

January



Sandown North News



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

I wish the happiest of New Years to all of our families. As exciting and fun as the holidays are, it's sort of nice to return to the normalcy of our everyday lives. I have spoken to many of you in different venues, and understand that you feel, after the tragic happenings in Connecticut, that your lives will never feel totally safe again. Although I guess it is true that none of us is ever guaranteed total safety in any situation, I can assure you that our school staff, in conjunction with Chief Gordon, have done so much to ensure your children's safety.

Dr. Metzler and I would like to take a moment to publicly thank Chief Gordon for his willingness to work so closely with school staff. He is a member of our Sandown North Emergency Response Team and offers his expertise and knowledge in a supportive way. We so appreciate it. I also want to thank the Chairs of our team, who have been called on in a serious way to reexamine our practices with our whole school staff. They

have done so and have made some small changes, important ones nonetheless. A heartfelt and sincere "Thank You" is extended to Mary Beth Sharp, School Nurse, and Cathlen Daenz, Kindergarten teacher, for the work they have done.

On the evening before the holidays, when we held our parent information night, the Emergency Response Team felt it was important that they attend so that they could answer questions and so that parents and families could see how many people work closely together to create safety procedures. I would like to publicly thank Diane Chauvette, Cathy Daenz, Sharon Hasfjord, Terry Kellaway, Patrice Liff, Marybeth Sharp, Nancy Stafford and Carol White for sharing their knowledge and explaining what we do daily to keep our children and staff safe.

We will continue to do our drills and to respond if tweaks are needed, but know that our children are back to the business of learning in their comfortable environment. I thank this amazing staff daily for all the work that they do every day with your children. They work collaboratively to support your children in their learning and know the importance of working alongside parents. We accomplish so much when we work together.

If you are willing to provide the school with your email address, please complete the little sheet attached. It is so much easier to get a quick message to you that way and

then you can respond at your convenience. I have enjoyed sharing the “good news” with parents that way and they tell me that it makes their day to get a message in the middle of a tough work day. ☺

The cold weather is certainly here. Please be sure that your children are dressed appropriately as it is mighty windy on our playground. If you drive your child to school, please, please be careful. We are located at the bottom of a hill and the wind whips through here, often causing icy conditions. Mr. Zig, Mr. Paul and Mr. Kevin do a great job shoveling, but if the wind picks up, the snow gets blown back into the path of cars. Our driveway is narrow and curvy and truly a challenge to plow. Town employees make it a priority and come often, but our site makes it difficult, so please be cautious.

Happy New Year to all of our wonderful families from all of us at Sandown North!!!

Please visit us on our new website: www.sandownnorth.com.

Curriculum News

Happy New Year Sandown North Families!

As mentioned in all of our newsletters to date, the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are being implemented over time in New Hampshire school districts. You will continue to hear more and more about the CCSS as the school year continues. District teachers and administrators are exploring and learning about the standards this year and we will move into greater usage of the standards next year. We are looking at the standards and comparing them to current practices and analyzing the materials we use to determine if they support the higher standards the CCSS requires.

To explain how the standards came to be, and some of the differences to our current NH Grade Level Expectations, a brief summary follows:

The CCSS was launched in 2009 through a partnership of the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association. The joint effort included teachers, parents, school administrators, and experts from across the country. International and national standards, current research, and effective practices from high performing countries were used to develop the CCSS. Public input was garnered prior to publication. The final version was released in June 2010. Since then states have examined the standards, leading to adoption by the wide majority of states. Each adoption state is in the process of implementation over time.

In general, the standards are aligned with college and work expectations, are stated in clear and understandable language, include rigorous content and skill application, incorporate aspects of current state standards, and are constructed to provide students with appropriate background to compete in a global economy and society.

Expect to hear more information about the CCSS as the school district transitions to higher standards, increased evidence of each student’s ability to apply their new knowledge, and ongoing analysis of best teaching practices. Please contact your school’s administration with any questions you may have regarding the Common Core Curriculum State Standards.

May you all have a safe and prosperous new year!

Patrice L. Liff, Assistant
Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

From the School Counselor:

Last month during my classroom guidance times, our first graders became detectives and spent time looking at large black and white pictures of children's faces. They were looking for "clues" on their faces of how the children were feeling. The pictures are part of the Second Step Violence Prevention Curriculum which incorporates photographs of children and role playing to help students learn communication and conflict resolution skills. The children especially enjoy the part of the lesson where they are able to role play various scenarios. I also shared the book, "How Are You Peeling? Foods With Moods", by Saxton Freymann & Joost Elffers. Students then drew their own picture of a favorite fruit or vegetable showing a particular feeling.

The 2nd graders heard the book, "The Brand New Kid", by Katie Couric. It's a story about a new student who the other students decide they don't like just because he looks different and has a different sounding name. We discussed how you cannot know what someone is like by looking at them, you need to get to know them through conversations. They then did an activity called, "the me you don't see", and drew pictures of themselves with facts that we wouldn't know by looking at them on the outside.

In 3rd grade the students watched parts of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. After spending several lessons prior, discussing bullying, they watched the DVD with a different point of view, noting the bullying Rudolph and Hermie had to endure.

As some of you may remember, last spring I sent home a survey regarding the school counseling program. I was pleased to get

many of the surveys returned and spent the summer reviewing data gathered. There was an interest in participating in a book study group and the topic most requested was anxiety. I will be offering a book discussion group beginning the end of January for approximately 4 weeks, ending either the week before February vacation or the week after. The book we will be reading is, "Freeing Your Child From Anxiety", by Tamar E. Chansky, Ph.D. I will be sending home an information sheet in next week's Express listing a few possible days and times. If you are interested in participating, please return the form with your choices. I am hoping to begin the week of January 28th.

Nancy Stafford, School Counselor

From the Art Room:

In November all of the first, second, and third grade artists had the opportunity to manipulate clay and create a 3-Dimensional clay sculpture. Each child will have a clay sculpture on display at our annual spring art show. First grade artists created a name plaque showing texture, second graders used their pincher fingers to create a pinch pot, and third grade artists created coil bowls or vases.

* **First grade artists** had fun painting this week and enjoyed color mixing. Students learned about the color wheel and how we use it as a tool to help create new colors. Students painted using primary colors (red, blue and yellow) and they created secondary colors (purple, green, and orange). They painted their birds in the order of the color wheel. The first grade students also watched a fun video from Sesame Street. Check it out with your child; they should know all the words to the silly song! ☺

Search You Tube: Sesame Street, Three Primary Color Song



***Second grade artists** are also enjoying using paint in the art room. They used a fun tool to paint with, a Q-tip, to create a dot painting. Their dot painting is the start of a snowman snow globe creation. We can't wait to see how they come out in the end. They are all very magical looking!

Email Address

Please detach and return to your child's classroom teacher.

Student Name _____

Teacher _____

Email address _____

Parent Name _____