

# SANDOWN NORTH NEWSLETTER



## FEBRUARY 2014



*From the desk of  
JoAnn H. Georgian, Principal*

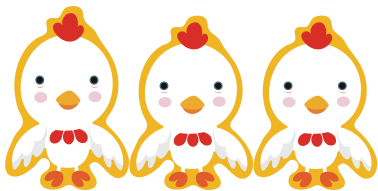
I would like to welcome Meghan Morgan to our school and to officially introduce her to you as our new Speech/Language Therapist. Meghan earned a Masters in Speech/Language Pathology: Bilingual Program from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. Earlier, she had received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communication Disorders: Speech and Hearing Sciences from the University of New Hampshire. Prior to her joining our staff, Meghan worked in the Pelham School District. We are thrilled that she is now working with us but will sincerely Miss Meghan Fredette and Mrs. Sally Hayes who filled in until Meghan could join us. We were so fortunate to have such dedicated, talented individuals helping us all learn.

Two weeks ago, we were visited by members of the Christa McAuliffe School in Concord, NH. We had the pleasure of talking about Star Quest with them and how we do what we do for our children. They were then able to tour the school and "see" what they heard about. The CMS staff left feeling invigorated for the possibility of undertaking this important work. We, too, were energized by the conversations and the reflections that they caused. We hope to continue to work with them, possibly in a mentor/mentee type way. Thinking and talking about teaching and learning energizes and excites us all.

Learning involves the arts as well as the core subject areas. I was recently at a School Board meeting where they honored the students from Timberlane High School who were selected to participate in the All State Music Festival. I was so excited to see so many former Sandown North students. I had recently read an article in Education Week by Sarah D. Sparks where she explained that new research from the Society for Neuroscience finds that music

training may increase the neural connection in regions of the brain associated with creativity decision-making, and complex memory. We are so fortunate to have such a strong string, band, and vocal music program in Timberlane. Studies show the benefits of music training but in addition, it is clear that the experience is rewarding and enjoyable, one that students participate in with pride.

Our children are currently working on expressing their feelings appropriately at this time in their school activities. We hope that they will transfer their school learning to home. We are expecting our children to use their manners, give compliments, and be good sports. If they are upset, it is expected that they will use their words and ask adults for support if needed. When children learn and practice skills both at home and at school, they see the importance and the connections to real life.



Sandown North Music News  
February 2014  
Submitted by Alison Yankowskas

### **General music**

Cuckoos and Roosters and Hens—oh my! In 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade music classes this past month, the students have been learning about how the French composer Camille Saint-Saens used different instrument sounds to create musical images of various animals. The children have enjoyed listening to selections from Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals* and responding with active listening, movement, and instrumental accompaniment. A favorite segment was "Cuckoo in the Woods," in which students pretended to walk through the woods in search of the cuckoo and allowing the bird to "land" on their hand for each cuckoo call.

Third graders listened to one segment of *Carnival of the Animals*, "Fossils." In this piece, the composer used the xylophone to represent the rattling of dinosaur bones. Saint-Saens also hid a few familiar pieces within the work, such as "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" and "Au Clair de la Lune"—one that the children will learn to play on recorder soon. Speaking of recorders, the shipment arrived this week and the children will begin their instruction on recorders within the week. Recorders will remain in the music classroom after your child's music lesson until after the February break. I will

be sending home more information about the recorders prior to vacation week.



### **Strings**

Bravo to our string students on their first concert at the PAC! I am so proud of their efforts and their musicianship. We continue to work on new skills and music in preparation for their next concert at the PAC on **Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00 PM.**

More information about this event will be sent home soon. Please encourage your child to track their practice sessions for our February Practice Challenge: to practice every day—even if just for five minutes—for four weeks. Your child received a chart with the information about this challenge at the end of January.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress in music.

Musically yours,  
Mrs. Alison Yankowskas



Curriculum and Other Notes:  
Happy February! I have been asked by our transportation coordinator, Sandra Hodgkins to

remind you that the use of electronic equipment (iPads, games, phones, etc.) are not allowed on the bus per Timberlane Regional School District policy, unless there is prior approval for special circumstances. In addition, I would like to direct you to page 11 of our school handbook where the use of electronics in school is addressed:

*"Timberlane strives to set high educational standards, challenging learning experiences and opportunities for all students. For this reason, the use of personal electronic devices is limited by classroom teacher and administrative directives during the school day. Students are not allowed to use cell phones during the school day. The school acknowledges that often students need to bring cell phones for afternoon daycare arrangements; however, they must remain off and in student bags during the school day."*

If your child has an extenuating circumstance that requires carrying a cell phone to school, please notify the school in writing stating that a phone is needed for after school care.

School and bus drivers spend time throughout the year reminding students of safe bus travel. This is important every day, but even more so when roads may be covered in snow

or ice. Students are reminded to sit quietly, use indoor voices, keep hands and leg in front of them, and place backpacks on their laps. By following these simple bus rules, students are helping the driver to safely navigate the elements on the roads. Please take some time to remind your child that safe bus behavior is expected by their teachers, their bus driver, and by you!

Lastly, for grade 3 parents: Your child's NECAP scores will be sent home soon. At that time, you will receive a letter from me explaining the scores and how to interpret them. If you should have any questions, at any time, please give me a call at the school.

Wishing you a Happy Valentine's Day and a safe winter vacation!

Patrice L. Liff, Assistant Principal,  
Curriculum Coordinator  
Enrichment Newsletter February  
2014



I am looking forward to seeing the great inventions students have been working on! Inventions are due on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Inventors need to submit a

model of their invention, a display or poster that explains their invention, and a notebook that shows how they came up with their idea. If your child plans to participate, and you haven't already let me know, please send in a note before February 11<sup>th</sup>. Students will present their work during the school day (from 9:30-11:30) on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Parents are welcome to stop by and talk with the inventors. Happy Creating!

February Technology News

Google is having a neat contest for kids. The prize is a scholarship for the child and a technology grant for his/her school. Enter this URL in your web browser for a customized entry form: <http://www.google.com/doodle4google/index.html>

Thank you to the Violette for sharing this great information!

Mr. Melle



