

SANDOWN NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER



FROM THE DESK OF JO-ANN GEORGIAN, PRINCIPAL

As a school staff, we collect various forms of data to guide our decision making. Our Leadership Committee looks at schoolwide behavioral and academic data, to note trends and to celebrate successes. If concerns or questions arise, that team poses those questions to the committee or the grade level teams who can best answer the query. Our Universal team looks closely at the behavioral data to determine what our next behavioral roll-out should be. We know that we need to teach the children the expected behavior, we have to model it, and then we have to acknowledge their efforts. We have been focusing on playground behavior, both respectful behavior and safe behavior, and our students have been doing a great job. All staff stay consistent with expectations so the children know just what to do when they are playing with their friends. This way, all children feel safer and can enjoy their time outdoors.

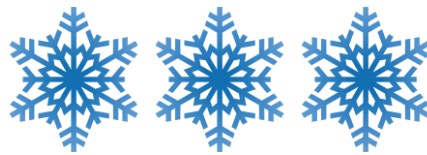
When we look at the academic data, we look to be sure that our students at North are progressing in their learning at a rate that is commensurate with others in the same grade and the same age. If an individual child needs additional supports, team members look at ways that they can provide those supports. With scaffolding provided, most children are then able to be successful. If a teacher is concerned about a child's lack of progress, s/he may refer them to one of the teams who monitor student progress. Your child's teacher will inform you of concerns and seek input from you as well. You may be invited to a team meeting to share what you are seeing at home and to create a plan for next steps.

As educators, our charge is to seek ways we can make data driven instruction work in a way that puts students' interests, goals and achievements in the forefront of our minds. We strive to be data-informed. Students' work informs our instruction and serves as a progress monitoring tool. Student work should be our data in action, informing our teaching points. In

an article by Susan Newman in Educational Leadership, she suggests that we define data as “recorded information on students learning”. Teachers’ and parents’ observations are data, very important data. What your child says to you, as well as the look on his/her face as s/he attempts a learning task, is important data. Please always feel free to share this most important information with your child’s teacher.

As educators, we are mindful of your children as learners, but it is important that we also be mindful of them as people, as individuals. Our job is to give them a good school experience, one in which they delight in their reading and in their content learning.

As we move into the 2017 year, I want to wish you a delightful holiday season! Happy Holidays!



Blizzard Bag and Bus Information

Although the cold weather is just beginning, I wanted to remind parents of our Blizzard Bag Day procedures. When inclement weather causes school to be cancelled, listen to the “No School” alert message. The message will indicate that it is a **Blizzard Bag Day**. Instructions may be accessed from our school website, sandownnorth.com. Click on the blue link on the right that says “online learning and blizzard bag information”. All grades 1 and 2 students as well as students who requested it, were given Blizzard Bag folders in October. Please be sure you know where that folder is so that your child will be ready if we have a Blizzard Bag Day.

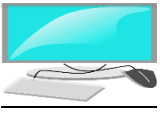
I also wanted to take this opportunity to remind parents of the bus expectations we have for our students. They are also listed in our student handbook. As a school, we discuss these expectations with the students. It would be helpful for you to have conversations with your child as well. We want the bus ride to and from school to be a safe one for all riders. When students have a comfortable ride to and from school, it also helps to start and end their school day in a positive way. Below are the bus rules. Again, we would appreciate it if you reviewed these with your child.

- Sit in the assigned seat, facing forward
- Remain seated
- Backpacks should be on students’ laps
- Toys and food need to stay in backpacks
- Use a partner voice (speak so that the person next to you can hear)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the bus, please feel free to contact me. When the school, parents and bus company work together, we are better able to address any problems and create a positive bus experience for students.

Happy Holidays!

Nancy Stafford, Assistant Principal
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Technology News

The Hour of Code is an international event to encourage participation in the field of computer science. At Sandown North students will be uncovering programming possibilities with block coding. Popular coding tutorials and exercises can be found at code.org, lightbot.com, and khanacademy.org/hourofcode.



Reading in December

Before we know it winter break will be here and we will be spending time with our loved ones to enjoy the holidays! Winter break is also a time to enjoy a reprieve from our daily routines. It is important to remember to still read to, and with your child during this time. Your child has been working so hard in school and we want to make sure he or she maintains his or her current reading skills. Here are some fun ways to sneak in daily reading for the month of December:

- Children love opening mail, so have them open and read holiday cards. They can even write and send them to loved ones.
- While cooking, let your child read recipes to you.
- Ask your child to help write and read your grocery lists.
- Keep books in the car so your child can read while traveling.
- Ask your child to read vanity license plates while traveling in the car.
- Have a fun family game night that involves talking, reading and thinking.
- Pick 10 books to wrap as 10 separate presents and put them in a special place. Each night, starting December 23rd and ending January 1st, have your child pick one bedtime present to open. That is the special book to read that night! You can use books you already have, or newly purchased books. This is a fun way to celebrate reading together!

Maintaining a reasonable bedtime schedule over break is also important, so your child can return to school rested and ready to learn for the New Year.

Happy Reading!
Mrs. D. Chauvette



Hello Sandown North!

Can you believe it's already December!

Wow! For the past few months, I have been very busy visiting your child's classroom. Your children have been wonderful and I am really enjoying my time with them. I wanted to share with your family the Second Step program topics I have been and plan to be working on in the classrooms!

If you have any questions about the Second Step program, please don't hesitate to contact me for more information. Thank you for supporting your child in learning the skills that lead to success in school and in life.

© Ms. Hickey
School Counselor
Ext. 7543

Practice Second Step Skills at Home:

1. Have your child pick an object in the room without telling you what it is
2. Have your child give you one hint at a time about the object. Try to guess what it is.
3. Between guesses, give your child time to focus attention on the object so he or she can think of another hint.
4. After you guess what it is, have your child write the word or draw a picture of the object.

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Second Step: Skills for Social and Academic Success.

Fall/Winter Second Step Units & Lessons

First Grade:

Rotating Schedule (Difeo, Douglas, McDonough-once a week, Mondays), (Low- once a month)

Unit 1 Skills for Learning- Students will gain skills to help themselves learn, including how to focus their attention, listen carefully, use self-talk to stay on task, and to be assertive when asking for help with schoolwork.

Lesson 1: Listening to Learn, Lesson 2: Focusing Attention, Lesson 3: Following Directions, Lesson 4: Self-Talk for Learning, Lesson 5: Being Assertive

Second Grade:

Once a month

Unit 1 Skills for Learning- Students will gain skills to help themselves learn, including how to focus their attention, listen carefully, use self-talk to stay on task, and to be assertive when asking for help with schoolwork.

Lesson 1: Being Respectful & Lesson 3: Using Self-Talk

Third Grade:

Once a month

Unit 2 Empathy- Students learn to identify and understand their own and other's feelings. Students also learn how to take another's perspective and how to show compassion.

Lesson 5: Identifying Others' Feelings & Lesson 6: Understanding Perspectives

Fourth Grade:

Once a month

Unit 3 Emotion Management- Students learn specific skills for calming down when experiencing strong feelings, such as anxiety or anger.

Lesson 10: Introducing Emotion Management & Lesson 11: Managing Strong Feelings



PTA News

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and loved ones!



The PTA will be hosting the annual Elves Workshop and Raffle Extravaganza on Friday December 9th at 6 pm. There will be shopping, crafts, cookies and raffles! The book fair will also be open for the evening. Raffle tickets are on sale prior to the event until December 7th or they can be purchased at the event. It is a great evening full of holiday cheer...we hope to see you there!

Please join us at our next meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, December 14th, 6:30 pm at Sandown North. We wish you all a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year!

Thank you for your support!
Ashley Smith

