

SANDOWN NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017



FROM THE DESK OF JO-ANN GEORGIAN, PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year to all of you! I wish you much happiness and health in this coming year. I was excited to bump into former students and parents of students who had been Sandown North students during vacation. Hearing about their lives, as adult students, was so exciting. They were all doing well as they pursue the next phase of their lives. What I so enjoyed was hearing all their fond memories of North, like Monday Morning Meeting, the Holiday Sing-Along, the “pretend playground” until we got a real one, etc. That is what it’s all about: learning in a supportive, fun environment and making connections with each other. I wish you a year that you will remember with fondness in the future.



Our theme this year is once again:

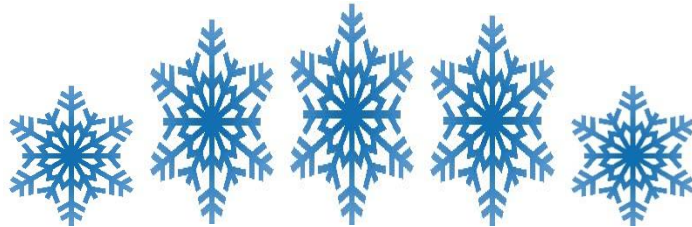
Peace! Learn! Grow!

To take risks in our learning, we all need a peaceful, safe, trusting environment. Students and adults alike must listen to understand and must respond respectfully. Our students need to be cheerleaders for each other, encouraging each other to “try it”, maybe even “try it” in a new, unexpected way. We learn from our efforts and trials.

As I look at the data we collect, an area that we all need to focus on is what is called “disrespect”. It is not a blatant disregard for others’ feelings at North, not at all. Instead, it is more subtle, such as interrupting a speaker, not including others, teasing on the bus with words that are hurtful, etc. We actively work to model respectful behavior and then, in turn, expect it from our students. We teach that words can be emotionally hurtful and can stay with a person for a long time,

affecting how they feel about themselves. I hope that you will have a similar conversation with your students at home. It can be difficult for some children to call out the disrespectful behavior or language when it is happening by saying, "That's not ok", or "I don't think that was funny", but that would be most helpful in stopping unwanted behaviors. Certainly, students need to feel comfortable telling us, as educators and as family members, when they have heard something that made them uncomfortable. Then we can intervene and help, by teaching, all those involved. Sometimes, language may be acceptable at home but not at school. We teach that but would appreciate your support in helping them understand that there are societal norms that dictate appropriate language. When we are all on the same page, it offers our students the consistency that helps them learn and feel safer. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

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



From the Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator:

Welcome Back! I hope you all had a relaxing break. Prior to the break, the weather was becoming colder. Just a reminder, as long as the temperature is 20 degrees with the wind chill or warmer, students do go outside daily for recess. Our school nurse monitors the weather and makes this determination. Please send your child with appropriate outerwear each day so that she/he is able to enjoy some time outdoors. Even if it is below 20 degrees in the morning, the weather changes. Students cannot play in the snow unless they have all of their snow gear – coat, hat, mittens, snow pants and boots.

Later this month, students will be participating in the Tripod Project Survey. This is the third year Timberlane has participated in this survey which asks students developmentally appropriate questions regarding their classroom and school experiences. Prior to the winter break the attached press release regarding the Tripod survey was posted. Included in today's Express is a letter from Debra Armfield, Executive Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Learning

with more information about the Tripod Project. Please feel free to contact me for additional information or any questions.

Happy New Year,

Nancy Stafford

Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

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January 2017 Technology Fundamental: Online safety

Each month I will be highlighting a skill that will help students succeed in Technology. Please check in with your child to make sure they are secure with these foundational skills.

Digital technology connects students to amazing resources for building knowledge and skills. Unfortunately, as within the broader world, even the best practices can leave us vulnerable to unfriendly encounters. Just as we discuss and practice plans for emergencies, we need to know how to recognize and deal with digital safety risks. First and foremost, students should know to speak with a trusted adult whenever anything makes them feel worried or frightened. Second, parents and teachers should always be familiar with student activities and whereabouts. Third, students should not provide identifying information without parent or teacher permission. We hope to instill the confidence our students need to explore the world and grow. An important part of reaching this goal is providing students with the strategies and support needed to make smart choices along the way.



December 2016 Music News



The band, strings, and chorus have been working hard to prepare for the **Sandown North Winter Concert, which is on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the PAC.** Students and staff were given a preview of some of their repertoire at Monday Morning Meeting on December 19, the holiday sing-along on Friday, December 23, and several lunchtime serenades. Additionally, students in the honors elementary ensembles presented a *fabulous* winter concert for family and friends on Tuesday, December 20 at the PAC. If you missed the performance, you can view the archived video on <https://livestream.com/TRSD>. All PAC auditorium performances are streamed live.

Now that the holidays are behind us, you may need to re-establish a consistent practice schedule with your young musician. The expectation for all instrumentalists is at least 60 minutes per week of *focused* practice. Singers must perform concert

songs from memory. Please invite your child to sing or play some of their concert selections for you at home. Thank you for all that you do to support your child's music education.

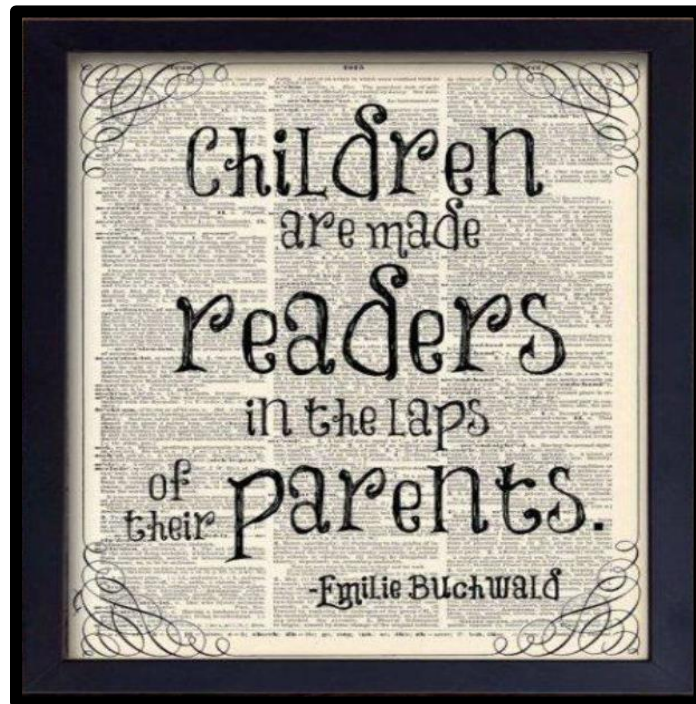
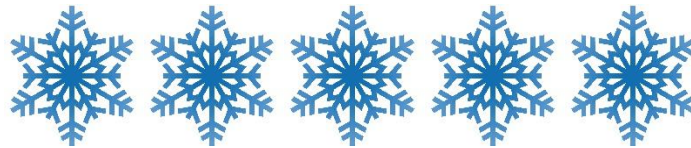
All students rehearsed songs of the season for our holiday sing-along. We enjoyed singing traditional favorites, such as Rudolph and Jingle Bells, but also enjoyed a new addition to our event, "Miracles," by the Maccabeats.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about your child's progress in music. Happy New Year!

Musically yours,

Mrs. Alison Yankowskas

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**It makes a difference!
Please read with your child daily!**

Happy Reading

Diane Chauvette, Literacy Specialist Happy New Year; the PTA wishes you a joyful and prosperous 2017!



PTA NEWS

On February 3rd from 6:30-8:30 the PTA will host a Mother/Son dance. All are welcome to attend...including moms, grandmothers, aunts, and other special ladies! More information will be coming home soon on this great event!

Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 11th @ 6:00** at Sandown North. Please note the earlier start time for this month. We hope to see you there!

Thank you for your continued support!

Ashley Smith ☺



SANDOWN NORTH JANUARY 2017 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2	3	4	5 School Board Meeting at the SAU	6
9 MONDAY MORNING MEETING	10	11 Sandown North Winter Concert at the PAC PTA Meeting, 6 PM	12 School District Budget Hearing 7 PM PAC	13
16 No School Civil Rights Day	17	18	19 School Board Meeting at the SAU	20
23 MONDAY MORNING MEETING	24	25	26	27 No School Staff Professional Development Day
30	31			