



**SANDOWN NORTH
ELEMENTARY**

**FEBRUARY
2015
NEWSLETTER**



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



The snow may have brought some angst for adults but definitely brought lots of joy for children. Watching them jump in the piles of snow put a smile on all our faces. There is a storm being forecasted for this weekend but thankfully not for tonight, which is deliberative session. I want to remind you that the meeting will take place in the high school gym, not the PAC center. The location has been moved this year to the high school to accommodate more people.

Recently, staff members of Charlestown Primary School and

North Charlestown Community Schools in New Hampshire have expressed an interest in visiting our school to learn about our evidence based behavior program, Star Quest. We welcome visitors because it is always a win-win situation. When we explain our processes, we are in effect teaching, which further cements our own knowledge. In addition, the questions, perceptions, and excitement of the visiting teams further fuels our desire to learn more and to fine tune the systems currently in place. We're proud to be considered a New Hampshire exemplar school!

You have probably heard staff members remark that we are a highly collaborative school. In a collaborative school culture, teachers are committed to improving their work and work together to pursue professional development opportunities and embrace learning, not just for the students, but for the adults in the community as well. Steve Gruenert and Todd Whittaker in **School Culture Rewired** tell us that the whole purpose of a school culture is to get members to adopt predictable behaviors

and a common mental model. A collaborative culture is a strong culture where people are on the same page. Collaboration is at the heart of our work at North, in all of our committee work and team work. This is not to say that there are no differences of opinion, but all points of view and expertise are respected and considered when making a decision. Each person's efforts are appreciated and leadership is encouraged and supported. The work is important, always, but the celebration of successes is mandatory. Laughter is a must; sometimes it just erupts and flows out of our staff room. The culture in our school is guided by what is best for our students and consequently our students feel supported and safe to take risks in their learning. The willingness of the staff to work collaboratively together, respecting differences and strengths, propels us forward in our work and I am most appreciative of the support they offer **to each**, and consequently, **to all** our students.



From the School Nurse's Office

Influenza , or "the flu", is defined as having a fever (>100F) and a cough or sore throat. The Flu shot is still available and is recommended for children and adults who are 6 months of age and older. There is a lot of information circulating about whether the flu shot is working this year. Even though it may not completely prevent the flu, it can help minimize symptoms of the flu and cover for a different strain that often follows later in the season. Please refer to this website <http://wp.timberlane.net/wp-content/uploads/FLU-Guidelines.pdf>.

Please remember to keep your children and yourself home if you symptoms of the flu.



It has been a COLD winter. Thank you for helping your children dress warm!! We have had to stay in a few days but we do try to let them play outside whenever we feel it is safe. Please make sure your children always come dressed for recess, because, as you know, New England weather can change quickly. They have been having fun playing in the snow.

Thanks and have a healthy and fun winter!!

Mary Beth Sharp
School Nurse

INVENTIONS!

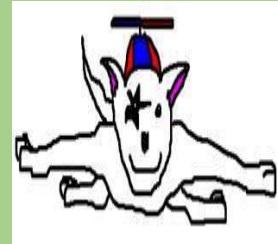


February Technology and Enrichment

Invention materials are due on February 12th. Students who

intend to participate should bring in sketches, notes, a poster display and a model. Our school day invention convention is scheduled for February 13th.

SPARKS!



Please email me if your child is interested in participating in the SPARKS program. We have space for eight third graders at this time. SPARKS is an extracurricular research and presentation program for students in grades 3-5. Currently our coaches are planning on meeting with team members from 3:00 - 4:00 pm on Mondays from March 2nd to April 20th. I can be contacted at justin.bentley-melle@timberlane.net. Please include your child's name and teacher in your e-mail. I look forward to hearing from you.

Justin Bentley-Melle,
Enrichment/Technology



FROM THE ART ROOM:

SO MUCH SNOW!!! What do we do with it? The Pre-school students had a blast painting their tray of white snow bright colors! I brought in a tray of white snow for each child and a tray of watercolors. They loved being able to play with the snow INSIDE! This is a fun activity to do at home on those cold winter days!

Mrs. Lenihan
Art



A Note From the Universal Team

Sandown North will be having a Healthy Heart Day on Wednesday, February 18. Grade levels will be offering activities that teach students the benefits of staying healthy. In the afternoon, students will participate in a mini-yoga class, offered by a certified yoga instructor. Please have your

child dress comfortably for this day.

Thank you – The Universal Team

Curriculum and Other News



Dressing for the Playground:

Children are still coming to school without winter boots and snow gear. Unless the wind chill is dangerously high, we do take the students out for recess. With the arrival of almost 40 inches of snow, there is limited space in the play area. Children who do not have boots are allowed to stay on the black top. However, because of all the snow, sneakers are getting very wet. Please make every effort to make sure your child brings snow pants, boots, hat and mittens to school every day.



Blizzard Bag Information:

The first Blizzard Bag day went rather smoothly. There are a couple of things we would like to ask of you.

- 1) Please e-mail or communicate through Google Classroom to your assigned group leader to let them know that the blizzard bags have been completed. Letting staff know that the day has been completed will help us when we report participation to the SAU. **We must have 80% participation in order for the day to count as a Blizzard Bag Day.**
- 2) Please note that students will have 48 hours to complete the Blizzard Bag assignments when an actual Blizzard Bag day is determined by the superintendent. It is also possible that not every snow day will be a Blizzard

Bag day. In the case of inclement weather, please listen to the Power Alert or watch WMUR for specific instructions.

Directions for Blizzard Bags:

- 1) Complete the lessons included in your blizzard bag folder or online in your classroom's Google Classroom
- 2) E-Mail or communicate through Google Classroom to the teacher in charge of your group and tell her you completed the activity (e-mail addresses for Sandown North are: First Name.Last Name @timberlane.net.
- 3) Return the Blizzard Bag folder to your classroom teacher tomorrow. Grade 3 students completing activities on Google Classroom – your Art, Music or PE completed lesson should be returned in the same manner.

Your blizzard bag and online learning classroom includes the following lessons:

- Word Work Practice
- Reading and responding activity
- Complete two math papers or math games

- Extension activities if you choose (Mobi Max or Book Flix)
- An Art, Music, or PE activity

REMEMBER: To know for sure that a snow day has been designated as a **Blizzard Bag Day**, listen to the “No School” alert message. The message will indicate that it is a **Blizzard Bag Day**. During an official **Blizzard Bag Day**, your child’s group leader will be on her e-mail between the hours of 10:00 and 2:00 to answer your questions. Remember to send an e-mail when you have completed the day’s activities.

Thank you,
Patrice Liff,
Assistant Principal/Curriculum
Coordinator

