

# October

## Sandown North News



*From the desk of  
Jo Ann K. Georgian, Principal*

We are so lucky to live in New England and to have the chance to enjoy the beauty of the fall season. We have just concluded our fall Yankee Candle fundraiser, with all the seasonal scents. Now we know for sure that the holiday season will be upon us before we realize it. Thank you for your support. We will use the money to extend the curriculum and offer our children enriching experiences.

As the year begins, we find that it is helpful to remind you of some of our routines and procedures that are in place to be sure our children are safe and that the day flows smoothly.

First, if your child is going to be late to school, please phone into the attendance line and just let us know. When you arrive to school, please park and walk your child into school so that you can sign him/her in at the office.

If you need to make a change in how your child will go home at the end of the day, please use the provided sheets. If you need more, we will provide them. If you send in a note, please be sure that you include all the necessary information. Please do NOT send an email to your child's teacher or to the office staff. If the

teacher is absent the day you send an email, no one will know that there is a change of plans and your child will be confused and anxious at the end of the day. Also, days are very busy and teachers do not always have a chance to check emails during the day.

If an emergency occurs and you need to make a change for dismissal, please don't wait until the end of the day unless it can't be helped. One day recently, we had several calls at the end of the day, and we were concerned that a mistake could happen. We all want to be sure that we are following procedures that will keep your child comfortable and safe.

If your child is absent, please remember to call in. If you don't call, Debi Magliozzi or Sharon Hasfjord will call you to be sure that all is well with you. If you are one of several parents who forget in the morning, the secretary tries to reach you or your contacts. If we still aren't able to reach you, the Sandown Police will go to your home to do a "well-check". As you can imagine, all of this takes time. Please try to remember to call 887-8503 and then hit 1.

Sandy Hodgkins, our Bus Coordinator, has asked me to remind you about a bus procedure. Apparently, many of our students are not waiting at the bus stop but instead are either waiting in their parents' cars or in the house. Our routes are long and bus drivers are doing their best to bring the children to school on time. If they have to wait for a child to walk out of the house or get out of the car and give a parent a kiss, and then times that by even

10, you can see what happens. Children are unsettled if they arrive to school later than others and the day has begun. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

So many of our parents have been busy already. Samantha Borbone and Sheila Longchamps are the Volunteer Coordinators and have already held a training session. We are so lucky to have so many helpful volunteers! Heidi Chaput and Alexandra Haig are the PTA Co-Presidents and are working closely with many to provide fun family activities. Bingo for Books was a huge success; the children were all smiling. On October 19th, the PTA will sponsor a Halloween Dance for more family fun.

Michelle Mead and Sheila Longchamps have offered to take the plastic bottles from Sandown North to the transfer station. Justin Melle, Kristin Clifford and Nancy Stafford work with the children to recycle, teaching them about civic responsibility. We appreciate everyone's efforts to take care of our environment and to model responsible behavior for our students.



### **Curriculum Corner**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! This year, our newsletter to you will focus on the adoption and implementation of the Common Core Standards (CCSS). The New Hampshire State Board of Education adopted the Common Core to replace the current

Grade Level Expectations and Grade Span Expectations that have served as our academic benchmarks for New Hampshire students. The development of the Common Core was a collaborative effort and has currently been adopted by 45 states and 3 territories. It is not a National Curriculum. In our state, the NECAP testing will continue until the Common Core assessment materials are available.

The Timberlane Regional School District has begun its transition to these newer standards. Over the next year emphasis will be given to building background and understanding of the new standards for administrators, school staff, students, parents and the community at large.

In that spirit, a variety of informational opportunities will be provided throughout the school year. These informational pieces may be in the form of newsletters, pamphlets, online resources, or presentations in various settings.

Not all of the informational sources will be developed directly by school district personnel. Material may come from experts in the field who are sharing information regarding the CCSS that we feel is pertinent, accurate, and in line with the goals of the district. Please watch for notices regarding these resources.

Timberlane Regional School District is well prepared for this new challenge. The district has been developing its professional training, materials, technological resources, and instructional strategies in a manner that supports teachers and administrators in addressing this new focus in student achievement.

Please contact your building administration for more information or with questions you have regarding this new initiative.

**NECAP Testing:** During the first three weeks of October, the students in Sandown and throughout the tri-state region of New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island will be participating in the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). All Sandown North students in grades 3 will be tested in reading and mathematics.

The NECAP tests are designed to measure your child's progress in meeting the New Hampshire Grade Level Equivalencies or GLE's. Our district's curriculums are written to correlate to the state GLE's, which define the knowledge a student should have by the end of each grade level. The NECAP test assesses the understanding of content covered during the last school year. For example, the 3rd grade test will measure what a student should know and be able to do after completing second grade.

The test itself consists of three parts for every subject tested. Our students will be tested over a six-day period beginning Monday, October 1 and ending Tuesday, October 9.

Parents often ask how they can best support their child during testing dates. Below are some important pointers for you to consider:

- Make sure children receive a good night's sleep before the test.
- Feed your child a breakfast that consists of complex carbohydrates, and protein. This will help your child reason through challenging questions.
- Send in a high protein snack and a cold water bottle for your child to have during the morning hours. This will help your child sustain throughout the testing situation.

- Make sure your child arrives at school on time. If your child is tardy, he/she will not be allowed into the testing situation and will have to complete a portion of the test during the make-up period.

- Most importantly, encourage your child to try hard and give it the best possible effort. Encourage in a positive manner that lets your child know that you believe in them. If your child seems unusually stressed about the test, please let Mrs. Georgian, Mrs. Stafford, or myself know.

**Parents Right to Know:** In response to regulations set by the New Hampshire Department of Education and the United State Department of Education, we are required to notify you of our staff's highly qualified status. All teachers, Title I Tutors, and support staff at Sandown North Elementary School meet these requirements and are highly qualified to teach. We are also required to inform you that parents have the right to request information regarding their child's performance level in the classroom or from Title I. Any parent of an ELP student has the right to withdraw his/her child from Title 1 services once the child obtains English Language Proficiency. If you have any questions about these regulations, please contact Patrice Liff

I hope you all have an enjoyable October. I hope to see you at the Halloween Dance!

Sincerely,

*Patrice L. Liff, Assistant  
Principal/Curriculum  
Coordinator*



On Thursday, October 25, (early release day), there will be no kindergarten. Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Daenz will be doing conferencing all day.



Dear Families:

I want to say, **“Thank you, thank you, thank you!”** Sandown North’s Book Exchange Program continues to be a huge success! Your constant book donations allow us to bring literacy into the homes of our students. Books are very expensive, so Sandown North wants to make sure that families have lots of literacy opportunities during these trying economic times. Our hope is for you to encourage the love of reading at home, so your child can grow to become a life-long reader. When your child comes home with a book from the exchange program, celebrate his/her choice and read with him/her. If you notice that your child is no longer interested in the books brought home, encourage him/her to return the books for new ones. We want to keep a constant supply of books for all. Let me explain how the program works for our new families:

***When you want some books to read at home, go to the blue Book***

***Exchange bookshelf located across from the office. Pick a few books to take home to read and enjoy with family members. When you would like different books, return the previous borrowed books to the bookshelf and choose new ones. You can come after school with your child to pick out books, or your child can choose books on their own at school.***

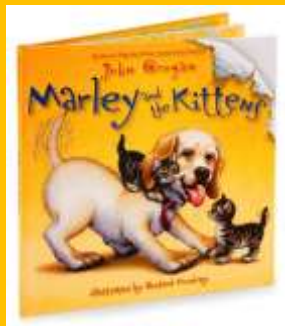
If you have any children’s books you would like to donate to this program, please bring them to the office labeled with your child’s **full name**. When students make book donations, they are recognized at Monday Morning Meetings. Picture books are the best, but we also distribute simple chapter books.

Happy Reading!

Diane Chauvette, Literacy Specialist

We are looking for parents, grandparents and community members to read to students throughout the school year. Days and times will vary but all reading will be during school hours. An orientation will be given so you will be comfortable with the reading. To sign-up or ask questions contact [samanthaborbone@comcast.net](mailto:samanthaborbone@comcast.net) 603-489-8563. When signing up please include your telephone number, email address, as well as days and times you are available. Thank you!

## READING AT SANDOWN NORTH



Dear Families:

Did you know that November is Family Literacy Month? Sandown North would like to celebrate by having a “Pajama Literacy Night” on Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. The evening will begin at 6:30 pm. I am so excited that I’ve already picked out my favorite pajamas!

When you arrive, please stop at the table in the main hallway. Each family will receive a bookmark, telling you which classroom to go to for your read aloud. It’s always nice to listen to a really good story! When your story is finished, we will all gather in the cafeteria for a snack.

The book fair will also be open that evening. Feel free to visit the library any time after 6:45 pm. What a perfect time to purchase holiday gifts!

### **Make sure to mark your calendar!**

Diane Chauvette, Literacy Specialist  
Laura McLaughlin, Librarian/Media Generalist



*Picture Retake/Absentee*

*November 13<sup>TH</sup>*

## Technology and Enrichment News

Our students are diving right into technology! This summer our district adopted a new technology education program produced by learning.com. Through this program, students are using interactive presentations as well as group and individual projects to learn and practice technology skills. Skills are presented in a developmentally appropriate sequence, paced specifically for each student. Students can access their Learning.com account from any internet connected computer. If they do decide to work on the site away from school, it is important that they answer questions independently so their progress does not outpace their understanding.

I am also introducing XtraMath to students this month. Students can access their XtraMath accounts by going to XtraMath.org, clicking the classroom tab, entering our set-up code: WVH4EE and entering their four digit pin after selecting their class and name. If you would like me to email the student pin to you please send me an e-mail. If you would like the XtraMath Parent Information letter, please

send a note or e-mail and I will reply in kind.

This year I have an exciting way you can volunteer from the comfort of your own home! I am putting together a collection of educational videos for our students. Reference experiences play an important role in literacy. Comprehension and understanding both benefit from multisensory background experiences. It is my hope that we can use quality video content to add to our students' background knowledge, providing them with them additional context for their reading, writing and scientific work. If you find any videos online that would be of educational value to our students please e-mail links to me.

Thank You,

Justin Bentley-Melle

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