



SANDOWN NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
JUNE 2016
NEWSLETTER



FROM THE DESK OF JO-ANN GEORGIAN, PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Families,

Well, it's time to close out this year and to be thinking about next. Our staff members have looked at our progress towards achieving our goals for this year and then began to draft goals for next year that will guide our work. A goal that was not written on paper, but obviously was a very important piece of our work this year, was to come together as one school of grades 1-5. The success of all our endeavors was dependent on our being a cohesive whole. We miss our kindergarten students and staff, of course, but in time, it is hoped that we will all be together as a kindergarten – grade 5 school. We are thrilled that our pre-school students have a great setting, a great place to begin, at TLC, where they are with children from other schools in our district and then can stay in the same building for kindergarten.

We were faced with a challenging situation this year, but one we knew would benefit the students of Sandown. The plusses far out-weighed the negatives, but some angst existed with many lingering questions. I can honestly tell you that every member of this unbelievably talented and dedicated staff pulled together to answer the questions, to offer possible solutions, and simply to do the work. The result is something that the town of Sandown needs to be proud of and to celebrate. I was thinking of the people whom I need to thank to include in this newsletter, and realized that this newsletter would go on for pages. So many people stepped up to do what they could do, and many did so behind the scenes, so it seemed fitting instead to talk about the groups who have contributed to our successful year.

Our volunteers did whatever they could, every day, and always with a smile. Our PTA offered many great events for our students and families so they could enjoy time with each other simply having fun. Teacher Appreciation Week was energizing and again showed how we are together in this most important work. Parents have provided snacks for our staff meeting on more than one occasion to say "thank you" and to make us smile. Early in the morning and later in the evening, people stop by to tend their gardens, adding to our curb appeal and brightening the students' days. We have come together as educators and parents to honestly brainstorm next steps for a student, with all being willing to think outside the box, listen carefully, and to do whatever is necessary to ensure a child's social and academic success. We have modified our systems for safety, with our law enforcement playing a huge part with us. Community members and the SAU staff have considered the needs that we have recognized, and are making plans this summer to provide our students with green space and to provide our families with additional parking. Our community members are fundraising to create an outdoor classroom for our students and are actively involved in the happenings of our school. One might hear that I am only telling the positive, but I am only one member of this staff. I can assure you that others would echo the same sentiment as we tell each other every day how lucky we are to work with each other in a highly supportive culture, one in which each person plays a huge part.

Our students have done an amazing job this year. It was most challenging for the 5th graders who returned and may have thought they were too old for our school. As one of them said to me recently, though, "I don't know what we were worried about. Everything was fine."

As educators, we are in trouble if we think we are all set; there is always more learning to occur and more growth to happen. We will be setting new goals and I can assure you that getting the word out to you more often of our progress towards achieving our goals will be part of our action plan. We will tweet, post, write and share our accomplishments and challenges.

I wish you a restful and enjoyable summer. Your children have worked hard this year and have done their part to make this a memorable year. We will miss our 5th graders. They have matured in so many ways! We welcome our new first graders, with their love of learning and enthusiasm for life. How lucky are we?????

Respectfully,

Jo-Ann Georgian





Sandown North Book Exchange Program

I want to say, "Thank you thank you, thank you!" Lots and lots of books were donated again this year to our Book Exchange Program, allowing students to bring plenty of books home to enjoy with family members! This program is truly successful because of all your donations and support!

Thank you so much!

Diane Chauvette, Literacy Specialist



Hello Everyone,

I would like to thank the PTA members who have attended the meetings, given up their time planning an event, working many of the events, and more. Those people are... Michele Kontos, Pam Mcgravey, Kristen Gondolfo, Ashley Smith, Erin Bouchard, Amy Kuzdzal, Norine Gerhard, Alanna Morcaldi, Lucenda Quinney, Amy Difeo, Jo-Ann Georgian, Josee Archer, Michelle Stoddard, Heidi Chaput, and Nancy Stafford.

On behalf of the PTA I also would like to thank everyone for helping this year. For example those of you who brought in treats for the PTA events, donating raffle items, and most important the hours that you have volunteered. We had many successful events because of all of you.

The PTA would also like to announce the winner of the Star Wars PlayStation 4:

Kamryn Bloomfield!! – Congratulations!



Over the past year Alanna Morcaldi has been the PTA Treasurer. She has done a wonderful job providing us with a budget, donating the Star Wars PlayStation 4, balancing the accounts, providing the cash boxes to all the events, guiding the PTA on how best to raise money for our children to enjoy their school experience and SO MUCH more.

Thank you, Alanna for being our treasure this year. We will miss her next year.

Have a great summer!

Pamella Pitman

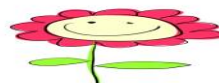
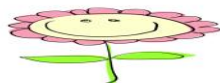
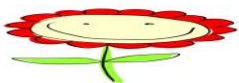
PTA President



Technology News

Looking through student work from this year, I am impressed by how much our students have accomplished, learned, and grown. It is especially gratifying to see our fifth graders applying their skills and experiences at such a high level. Technology offers many choices for creativity, learning, communication, and entertainment. I am glad to see our students are developing the ability to select and utilize the tools that will best serve their goals. I wish you a summer of fresh air, family, friends, joy, and adventure!

Justin Bentley-Melle, Technology



Curriculum Notes:

It is hard to believe the school year has come to an end! It was a year of new beginnings for each of us. Curriculum wise, we introduced new curriculum in the areas of math, English Language Arts, science and social studies. We also began using the Envisions math program. In the fall, we hosted a curriculum night. I hope to offer more of these informational evenings next year. Students in grades 3-5 participated in the Smarter Balanced assessments for the second year. We are all becoming much more comfortable with this type of computerized assessment.

Even though school is ending, it does not mean learning should stop for the summer. Students at all grade levels enjoyed using the Chromebook and tablets during the school year. Remember, if your child has access to these or a computer at home, encourage him or her to use some of programs they use at school, such as MobyMax. MobyMax may be accessed from home from any internet connected device at www.mobymax.com/nh405.

Also, we are excited that each child will be going home for the summer with a summer reading book. A committee, made up of teachers throughout the Timberlane school district, created a list of summer reading books. Our Sandown North teachers then chose the book for our students to read at each grade level. When students return, there will be some follow up activities teachers will be doing in their classrooms around the particular grade level summer reading books.

In addition, the Sandown Library offers a summer reading program. This year the theme is Ready, Set, Read. I encourage you to have your child participate. Students were introduced to the program this week during Monday Morning Meeting and heard about the numerous activities that will go along with this theme. Another program you may want to look into is STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) College for Kids. This is offered through Northern Essex Community College and will be held at Quarry Brook in Windham NH for students ages 9-14. For more information visit the website: <http://www.necc.mass.edu/community-engagement/college-for-kids/>.

At the final school board meeting on June 16th, some of us from the Transition committee will be presenting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and parents who participated in the committee. Deb Lytle, Pamella Pitman and Vicky Seager participated and gave parent input. Staff members who served on the committee included: Amy Difeo, Heidi Chaput, Jan Gilman, Laura Ross, Lisa Paladino, Liz Conte, Stan Stone & Terry Kellaway. The committee began meeting last spring, this fall and had its final meeting last month. In addition to the committee members, I would also like to thank all of the Sandown North families and staff. Throughout the year I received feedback regarding what was going well and some of our challenges. Whether it was in regards to drop off and dismissal procedures, lunches or recess, people were respectful and willing not only to share their concerns but also ideas for improvement. I greatly appreciate your input and believe strongly that the success of this transition is due in great part to the collaborative way we worked together as a school community. There are always improvements that can be made but what truly makes a school a positive place to learn and grow are the students, parents and staff.

Have a wonderful summer!

Nancy Stafford, Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

Music News--June 2016

May and June have been busy months for our Sandown North musicians! Here is a brief list of what we've been up to:

- 2nd and 3rd year string students performed in the 4-8 Orchestra Concert at the PAC on May 11.
- Grade 1 presented their play, "A-Z Does It," on May 23.
- 2nd grade has been working on their Flag Day program to be presented on June 9.
- Informal band concerts during lunch periods with Mr. Mainella and his band students.
- Students in grades 2-4 have had the opportunity to try out string and band instruments at the PAC and to sign up for beginner instrumental lessons.
- Beginner strings performed "star" music--complete with light saber bows--at the June 6th Monday Morning Meeting.

If your child is in grades 2-4 and has missed the opportunity to sign up for beginner band or string lessons, it is not too late! Students in grade 2 may select a stringed instrument (violin, viola, or cello); students in grades 3 and 4 may sign up for band or strings. Please contact me if your child would like to sign up.

Have a happy, healthy, and music-filled summer!

Musically yours,

Alison Yankowskas

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