



April



Sandown North News



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

Last week, on March 21st, the Timberlane School Board held their meeting in our school. They have been traveling once a month from school to school to get a better sense of each school's community and culture. Our Universal Team thought it would be best to have a mini- Monday Morning Meeting on a Thursday evening, as that so clearly shows who we are. Ryla Fedas, Erik Kappler, Nicole Rothstein, and Owen Forsyth were the hosts. The presentations occurred seamlessly with all joining in the singing of the *Journey Song* and *I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing*. Lori Aubrey was able to join us at the beginning to hear our "Thanks" for all the years she so fairly represented

Sandown on the School Board. We will miss her support. That being said, we were happy that evening to welcome Kelly Ward as he is a new member on the board and happy to work with others for the students in Timberlane.

As you know, safety is always a priority in our building. In the cold weather, it is difficult to practice outdoor drills but now that the weather is breaking, we will be conducting another Evacuation drill, or Fire drill. We will block an exit with pretend flames so that staff has to quickly change course and seek an alternate way out of the building.

Our children are so well taught and so well practiced that drills happen quickly and efficiently. If you are in the building when we are practicing or are in the middle of the drill when you arrive, please join us. If you are in the Volunteer Room, the different drills are posted. You can easily refer to the chart as to what to do. If you are with a staff member or children when the drill is called, follow them. They always know best!

Our third graders are 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 21st if you are interested in joining us for this activity-filled day and wait to hear more from Mrs. DeCristofaro.

I want to thank you for sending in notes to change dismissal plans for your child. Children are so much calmer when they know what to expect at the end of the day. I would like to also remind you that it is really important to remember to call in when your child will be late to school or absent altogether. If we don't hear from you, we call your numbers and then we call others whom you've listed as emergency contacts. Sometimes a grandparent gets concerned and worried because we are reporting that their grandchild is not in school and we can't reach the parents. If we cannot reach anyone listed on your sheet, we notify our police and they will go to your home to do a well-check. We so appreciate their assistance. I'm sure you can

understand that we do not want to send our police out needlessly, especially if it is just that you forgot. So, please, please remember that if your child is going to be out, you need to call the attendance line at 88-8503 and then follow the directions. Thanks so much!!!



Curriculum Corner:

Focus on NWEA

The month of April will provide an opportunity to explore student academic growth over the past several months. Students in grades Kindergarten through Grade Five will participate in the NWEA MAP testing in the core curricula areas. For some students this will be a first time event (K and 1) in that those grade levels did not take the initial tests in the fall. The test will provide teachers with an understanding of student performance as we near the close of the year. For students in grades 2 - 5 the testing offers an opportunity to measure progress from the time of similar testing in the fall.

The NWEA MAP testing provides student performance information from a nationally normed academic test. The

testing will also provide teachers with a better understanding of where students are on key instructional concepts as the next school year begins.

The test is given in a computer based format, thus allowing more auditory and visual components to be used, particularly with younger learners.

The testing will be spread out over several days in order to provide the best testing atmosphere for the students. All tests are individual and not timed.

Focus on the Common Core:

The recent Professional Development Day on February 18th and the early release day last week, allowed district staff to further their understanding of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The CCSS have been mentioned in many earlier newsletters and are the focus of all district professional development offerings this year. The expectations of CCSS are higher and will require more collaboration, creative use of resources, and systematic use of data when setting instructional goals for students.

Additional data analysis will occur as each staff reviews the NECAP scores released at the end of January. Student results have been sent home, but now the task for staff is to use that information to assist students in their

areas of need or to enhance/challenge areas of strength. Though the NECAP test will be discontinued upon full implementation of the CCSS, the data it currently provides, combined with all other forms of student data, will help guide instruction and programming over the next few years as we transition to a new state test.

Further information about the Common core State Standards can be found at www.corestandards.org

Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Patrice L. Liff, Assistant Principal

