

SANDOWN NORTH NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2013



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

The children have returned from Thanksgiving in the holiday mood. As I greeted them this morning, many shared stories of spending time with cousins and having fun. It was so nice to see the smiles on their faces as they look forward to the next big family gathering. Encourage your sons and daughters to preserve their story in writing and to share it with others in their family. Writing is such a powerful tool; in our words, we can capture our emotions and thoughts forever.

Last week, our Crisis Team practiced a Lockdown drill. It is vitally important that we practice our drills regularly so that in the event of a true emergency, we will know just what to do to stay safe. We gathered feedback from all staff members and children and will make some changes and fix some glitches based on what we heard. We are happy to do so and once concerns have been addressed, we will practice again. We are so pleased with how our children respond during a drill. They listen carefully and help each other remember what is expected. I will keep you informed of the drills we have been practicing. Mary Beth Sharp, our School Nurse, and Terry Kellaway, a Learning Disabilities Specialist, are the chair-people of this team. We appreciate their willingness to be leaders in this most important work.

At our staff meeting Monday, we be looked at our School Wide Information System (SWIS) to share

data with staff. SWIS data is used for school-wide decision making and problem solving. We look at the data as a whole to determine ways in which we can better support our children. The site has changed some features, allowing us as direct instructors of individual children, to “drill down” and look at ways in which we can provide scaffolding for individual children. Since we are a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support School, we are offered the training as improvements to the site occur. Most recently, Dr. John Secor, School Psychologist, Nancy Stafford, School Counselor, and I attended a workshop in Bedford, NH to build fluency with the features of SWIS.

I recently received a phone call from Kristen Gallo, the Principal of the Christa McAuliffe School in Concord, requesting that a team visit us in January to learn about our implementation of PBIS at Sandown North. We are excited to share our ideas and data with them. We have learned in the past that the visit alone helps us grow as learners. They ask questions that cause us to think deeply about our practices. In addition, visitors’ excitement and new ideas always help us to consider other ways of approaching challenges: their enthusiasm energizes us. We are proud to continue to be a PBIS Exemplar School and to welcome

visitors. It is truly a Win-Win experience!

We will be celebrating the holiday season and the children’s success as STARS before the holiday break. Our children are amazing and deserve to kick back, engage in some holiday “crafting” and sing together as we kick off the holiday break.

I wish you a joyous holiday season. The smiles on the children’s faces light up our days as I am sure they do yours.



**Sandown North Elementary
School
New Hampshire Fisher Cats
READING CHALLENGE**

It is that time of year again! On Monday, January 6th Fungo, from the Fisher Cats Baseball Team, will be visiting Sandown North to talk about the “New Hampshire Fisher Cats Reading Challenge,” presented by Velcro USA, Inc. We all know how important reading is, and what a fun way to motivate children to read! We

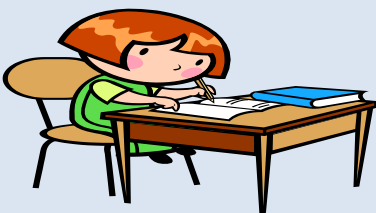
are asking each student to read at least 5 books at home, so s/he can earn 2 free baseball tickets for a Fisher Cats game. Reading to your child counts too! Each child will go home with a Reading Challenge form to record all important information needed to participate. Please look for this form in the Sandown North Express and make sure to read the form carefully. All areas need to be filled in, then mail the completed form directly to the Fisher Cats team. The address is on the form. **We are not collecting forms at school.** Prizes will be awarded to schools with the highest percentage of readers. How exciting! Hope everyone participates!!

Happy Reading!
Diane Chauvette,
Literacy Specialist



Even though it's been a relatively warm fall, winter is definitely here. We have had a few days of cold weather and some children do not have proper winter wear. Students don't always think about dressing for outdoors; they rely on their parents to help them remember. Please make sure that your child is prepared for recess, as this time is

very important as part of his/her growth and development and as an active learner. Please help your child get ready in the morning. This includes eating a good healthy breakfast and packing for the day. Please include hats, mittens or gloves, appropriate cold weather boots, winter coat, and snow pants for the snowy days. If your child does not have these items at recess, he/she may not be able to fully participate in recess play.
Mary Beth Sharp
School Nurse



Curriculum and Other News

Happy holidays to all! The students and staff will be busy completing many activities before the holiday break. It is a great time of year, but a busy time of year.

Focus on the Common Core:
One activity keeping the staff busy is the ongoing alignment of our teaching practices with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). As we are becoming more familiar with the standards, teachers are embedding them in lessons and units. This work is accomplished in weekly PLC (Professional Learning Communities) meetings and grade level meetings.

We are using the principals of the PLC and asking what we want students to know and be able to do by the end of each grade level. It is good work that will continue throughout the school year.

News from Title I:

As many of you may know, Sandown North has been a Title I school for many years. Title I is a federally funded program that promotes literacy development in young children. Children who participate are assessed in various areas of reading several times a year. Title I is a supplemental reading program that supports classroom instruction, and is provided during a time that does not interfere with the classroom reading instruction. Parents often ask, "How can I support my child's reading development at home?" This year, we are happy to be able to offer two parent "Open Houses" where we will meet and discuss literacy with parents. The first "Open House" will be later in January. We will host a pizza and information night for all Title I students and their families. Parents will then participate in a meeting with our staff, and students will watch a movie. Babysitting will be available. More information will be coming your way very soon about this exciting event. Our tutors, Mrs. Perkins and Ms. Bresnahan, along with Mrs. Chauvette, our Literacy Specialist, are looking forward to meeting with all of our Title I families.

Tri-Pod Survey

Your child may have been talking about the survey we have been taking this week in school. Information was sent home with all children in November that explained the Tri-Pod Survey. This survey is designed and conducted by The Tripod Project, a national consortium of schools and districts working together to close the academic achievement gap. The responses to these surveys will reveal information about the students' experience in the classrooms at your child's school. These responses will be summarized and reported to principals and teachers in order to inform their work with children. Questions on the survey address the following:

- Personal perspectives and what your child is experiencing in school and in the classroom.
- Classroom climate, the ways that students treat one another, and classroom behavior.

All student survey responses are completely confidential. No one will ever track answers back to an individual student. Each survey is sealed in an individual envelope immediately upon completion. Envelopes will be opened only when they arrive at a processing facility that is not associated with the school district. Our goal is to better understand the student perspective as we strive to address the learning needs of all students.

I hope to see you at Friday's PTA Auction. Wishing you a safe and healthy holiday season!

**Patrice L. Liff, Assistant Principal
From the Art Room:**

First grade artists have been learning about different types of lines. Students used strips of paper to create a 3-Dimensional sculpture showing curvy lines, strait lines, zig-zag lines swirly lines, etc. They had a lot of fun manipulating paper by folding, cutting, and rolling the strips of paper to create 3D sculptures!



Nate and Jalie sharing their LINE 3D sculptures

First grade artists just finished a Portrait drawing unit. Students were asked to draw a self portrait, a family portrait and this week they drew a portrait of our favorite Elves!



Emilee Cooper showing off her Elf on the Shelf portrait drawing.

Second and third grade artists are learning about the Color Wheel. Students have enjoyed mixing primary colors to make secondary colors. Second grade artists are turning their color mixing into a colorful Ice cream cone filled with 6 different flavors! Third grade artists are creating a STAR shaped color wheel because we are Sandown Stars! Students learned the rainbow song and enjoyed watching a silly video from Sesame Street about Primary and Secondary colors.



Kaylee and Kaitlin



Robert and Brandon



Zakkary and Julian