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# APRIL 2017

# NEWSLETTER

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## SANDOWN NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



### From the Desk of Jo-Ann Georgian, Principal

As you know, our students in grades 3-5 are engaged in, or soon will be engaged in, the state assessment. This week our fourth graders have been working hard to show the skills, strategies, and content knowledge they have learned. We regularly examine the data we have to determine next best steps for our instruction.

Last week, we met as educators to look at the data we have regarding student learning. Our questions were: *Is each child making the progress we would like him or her to make? Do we need to do something additional or tweak our instructional program somewhat?* It was so clear that our staff members work together closely to ensure that each of our students is making adequate progress. We understand that the STAR data is one measure of their performance on one day. However, STAR can



### Upcoming Event

**April 3** Monday Morning Meeting

**April 4** Elementary Honors Band, Orchestra, Chorus Concert at the PAC 7:00 PM

**April 6** School Board Meeting 7:30 PM

**April 8** PTA PANCAKE BREAKFAST Sandown Town Hall

**April 10** Monday Morning Meeting

All Elementary District Beginner Instrumental Rehearsal (Strings only) at the PAC 7:00 PM

**April 12** Beginning Instrumental Concert (Strings & Band) at the PAC

**April 17** Monday Morning Meeting

**April 20** School Board Meeting 7:30 PM

**April 21** Schoolwide Enrichment Day

**April 24 – 28** Spring Break

also be used for progress monitoring which is more frequent and offers us reports showing us what skills the child needs to have addressed. Classroom performance, teacher observation, and other assessments are used to get a clearer picture of each of our students as learners. When we meet in Professional Learning Communities, we talk about teaching and learning. If a child needs additional time and practice to acquire a skill, then time and practice will be provided. If you have concerns about your child's progress or if your child is sharing information about how s/he feels about school and you have questions or concerns, please let his/her classroom teacher know. We are truly in this together and working cooperatively with each other, school staff and families, is how we can best help our students.

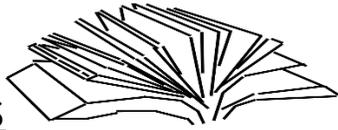
Our fifth graders are currently the role models for our younger students and soon we will be celebrating them at Sandlots Sports fields. It is a day of fun and camaraderie. Mrs. DeCristofaro will be getting in touch with you to let you know of ways you can volunteer that day. You do not have to be an athlete yourself, just willing to cheer them on and help keep the various stations organized. We will need cooks for the grill and servers as well. So, mark your calendars for May 24th if you are interested in joining us for this activity-filled day and wait to hear more from Mrs. DeCristofaro.

Spring is busy both at school and in the community, we know. We will send home information about upcoming events. Please try to remember to mark your calendars at that time so you don't miss out on a happening that you wanted to join.

Happy spring



## CURRICULUM NEWS



This week our grade 4 students began taking the NH standardized Smarter Balanced Assessment. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be taking the assessment April 3<sup>rd</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, followed by our 5<sup>th</sup> graders who will be taking it April 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. **It is important that your child is present and arrives to school on time. Testing will take place first thing in the morning beginning at 9:00am.** Students arriving late will not be allowed to join their classroom until after the session has been completed for the day and will make-up the test at a different time. Your cooperation and support is much appreciated.

Monday evening, March 20<sup>th</sup>, the Timberlane Parent Advisory Forum (TPAF) held a meeting with parents to share and discuss Competency Based Education (CBE) and reporting. Information about CBE was discussed, including the work Timberlane is involved with and next steps. In addition, a video was shown which gave a brief overview of CBE and our district work, <https://vimeo.com/180338918>. A recording of the TPAF meeting may also be found on our Sandown North website. Under the Stay Connected section, click on the link: Videos-Timberlane District.

Happy Spring!

Nancy Stafford, Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

[nancy.stafford@timberlane.net](mailto:nancy.stafford@timberlane.net)

887-8505 x7500



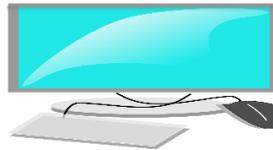
## LIBRARY NEWS

We will have 2 guest authors coming to Sandown North in April! On Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, author/ illustrator **Lita Judge** will be visiting with our third, fourth, and fifth grade students. Then, on April 6<sup>th</sup> author/ illustrator **JoAnn**

**Adinolfi** will be visiting with our first and second graders. Watch your child's weekly Express folder for book order forms, if you would like to order signed copies of either of these author's titles. You can view their work on their individual websites: <http://www.litajudge.net/> and <https://www.joannadinolfi.com/>.

Also, we will hold our **third annual district literacy night on April 6<sup>th</sup>** at the performing arts center in Plaistow. At this event, there will be approximately 10 authors and illustrators to meet and greet and, if you want, purchase their books. Additionally, Steve Blunt and Marty Kelley will be there performing their music show. We will also have students from all elementary schools performing. Watch your child's Express for times and details.

Finally, we will have a spring book fair in May in conjunction with Art's Night. More details to come!



### **April 2017 Technology Fundamental**

Empowered Learner: The International Society for Technical Education (ISTE) describes an empowered learner as a student who sets personal goals, customizes learning, seeks feedback, utilizes available tools, and transfers skills. During technology class at Sandown North students are encouraged to go beyond core teacher led lessons and Learning.com digital technology tutorials. Students choose: problem solving challenges on websites such as Light Bot, Brain Pop and ABCya!; learning activities on Doulingo, MobyMax, and Typing Club; research through World Book or Newsella; or creativity through Tinkercad, Microsoft office, and Google Docs. Beginning in grade three students are taught to document their learning activities in their Digital Learning Portfolios.



## **FRONT OFFICE NEWS**

Please be sure to read the attached sheet introducing **PickUp Patrol**. This program allows parents and guardians to make daily dismissal changes from their computer, smartphone, or tablet. You will soon receive a “Welcome to Pickup Patrol” email with login instructions.

## **MUSIC NEWS**



Stringfest 2017 participants, from left to right: Gabby Miller, Amber Makus, Jillian Stammely, Skye Talanian, Cheyenne Aliberti, and friend.



## **PTA NEWS**

Dear Families,

The PTA hopes that everyone who attended the “Under the Sea” dance had a great time...we sure did! A big “thank you” goes out to all the wonderful

volunteers and donors who made the special night possible! Spring is on its way and the PTA has some exciting events coming up! On April 8<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting an Easter Bunny Pancake Breakfast at the Sandown town hall from 8-11am. Please join us for some yummy breakfast and a visit with the Easter Bunny! Our next meeting will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm at Sandown North. We love to see new faces and welcome your ideas and suggestions. Thank you for your continued support!

Happy Spring!

Ashley Smith

