

January



2014

Sandown North News



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



Happy New Year to all of you! I hope that 2014 brings you much happiness. Seeing the smiles on our children's faces was the best way for us to begin the New Year. The extra couple days of vacation were unexpected; it was too cold to go out in the snow and the snow wasn't right to make snowmen, so I think the children are still hoping for "an old-fashioned snow day". You may have heard it rumored that the district would be assigning Blizzard Bags to the children for them to complete on-line, or on paper for the younger children, on a snow day. If 80% of the students complete

the expectations, then the missed day can be counted as a day of school. We will probably try such an endeavor one or two times this year to see how it goes, but it will not occur every time we have a snow day. Much more information will be coming your way from the district so be sure to look for it. It will answer your questions and will provide specific information as decisions are made. Lots of school districts in our state have been using Blizzard Bags and have been positive about their value and impact on learning. On Monday afternoon, our teachers will be learning more about what children in each grade will be expected to do and what the educator's role in supporting learning will be. Justin Melle, our Enrichment/Technology teacher, was asked by our district to take a Leadership role. He has been working with other teachers and will be conducting the workshop for our instructors to help us all better understand. I thank him for his efforts and his collegiality. As soon as we have the specifics, I will send the information home to you.



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. Attendance was down this year for a variety of reasons, but still an impressive amount of money was raised to support our PTA. Because of your generosity, we will be able to offer our children enriching and rewarding experiences and activities again this year.



Norine Gerhard, our Holiday Shop chairperson, worked closely with our Volunteer Coordinator, Alex Haig, to staff the shop with smiling, helpful volunteers. It is such fun to see the children shopping for the important people in their lives. They are so happy to do so and very proud of their choices. It truly puts us all in the holiday mood.



Diane Chauvette, the Literacy Consultant, and Laura McLaughlin, the Media Specialist, worked together with Marty Kelley to present another Pajama Literacy Night. Sharing words and reading while in pajamas is one of my favorite activities. As you know, our staff changes it up a little bit every year to keep the excitement alive. I was so pleased to see many of our “graduates” return from 4th and

5th grade to join us. I am already looking forward to next year’s event.



As I wrote my article for the Timberlane Annual Report during vacation, I thought about the old African Proverb, “It takes a village to raise a child”. I concluded by stating that Sandown is just such a village, a place where the adults come together to support their children. The students see you in our hallways, at nighttime events, at Monday Morning Meeting, and at home helping them practice their skills. Feeling safe and supported gives them the confidence to take risks in their learning and to question as they learn. Our students are developing the skills and inquisitiveness needed for 21st century learning with the assistance of their families, their educators, and each other.



The brain needs to be challenged as does the body for peak performance. 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 so please be sure your child is dressed appropriately to be warm. Children cannot go in the snow without the proper clothing, so be sure they have snow pants, boots, mittens/gloves, and hats. We try to have a few extra mittens on hand if a child has lost one on a certain day or

forgotten them. However, we really do not want to share hats for hygienic reasons, and without a hat a child is uncomfortable outdoors. If you can spare an extra hat and set of mittens to leave at school, that might be really helpful. The children so enjoy shoveling, (yes, they do here☺) and building snowmen and being creative in the snow!

Again...Happy New Year to you all!!

Technology News



This is a great time of year to take a close look at your child's progress in technology class. Each student has strengths to build upon and struggles to strategize for. Knowing what these strengths and struggles are can help us target our support where it is most needed. It is my hope, that together, we can help all of our students make the most of these next six months. Please log into Learning.com with your first, second or third grader to look at what he or she has accomplished on this program. You may also wish to check your child's progress in each of the subject areas in MobyMax. (To check MobyMax progress, click "see complete dashboard" in the green elephant button.)

The student Learning.com goals for the start of January are as follows:

Grade 1: Lessons 1-8 should be completed. (Through Shapes and Fills)

Grade 2: Lessons 1-3 and 5-7 [Through Windows and Controls (Math Video is in progress)]

Grade 3: Lessons 1-7 (Through Drill 1)

If your child has not met these goals, it would be helpful to encourage work on these lessons at home.

Home participation on MobyMax is also encouraged.

For best results, all work should be completed independently. Of course, parent encouragement and skill instruction is welcome.

Thank You,

Justin Bentley-Melle



Happy New Year! The students enjoyed singing and playing festive Hanukkah, Christmas, and winter music in December. In music class, they practiced songs for the holiday sing-along assembly that was held on December 19. The string class skillfully performed "Jingle Bells" during the December 16 Monday morning meeting. This performance served as a dress rehearsal for the strings in preparation for their winter concert with Sandown Central on Monday, January 13 at 7:00 PM at the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Timberlane Regional High School.

All grade 3 students will be learning to play the recorder in music class this winter. The school district generously supplies the instrument for students. Students get to keep the recorders at the end of our unit. The children will present a short musical program at the annual Art Show this spring. We are looking forward to getting started soon!

Mrs. Alison Yankowskas



FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Recently, Barbara Meltz, a parenting expert who writes for the Boston Globe, wrote a column with suggestions for parenting books. It reminded me that I wanted to make parents aware of the lending library I have in the Guidance Office. I have numerous books dealing with general parenting issues, child development as well as specific concerns including childhood anxiety, ADHD and divorce. If you are interested in a particular book or topic, feel free to email me, call or stop in and take a look at the books. You are welcome to sign them out and borrow them for a few weeks. Last year I offered a book discussion during the day for several weeks. A group of us read the same book and met weekly to discuss particular chapters. I am willing to offer this again if there is enough interest. If you would be interested in participating in a book group, please email me and let me know your

availability and any specific topic you may wish to discuss. We would start the book group after February vacation.

I also wanted to make you aware of support groups offered by the Center for Life Management (CLM) for elementary students. The following groups will be offered in the coming months: Anger Management, Coping with Divorce and What To Do With Your Worries. These groups are open to everyone. If you would like more information please contact me or CLM at 603-434-1577 x160

Nancy Stafford, School Counselor
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Curriculum News

Happy New Year Sandown North Families! During the first three weeks of October our grade 3 students participated in the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). Students in grades 3-8 and in grade 11 are tested yearly in the areas of reading and math. Writing is tested in grades 5, 8, and 11, and science in grades 4, 7, and 11. The NECAP tests were designed to measure your child's progress in meeting New Hampshire's Grade Level Expectations, or GLEs. The GLEs define the knowledge and skills a student should have mastered by the end of each school year.

The New England Common Assessment Program is one of the important tools available to parents and educators to

determine how well our school is helping students meet standards and grade level expectations.

Students in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and Maine will continue to participate in NECAP testing through the fall of 2014 or 2015. At this time, our students will be participating in the Smarter Balance Assessment, an assessment that reflects the recent adoption of the Common Core State Standards.

If your child is in grade 3, you can expect to receive his/her NECAP scores in the Sandown Express sometime before the end of February. The student results come with an interpretation guide, yet they can be difficult to understand. There are a number of us here at the school that would be very happy to discuss results should you have questions. Just give us a call!

Patrice L. Liff
Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator



Important Title I Information

If your child participates in Title I, you will be receiving some important information this week regarding our parent information night on January 30th. Our evening will begin at 6:00pm with pizza and conversation. At 6:30 our Tutors, Marianne Perkins and Amanda Bresnahan will be discussing how you can help your child develop reading skills at home. Babysitting will be available from 6:30-7:30. We are asking that you RSVP by January 23rd. We hope to see you then!



Sandown North Elementary School New Hampshire Fisher Cats **READING CHALLENGE** January 6, 2014

What a great way to start the New Year! Today, Sandown North welcomed Fungo from the Fisher Cats Baseball Team. He asked our students to challenge themselves by reading 5 books so they can expand their imagination and practice being good readers. If your child is not able to read, you can read the books to him or her. When you are done reading, fill out the red "New Hampshire Fisher Cats Reading Challenge" form. Please look for this form in the Sandown North Express and make sure to read it carefully. Fill in all areas so you can receive your 2 free baseball tickets. How exciting would it be to see your child running with Fungo on the Fisher Cats baseball field! It is important to pick the game you wish to attend. You can also purchase more tickets if needed. Then mail the completed form directly to the Fisher Cats team (the address is on the form). **We are not collecting forms at school.** Prizes will be awarded to schools with the highest percentage of readers, so we would like every student to participate. Wouldn't it be fun to win first place and receive \$3,000! Hope everyone participates!!

Happy Reading!

Diane Chauvette,
Literacy Specialist

