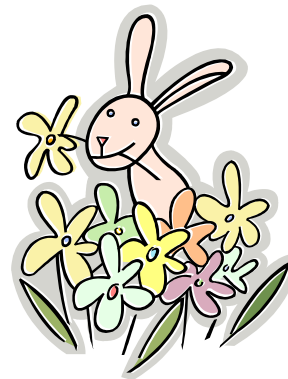


**SANDOWN NORTH
ELEMENTARY**
NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2015



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



Spring is here! The children have loved playing in the snow but I think even they would say, "Enough!" With spring comes a sense of renewal and new beginnings. This year, that feeling is present with even more gusto. As you know, we will be consolidating the Sandown Schools and welcoming the students who are currently in Grade 5 back to our school. Our 4th graders will stay with us. So many of them have been voicing that they are happy to stay; they know us well and we know them as learners. To make this transition

as smooth as possible, Dr. Metzler has formed a transition committee. Our task to make recommendations regarding the consolidation. The committee is touring the facility this evening (Tuesday) to get a better understanding of the layout of the building. The job of the committee is to explore different areas of potential concern for the consolidation and to make recommendations to the Superintendent, who will then make decisions with the School Board. This cooperative effort will certainly serve our students well.

Our staff members continue to work together to ensure that your student is making adequate progress. We understand that the STAR data is one measure of their performance on one day, in one period of time. However, STAR can 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 third 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 19th if you are interested in joining us for this activity-filled day and wait to hear more from Mrs. DeCristofaro.

For those of you who celebrate Easter, I hope the weather is

beautiful and that you enjoy your families. I will be notifying you of decisions made regarding the consolidation as those decisions are made. Happy spring!

Music News



Happy Spring!

Ms. Jones, our music intern this semester, guided the children through some fun activities for Dr. Seuss' birthday. The students enjoyed listening to the book *Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?* and responding with vocal and movement exploration to the animal sounds. What fun!

The string students are preparing for the All District Elementary (1st year) concert on Wednesday, April 15. As spring extra-curricular activities begin, some students are challenged to find time to review assignments from class. Please help your child find a quiet place and schedule

a brief, but regular time at least 4-5 times per week. Repetition helps to develop skills that allow your child to play more great music!

Art News



We have been busy in the art room preparing for the annual student art show.

This year our Annual Arts Night will be Tuesday, May 26th 6-7pm.

Mrs. Lenihan
Art Educator



Technology and Enrichment News

Thank you to everyone who returned the yellow Google Apps for Education form that was sent home by the SAU last month. Our Google resources have been of great educational value to teachers and students. It is encouraging that so many of our students will be able to continue to access them.



Each of our third graders has recently received a cabbage plant from Bonnie Plants. Students are excited to test their horticulture skills this spring and summer. Remember to e-mail me your harvest photos by September 1st so I can enter your child in the Bonnie Cabbage Contest. Two students from Sandown North have claimed the \$1000 scholarship champions prize in previous years. To enter I need a photo of your child with their

fully grown cabbage. See www.bonniecabbageprogram.com for more details.

The NH Jump Start Coalition will be visiting our third grade classes to present **I Can Save!** This program will introduce students to budgeting concepts such as saving, spending, and giving. Each student will receive a moon jar savings bank to help them practice their personal budgeting skills at home. Visit www.nhjumpstart.org for more information about this program.

From the School Counselor



Our first graders are becoming great “detectives”! Last month we spent time looking at pictures and finding clues to help us understand how another person may be feeling. When children develop a stronger understanding of how to identify emotions, they tend to have better social skills. Looking for visual clues helps students to be more empathic as they learn to understand the situational causes of people's emotions. This month our second graders are learning about the concept of “bucket filling”. We read the book, “Have You Filled A Bucket

Today?” by Carol McCloud. In the story we learn that each of us carries an invisible bucket. Our buckets get filled when we say or do kind things for others and when people are kind and thoughtful to us. However, when we aren't making good choices, we become “bucket dippers”; not only are we “dipping” into other peoples buckets but also, our bucket becomes less full. Students were reminded to start each day wondering how they can fill someone's bucket and at the end of the day to ask themselves, “Did I fill a bucket today?” It's a wonderful analogy for each of us to remember.

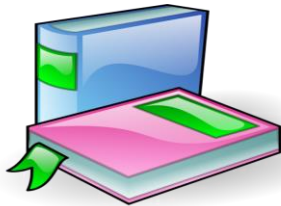
Our third graders were treated to a wonderful performance in January from students involved with the Anti-Bullying Committee from Hampstead Middle School. The students performed skits and songs that shared the important message of being an “upstander”. Students learned that if they see someone being bullied, help that person by standing up to the bully either by getting help from an adult or being an ally to the person being picked on. Hearing this from other students, helps our students better understand this important message. After the performance, I followed up with students in their classrooms

where we further discussed bullying and watched a video that described how students can be "upstanders" and safely take a stand against bullying.

Lastly, I wanted to mention that Center for Life Management offers various children's groups throughout the year. In early May CLM will be offering an anger management group for young children. Families do not have to be current clients at CLM in order to have their child participate. Please contact Jessica Beaudoin, Children's Therapist/Clinical Supervisor, at 603-965-0682 for more information.

Nancy Stafford, School Counselor

Library News



We are so excited for the first annual Timberlane Regional School District Family Literacy Night on April 16th. This is the first time all of the elementary school libraries in the district have worked together to bring you a really fun and special family evening that includes music and literature. Earlier

that day, each of the elementary schools in the district will host 1-2 children's authors/illustrators; Sandown will be hosting Jason Chin and Marty Kelley. Then, that evening, from 5-7 pm, we ask you to join us, with your children, at the Performing Arts Center (P.A.C.) in Plaistow. There, the evening will begin with a concert by Steve Blunt, Marty Kelley, and friends. The concert will be followed by a meet-and-greet with all of the 10+ authors and illustrators. You will have the opportunity to meet the authors, get autographs, and purchase books. Look for more information in your child's Sandown North Express. We hope to see you there!

HAPPY SPRING!

