

SANDOWN NORTH NEWS



2014



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

This school year, 2013-2014, has been such a cohesive, productive one. We have been able to put systems in place that allow us to systematically look at our children's progress to determine if it is adequate progress, and then intervene if a child needs additional supports. Our students, themselves, are better able to reflect on their academic progress and their behaviors and then to articulate their needs. Individual children may be assigned to a classroom teacher, but their success and happiness is the responsibility of each of us. As the year draws to a close, we begin to say "Good-bye" to Mrs. Weymouth, who is retiring after working in the library here at North and previously at Central for many years. She will be sorely missed but now will have time to put her feet up and relax. I am pleased to tell you that Michelle Parker, the Para-educator in our pre-kindergarten

program, will be the new Library Assistant next year. Mrs. Parker is a certified teacher and will be working alongside Mrs. McLaughlin to guide learners in becoming engaged and effective users of information and in appreciating literature. We also reluctantly say good-bye to Mrs. Winsor but wish her much happiness. She will be busy next year in her role as mother for Jackson and "new baby" Winsor. They are lucky children! Two staff members will be working at Danville School next year: Jocelyn Dion and Karen Lovering. We wish them the best and hope they drop by to visit. Mrs. Sherry Alaimo will not be returning as a paraprofessional next year and Ms. Liz Leone, a special-educator, will not be returning to our school. We wish them the best. I know that there will be some additional changes and will certainly tell you of them in my opening letter.

I want to thank you so much for your input as we consider placement for your child for next year. I truly appreciate it and take your comments very seriously. I know it can be tempting to request a teacher whom you know from the past or for another reason, but the information I am seeking from parents regards your child as a learner and any social struggles that your child has had in school or in the neighborhood. These are important pieces of information. Input from staff members is also critically important. The lists are not truly finalized until August

when you receive your notice, as children continue to register during the summer and situations occur as well. If there has been a life change or situation that you feel could impact your child for the next school year, please feel free to call me and inform me during the summer. School staff and I do our best to place children in what we feel will be an optimum learning environment. Again, lots of factors are taken into account, some you would expect and others that may be more subtle and much less obvious.

We thank Alex Haig for serving as our Volunteer Coordinator this year and will miss her willingness to do whatever is needed for our children and staff. She will be moving with her children to be with her husband on a regular basis. We will miss the Haigs. Kristen Gondolfo has offered to be our Coordinator next year and we are so grateful.

In addition to thanking all of you for all you do every day for us and for our children, I would like to specifically thank our PTA board. At every meeting, the children are at the forefront for all decision making. A big SHOUT OUT goes out to Heidi Chaput, our President, Dan Fournier, our Vice-President, Michelle Kontos, our Secretary and Michelle Aprahamian, our Treasurer. Please consider joining us at meetings next year. Amy Difeo is our Teacher Representative to the board and is always happy to answer questions and be there to support our parents. We are so lucky to have her on the PTA board with all her knowledge, varied interests, and enthusiasm.

Third Grade Celebration Field day was spectacular, thanks to the Herculean efforts of Mrs. DeCristofaro. The children and staff enjoyed the beautiful weather and all the planned activities. I would like to

extend a public "Thank You" to Nancy Stafford, Anne Sotirakopoulos, Lisa Paladino, Jess Skelton, and Linda Janvrin who met at the field at 6:30 am to help us set up all the stations. We so appreciate the cookout provided by Ed Mencis and Linda Meehan and all they do for our children and for us as a school community. They help to make the day a very memorable one for the children, one they will always remember with happy thoughts. Thank you to all the parents, PTA, and other volunteers who helped to make the day a memorable experience for our third graders!

Our families do so much, in so many ways, to make our days brighter. I smile as I walk in the front door looking at all the beautiful gardens out front. I thank Allison Kellerman for her role in arranging the gardens and in working with school staff and families. Thank you also to the Morse family, Smith family, Croteau family, Miletello family, Hanrahan family, Lancelotta family, Kellerman family, Hobson family, Farrell family, Whyte family, Anderson family, Kontos family, Mrs. Sotirakopoulos, and Boy Scout Troop 268 for adding to our curb appeal and beautifying our grounds.

I wish you a fun-filled summer with your children. Please be sure to share books with your children this summer. Our town library offers a motivating program and your children will see their friends at the library sponsored events.

If your child enjoys writing, please encourage them to write to me during the summer. I am here at school, at 23 Stagecoach Drive, most of the summer and promise that I will write back. It's fun for me and is a nice way for them to record their summer happenings.

Lastly, we have a couple of recent openings in our pre-school program. Please call us as

soon as possible if you may be interested or know of someone who is, so we can give you the information you need.
See you in September!

Technology and Enrichment June 2014

This has been an exciting year. We have enjoyed presentations from the Museum of Science, Mad Science, the Core Democratic Values show, and the I Can Save program, and our third graders loved their field trip to UNH. These and many other events gave context to our students learning.

In technology our first graders used the keyboard and mouse to work on the computer. Second graders practiced typing and learned to use word processing software. They also learned to compose text and images to organize their thinking. Third graders focused on keyboarding, research, and presentation.

I will leave Learning.com accounts active through mid-August. Please take a look at what your children have accomplished on this program this year. If there are any lessons that are not yet complete, then I strongly recommend they finish them over the summer to help them prepare for technology in the next grade level.

Moby Max accounts will also remain open. Please check progress in this program by clicking on the green elephant icon. Looking at Moby Max math and language, it would be great if students could work toward the grade level they are entering before the end of the summer. The skills practiced in Moby Max will be very helpful to their school work.

Best wishes for a fun and enriching summer!

Mr. Melle

From the School Counselor:

During my visits into the first grades last month we talked about the difference between a "tattle" and a "tell". A good way to remember is for them to ask themselves, "Is this dangerous or destructive?" If the answer is, "yes", they need to let an adult know. We discussed the many things that happen during our day that they can try and work out on their own. Such things as a classmate cutting in line or not sharing the crayons are all issues the students can try and solve on their own. This helps them strengthen their self-advocacy and communication skills. Ask your child about the 3 types of bullies. They learn about this in first grade and many of them remember it in the upper grades. *Muscle bullies* use their bodies to hurt others, *mouth bullies* use unkind words and the *friend snatcher* tells a child he or she cannot play or only wants the child to play with him/her exclusively.

In second grade last month we spent time talking about empathy. We played a game called "The Odd Dot". Children were given an index card with a certain colored dot and needed to form groups based on their dot color. This had to be done without talking. Some children had cards with a color that did not match with any others. After the groups were formed the children talked about how it felt when they found their group and how the students without a group may have been feeling. Students came up

with wonderful ways to include those children and in doing so, showed empathy.

During my final lesson with our 3rd graders, I shared the "North Star" book by Peter Reynolds. This is a book they have heard at the beginning and end of the school year since being at Sandown North. Rather than my reading it to them, they took turns reading to me and their class. We talked about the journey they have been on at Sandown North. Next week they will be visiting Sandown Central on June 13th for Move Up Morning. This is always an exciting visit!

Have a wonderful, restful, playful summer! I look forward to seeing everyone the end of August and I wish our 3rd graders all the best as they begin their new journey at Sandown Central!

Curriculum News

Title I Summer Program

Last Friday, parents of Title I students were Invited to a pre-summer tea. Those who attended learned about our school's Web Resources to access summer activities (more on that a bit later). I would like to thank our Tutors Marianne Perkins and Amanda Bresnahan, and Media Specialist Laura McLaughlin, for planning and presenting some great information to prevent the summer slide!

As in the past, Title I Summer Camp will be offered during the month of July. This year, we will provide reading support to students entering Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2. All students who qualify have

received an invitation. We are asking parents to return the parent section to confirm attendance. There are still slots available. Camp will run on Monday -Wednesday, July 8 to 30th. If you have any questions, please call the school and ask for the Title I Program.

Proper Playground Attire

Safe clothing on a playground reduces the potential for injuries. We are asking that you make sure your child wears skid resistant sneakers with secure backs during recess time. Students wearing slip-on shoes, sandals, clogs, crocs, work boots, flip flops, clothing with strings attached or dangling jewelry, will not be allowed to play on the structures. This is to help avoid unnecessary accidents when playing.

Because we cannot apply sunscreen or insect repellent at school, we are also recommending that you do this prior to your child leaving for school in the morning.

Summer Learning Suggestions: My memory of reading great books over the summer goes back to childhood and our weekly visits to the public library. My sister and I would linger amongst the cool shelves, reading for hours. It was here that I first met Madeline, Curious George, and The Little House Books that would years later would become one of my daughter's favorite series. We're lucky that the Sandown Public Library offers a fantastic summer reading program. Every year, the students and staff are treated to a "Summer Reading Kick-Off" by New Hampshire Author Marty Kelly and his partner in all things silly, Steve. Please watch for information in your child's Sandown Express. We encourage everyone to participate!

As technology resources increase, we are able to offer our students learning experiences that can be accessed from a

home computer, smart phone or tablet. Below are some sites that we recommend for summer learning.

Reading and Math:

Available from our Sandown North webpage:

- Destiny On-line Library catalog, BookFlix, Culture Grams, TrueFLix and World Book Online are accessible through our schools webpage. Access Destiny and WebPath Express, and then click on Library/Destiny to access the database. Use your student's school username/password to access.
- MobiMax - Many families have been using this program throughout the school year. Our license for use extends through the summer months and we encourage students to continue to practice and earn badges over the extended break. Use your student's school username/password to access.

Apps for smart phones and tablets (a partial list of educational apps that have been vetted by our staff):

Starfall ABC's (Pre-K to Grade 1)

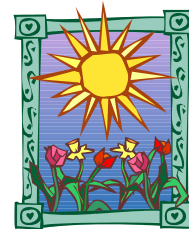
- Bob Books Reading (Pre-K to Grade 2)
- Kids Animal Reader
- Super Why Games
- Scholastic Estoria
- Spelling City
- Aesop's Quest
- Rocket Speller
- National Geographic for Kids
- Sight Words App
- Sudoku

- Sock Puppets
- Story Kit
- Educreations
- Word Warp
- Khan Academy
- Flow Free: Bridges
- myBlee Math

I hope you find these suggestions useful. Wishing you all a safe and wonderful summer!

Patrice Liff, Assistant Principal, Curricular Coordinator

Sandown North Elementary



2014 Summer Literacy Fun

It's time to relax, spend quality time with friends and family members, and to play outside, **but please don't stop reading.** Make it part of your family's summer fun. Attached you will find a "Summer Literacy Fun Calendar" for the months of July and August. There are lots of fun literacy activities you can do with your children. Did you know that keeping score at a baseball game involves literacy? Literacy activities involve reading, writing, talking and building background knowledge of our world. The important thing is to do all of this in fun ways!

Research shows that children can lose one to three months of learning during the

summer. They can forget reading skills they worked so hard to acquire during the school year. Then they have to work even harder to catch up in the fall. You can help prevent this summer learning loss by encouraging your children to read and write over the summer. I encourage you to do lots of fun literacy activities with your children, so they can maintain what they've learned this school year. The Sandown Public Library also has a really good reading program that your children can participate in over the summer. Check out their summer calendar at, www.sandownlibrary.us.

Here are some reading tips you can use while reading with your children this summer:

- Read slowly, with expression.
- Try using different voices for different characters.
- Follow words with your finger while reading, so your children can read along with you.
- Talk about books as you read. Ask your children to describe pictures, repeat phrases and predict what might happen next.
- Look at illustrations closely and talk about how they help the story.
- Remember to make reading fun! The more fun children have reading aloud, the more they will love books and want to read.

I hope you find plenty of time to read and write over the summer!!



Diane Chauvette
Literacy Specialist



Sandown North Book Exchange Program

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

Again, thank you!

Diane Chauvette

Literacy Specialist

Sandown North Music News June 2014

Our Sandown North students have had a busy, musical spring! Our stellar events:

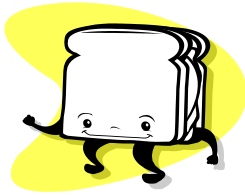
- Recorder concert by Grade 3 at Arts Night on May 19
- "Three of a Kind" musical by Grade 1 on May 29
- String class performance at Monday Morning Meeting on June 9

- Upcoming Flag Day ceremony by Grade 2

As I write this message, the Timberlane Music Department held its third of three instrument trials at the PAC. Many 2nd and 3rd graders expressed interest and signed up to join strings (2nd and 3rd grade choice) or band (3rd grade choice). If you missed this opportunity to enroll your child, please contact Kathy Giacobbe (Kathleen.Giacobbe@timberlane.net) as soon as possible.

Thank you all for your support of the Sandown North music program. Have a wonderful summer!

Musically yours,
Mrs. Alison Yankowskas



SANDOWN NORTH CAFÉ

For the 2014-15 school year, there will be an increase in lunch prices of 15 cents. The price of lunch will now be \$2.25. There will be no change in milk or breakfast prices.

Have a
wonderful
summer
Vacation!

