



**SANDOWN NORTH
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2015**



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



Happy New Year to all of you! I hope that 2015 brings you great health and much happiness. Seeing the smiles on our children's faces was the best way for us to begin the New Year. Yesterday's cold weather brought us back to reality that it really is winter in New England. The snow we got on Saturday night was just a tease for the children; they are looking forward to making snow men and playing in the snow. Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately to be able to enjoy the snow when the temperature allows us to go outside. Also, as you know, our buses usually arrive at your bus stop on time, but when the roads are slippery, they will run later. The children will tell me how cold they were while waiting. Please be sure that they

are wearing their gloves or mittens and hats as it really is cold early in the morning. Our students will go outdoors for recess unless the weather dictates otherwise. The Timberlane nurses have a formula they use to determine if it is safe to go outdoors which includes the wind chill factor. Whenever possible, though, we do try to be outdoors as the brain and body need to be challenged for peak academic performance.

Our PTA members and board certainly worked hard during this past holiday season to raise money and to add to the spirit of the holiday. So many people made so much possible and we all do appreciate it. Ashley Smith worked with our PTA President, Heidi Chaput, and others for a year to prepare for the Annual Holiday Auction. This event brings a warm feeling into the building and into each individual. After each auction, the organizers and the PTA Board reflect and consider if there are any changes that should be considered. I am so grateful for their ideas, energy, and willingness to work together. Thank you, also, to Mrs. Yankowskas for arranging to have the Sandown Central chorus begin the evening for us in song. They did a fabulous job! Some of the children told me they were so excited to be able to see us and to sing on the "Monday Morning Meeting stage".

As a school staff, we are focusing on developing our students' skills, of course, while also engaging them as

learners. We want them to explore, investigate, question, and dig deeper. Our staff is always willing to discuss and reflect on what Richard Elmore calls “unexamined wallpaper”. This wallpaper includes the practices and teacher paradigms that are entrenched in our culture that may have a direct impact on student learning. We consider the habits of true readers and what matters most to students. Reading is a highly complex task; it is sometimes looked at as a set of skills. In truth, we need the phonetic and sight word skills in order to be able to read fluently. Those specific skills are parts to achieve the whole. Reading increases our vocabulary and allows us to have experiences that we may not have in our own lives. Reading helps us to learn how to act in certain situations and causes us to look at our own behaviors in situations. Reading makes us excited about a topic and incites us to read more to learn more. Probably most importantly, reading connects us to other readers in powerful ways. I am an avid reader and a member of two book groups. When I finish a book, I am so excited to share my reactions and hear the thoughts of others regarding those pieces of literature. I often pass a book on to a friend or family member if it was not a book group book so that I can talk to that person when s/he has completed the book. Their reactions carry me to a higher level of learning. It is no different for our children. Connecting with others through the world of books is a powerful learning tool.

If you are a reader and enjoy connecting with others, consider doing so on Goodreads

(www.goodreads.com). Visit it and see what you think!
Again...Happy New Year to you all!!

Some Exciting News:



Mrs. Chauvette, a Special Educator, recently gave birth to a new baby girl, Quinn. We are so happy for her.

Ms. O’Leary, a long-term substitute, has agreed to stay with us in Pre-K for the remainder of the year. We’re so pleased.

From the Art Room:

The third grade artists created beautiful winter reflection paintings in art class. The students had a lot of fun splatter painting with white paint to add the effects of snow falling!
Mrs. Lenihan



Joshua Boucher

Will Kellerman





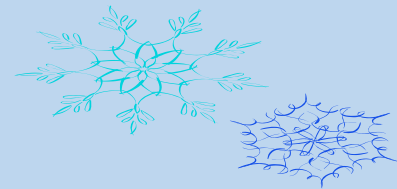
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From the School Counselor

January is the time of year many of us reflect on the prior year and make our New Year resolutions. What worked well for us this past year and in what areas of our lives would we like to make improvements? New Year Resolutions may also be useful to families and children. They are a great tool for helping children to set goals. Begin by explaining why we make resolutions. Explain it is the start of the New Year, a good time for fresh starts and beginnings. Resolutions allow us to think back over the past year on what went well and what we would like to do differently. Be sure your child realizes we make resolutions because we want to; there is no punishment if it doesn't work out. If your child is interested in making a resolution, make sure it comes from him or her; otherwise, it is seen as just another rule from the parent. Try to have your child come up with a resolution that is more specific as opposed to general. For

example, if your child says, "My resolution is to be more helpful", try to break the resolution down, "I want to be more helpful by remembering to feed the dog each day." Don't forget to recognize when your child is following through with his or her resolution. If your child is having difficulty with it, speak with him or her about how he or she might approach it in a different way that would be more successful. As we all know, even with our best intentions, we often lose interest in our resolutions. If this happens with your child, let it go. With young children, it is often more appropriate to have a short-term resolution, such as, "The next time my friend comes over, I'm going to do a better job sharing my toys." New Year resolutions can be a fun as well as thoughtful, family tradition. Making them provides important lessons in responsibility, the usefulness of setting goals and working as a family to make positive changes. Happy New Year!

Nancy Stafford, School Counselor



Curriculum and Other News

Happy New Year Sandown North Families!

News from Title I:

On January 27th, Title I will be hosting an informative gathering at the school for all parents of children who

participate in the program. As you may know, Title I is a federally funded program that promotes literacy development in young children. Title I is a supplemental reading program that supports classroom instruction, and is provided during a time that does not interfere with the classroom reading curriculum.

If your child currently participates in Title I, you are invited to join Mrs. Howell and Ms. Bresnahan, our Title I Tutors from 6:30-7:30 pm to learn about our program and how to support your child's reading development at home. Parents, please look for the invitation in today's Sandown Express. Babysitting will be available.

Remembering Playground Safety:

Winter weather is right around the corner. The children continue to play outside at recess during the winter months. It is important to all staff that Sandown North students continue to have fun during the winter months. The safety of your children on the playground is most important. Recently, our staff reviewed the winter playground rules and we have talked about them with students. Ice buildup causes slippery conditions on some of the playground structures, and throwing and pushing snow can result in unintentional injuries. We have reminded the children of ways to stay safe and still have fun in the snow.

Dressing for Winter Fun: We do take the children out for recess unless there is a dangerously low wind-chill. Please make sure your child dresses appropriately with coat, hat, gloves or mittens, snow pants and boots.

Unfortunately, if children come unprepared, we are unable to let them go outside.

Fun without Using the Equipment:

Students can still have fun without going on the equipment. They can play ball, four square, jump rope, hula-hoop, skip-it's. Swings are allowed as long as students are dressed appropriately.

Have a safe and healthy January!

Patrice L. Liff, Assistant Principal



January Technology and Enrichment

I look forward to seeing some creative student inventions in February. Remember to bring in your sketches, notes, poster display and invention on February 12th so you can present your inventions to our school during the invention convention on the 13th!

Congratulations to all our students for participating in the hour of code. It was exciting to see so much enthusiasm for computer programming. Many students earned virtual certificates for completing entire portfolio sets. see code.org for more information!

Last call for SPARKS coaches. SPARKS is an extracurricular research and presentation program for students in grades 3-5. Teams of 6-8 students will

meet with coaches once each week between March 2nd and April 23rd. If you would like to coach, please email justin.bentley-melle@timberlane.net before January 16th with your name, phone number, the day of the week and time you plan to schedule for your team practices.

