mound Golf Course. Fifteen teams participated in a day of fun, and even some good golf, in support of one of the two fundraisers held each year by the PTA. This year, with the support of our teachers, parents, community and local businesses, we raised over \$5,500!

Enrollment

Kinder	15	16	16	19	19	19	19	21	22	23	23
Grade 1	20	20	20	20	20	21	20	20	20	20	19
Grade 2	17	17	16	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Grade 3	23	22	22	22	23	24	23	23	23	23	23
Grade 4	29	28	27	27	26	26	26	26	26	25	24
Grade 5	31	28	28	27	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
Grade 6	23	24	23	23	21	21	20	20	21	21	21
Grade 7	21	21	21	23	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
Grade 8	26	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	29	29
Total	205	204	201	204	204	206	203	205	207	208	206
Date	8/9	9/12	10/12	11/1	12/6	1/9	1/31	3/13	4/7	5/8	6/6