

February



Sandown North News



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

Last Sunday, as we listened to the beautiful singing voices of the children from Sandy Hook Elementary School at the Super Bowl, I am sure we were all transported back to that tragic day when 26 people lost their lives. I want to assure you that our district has been proactive in looking at all our facilities and determining if there are needs to be addressed. We appreciate their responsiveness. In addition, Chief Gordon continues to work with us in helping families and children feel safe. He has attended some of our Monday Morning Meetings to be a presence and more importantly, even, to let the children know that he is another adult who cares about them. He visits classrooms and greets the children; they enjoy seeing him.

As we look at our systems, we tweak them to make them more efficient. We have made some small changes in the early dismissal of your children to ensure their safety. The children will all be dismissed through the office; they won't go right to the foyer door to join you. That simple little step of the child coming into the office means that office staff will physically see the child unite with you. Sometimes, in the hectic pace of the office, children have

met their parents and walked out the door before anyone actually saw the connection. In addition, as you know, we have been asking for licenses at the window. Mrs. Magliozzi is new in the office this year and has not met all the parents or grandparents of all of our children, so checking identifications once again ensures your child's safety. As she is more readily able to recognize you, she will not be asking for your license, but remember that at any particular time, someone else could be in the office and request your identification. It is always best to stick it in your pocket so that you are prepared in the event that we ask for it. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Our bus drivers, also, make your child's safety a priority. If your child has a medical condition, please communicate this to the bus driver. In addition, you should contact the District Transportation Coordinator, Sandy Hodgkins at 382-6119, ext. 2229 and she will keep the information on file with the bus route. All First Student drivers are trained in basic first aid and emergency response.

Our staff continues to work closely with all personnel in the district and engages in many professional learning experiences. We were one of the schools who received the Commissioner's Circle of Excellence and I was asked to highlight, in a few words, what I feel has made our school successful for the New Hampshire Department of Education's publication, "Inspire".

At the end of the newsletter, I have included what I wrote for submission. I

also included the other four schools who were highlighted as I thought you would be interested in hearing what is happening in other schools in New Hampshire. All schools featured in this pamphlet have been “recognized for being bold and innovative in service to children. These successful schools are the result of careful execution of habits of excellence.” We are so proud to be included in this group.

Our Sandown North family has grown with the recent birth of Shannon Grace Lenihan. During Mrs. Lenihan’s absence, Mrs. Rebecca Garone will be instructing your children during their art block. As an educator, Mrs. Garone is “dedicated to the creation and nurturing of a lifelong love of the arts that will enhance student’s well-being and directly improve their academic achievement.” She is a New Hampshire certified teacher, holding a degree from the University of New Hampshire and a Diploma for Photography from James Cook University in Australia. Mrs. Garone has worked in our district before, at Danville for two years as their art teacher and both here and at Sandown Central in 2009, as a long-term substitute when Mrs. Lenihan had her first child. We are so lucky that she was able to join us again until Mrs. Lenihan’s return in mid-April. Welcome to Mrs. Garone!

Curriculum and Other News

Focus on the Common Core and Assessments:

The school and district work on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) continues. The recent early release day provided staff with an opportunity to further learn about the standards in terms of their intent and the higher student expectations established in order to be college and career ready upon high school graduation.

The work engaged in on the last early release day, and scheduled for the upcoming Professional Development Day on February 18th, will involve all staff in better understanding the expectations of the Common Core, how our current curriculum and materials align with those standards, and what instructional practices we can put in place to better prepare students on their K – 12 journey through the school system. Teachers in all subject areas, at all district levels, will participate in these training sessions.

Collegial discussions within departments, grade levels, and cross grade level groupings serve to enhance everyone’s understanding of the Common Core State Standards and the nuances of change that impact student performance expectations and methods of assessment.

In terms of assessments it should be noted that students in many grade levels are participating in the NWEA Science test at this time of year. The results of this test will inform our instruction regarding each student’s general science knowledge – areas of strength and areas of growth. Similar to earlier NWEA testing in other subject areas, we are learning much this first year about NWEA testing and hope to share more about the testing once we have established additional data around the results. The singular result of one NWEA test may not be indicative of the student’s true knowledge. A second round of testing will provide a more secure understanding of skills and knowledge.

William Pimley

Timberlane School District

Bus Procedures:

On January 22, 2013, a letter regarding bus arrival and dismissal procedures was sent home in the Sandown Express. We will be stopping car traffic in compliance

with New Hampshire bus regulation SAF-C-1306.03 – Operation of Flashing Lights; busses must activate their flashing red lights while loading or unloading students. Vehicles cannot pass the busses while red lights are flashing and can be fined if reported.

During student arrival: The back doors for drop off are opened from 8:20 to 8:30 daily. If you drive around the back of the school after 8:30, please do not double park in the staff lot and let your child off to walk into the building. This is extremely dangerous as the busses are moving in the yard at that time. The staff member on duty is there to direct traffic and will tell you when it is safe to pull your car into the front lot to park. If you are late, continue to go around the building, park in the front, and walk your child into the building. Please pull into the front lot instead of going around to the back of the building.

Dismissal of Students: We begin dismissing students who are picked up at 3:05 each day. We anticipate about a 10 minute lead time before having to stop traffic for the busses to load. Traffic will have to be stopped once the red lights begin to flash. Our traffic flow is one way. To avoid accidents, please do not turn around behind the school and leave the way you have entered. The staff person on duty will tell you when it is safe to exit the school yard.

Please note that our procedures are designed to ensure the safety of the children.

Best wishes for an enjoyable Winter Vacation!

Patrice L. Liff,

Assistant Principal/Curriculum
Coordinator

Technology and Enrichment News

Students are looking forward to sharing their inventions with other students at the Sandown North Invention convention on Friday, February 15th. The show is from 12:30-3:00 and is intended for classmates, but parents are welcome to join us. Remember, participants must submit inventions, invention journals, and displays on or before the day of the show. If your child plans to participate and has not already turned in a form, be sure to write me a note as soon as possible! Information about the invention program can be found at www.sandownnorth.com or by Google searching InventSN.

Thank You,

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