

# SANDOWN NORTH NEWSLETTER

## MARCH 2014



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

With the March newsletter, there is always a feeling of hope that spring really is a possibility! I hope your children enjoyed the less rushed pace of last week. Now, it's spring and believe it or not, planning for the 2014-2015 school year is on our minds.



We are currently registering students for next year's pre-kindergarten as well as for kindergarten. If you have not yet registered your child or know that your neighbor/friend has not done so, please do. It so helpful to have accurate

numbers as we think about the following year. Next year, for the first time, we will be offering a Renaissance Kindergarten, a full-day session that will include the arts. Having the students in school all day will give us the opportunity to integrate technology throughout the curriculum, to make it a true tool for learning. We will also be able to integrate art, music, and physical education into their learning. Spanish will be taught a couple of times a week; research shows us very clearly the benefits of learning another language at an early age. Since we will have more time in the day, the curriculum can be taught at a deeper level, with more time being devoted to mastery of the curriculum. The tuition rate for all day kindergarten is \$4,500 for the year. We will continue to offer half day kindergarten sessions as well at no cost. Please, please be sure to register as soon as possible for what you feel will be best for your child.

We continue to do our best to support our students in the areas in which they may need additional instruction or

support. As you know, staff and students alike work to be STARS: Safe, Trustworthy, Always respectful, and Responsible. Sometimes, a child may be part of small group instruction to set goals and work to success. Sometimes, a child may be selected as a role model for a small group of children, to be a leader and to share strategies that work for him or her. We all have our strengths and we all have our challenges and we all are responsible for our growth, with supports from the adults, of course. In your communications with your children's teacher, be sure to let them know of any concerns you may have and if you feel that your child may benefit from additional supports.



Recently, three Sandown North staff members were asked to present at the New Hampshire School Counselor Association Conference. After the conference, it was written in *Connections*, the School Counselor's Newsletter, that:

"Sandown North Elementary School is considered a national exemplar for their sustained and effective implementation of all 3 tiers of behavior support. Nancy Stafford, School Counselor, Missy DiBenedetto, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

teacher, and Kristin Clifford, Occupational Therapist, described the evolution of the program. The presenters described how they systematically screen students to determine needs, match interventions to needs, and how data is used to determine success."

We are proud to have been represented by these individuals and happy to share our successes with others in the state.



To be happy and successful learners, we know that healthful eating choices and exercise play a big part. To that end, On February 11<sup>th</sup>, after school, the students enjoyed Jump Rope for Heart. They love participating in the event which raises money for research into heart disease. The parents who chaperone have just as much fun as the students. Before the big event, Mrs. DeCristofaro, our PE teacher, had arranged for the Hot Shots from Newmarket Elementary to visit and demonstrate to our students the various moves possible using a jump rope. During the event itself, our children practiced the maneuvers they viewed. They exercised strenuously but didn't even notice how much work it was

because they were having so much fun. Thank you to Mrs. DeCristofaro for providing our students with this opportunity.



Success comes in many forms and in many ways. Congratulations go out to our two winners in the PTA Reflections contest. Ledger Russell received 2nd place in the musical composition category and Alexander Garone received 3rd in the visual arts category. They will receive awards and their work will be on display at the Gilbert Hood Middle School in Derry on March 12<sup>th</sup>. We are so proud of their accomplishments!

As educators, it is our goal to work closely with parents to help each child find his/her passion and strength!



*Curriculum and Other News*  
*Focus on Bus Behavior:*

Welcome back! I hope that all of you enjoyed February vacation and are ready to return to the routine of school.

Last month I provided some information to you regarding bus rules and safety. We are continuing to remind our students of expected bus behavior, as there seem to be some ongoing issues. As you know, we focus on establishing appropriate bus behaviors, and revisit these expectations throughout the year. Our main priority is to keep the children safe while riding to and from school. Our efforts are supported by the bus company and our drivers have always worked with us to help the student learn expectations. The bus drivers do their best to insure that your child is delivered safely door to door. They take their jobs very seriously, and their primary concern is to keep your child safe during the bus ride to and from school.

I'm hoping that you will take a few minutes at home to discuss the importance of bus safety with your child. We are reinforcing the following rules:

- **Use Inside Voices**
- **Stay in Seats**
- **Sit Facing Forward**
- **Back Packs Zipped and on Laps**
- **Keep Hands to Self**

- Keep Legs Forward

In addition, please remind your students that substitute bus drivers must be treated in the same manner as a full-time driver. It is very important that they understand that we follow these rules to stay safe and responsible on the bus.



As always, thank you for working with us! Have a safe, healthy, and hopefully snow-free March.

Patrice Liff, Assistant Principal



From the School Counselor:

At the beginning of the school year I mentioned that I would be using the Second Step Program, a researched based curriculum developed by the Committee for Children. Throughout the grade levels students are practicing the skills for learning. These skills include listening, ignoring distractions

and using our eyes, ears and brains to focus. When we are using whole body listening, we are being respectful learners. We have begun talking about the concept of empathy and noticing how others are feeling by looking for clues on faces, bodies and in situations. When children gain the ability to identify others' feelings, they are better able to develop empathy.

Last month our second graders also learned about the concept of "bucket filling". We read the book, "Have You Filled A Bucket Today?", by Carol McCloud. In the story we learn that each of us carries an invisible bucket. Our buckets get filled when we say or do kind things for others and when people are kind and thoughtful to us. However, when we aren't making good choices, we become "bucket dippers"; not only are we "dipping" into other peoples buckets but also, our bucket becomes less full. Students were reminded to start each day wondering how they can fill someone's bucket and at the end of the day to ask themselves, "Did I fill a bucket today?" It's a wonderful analogy for all of us to remember!

Nancy Stafford, School Counselor





From the Art Room...

Students enjoyed working with clay in the art room this month. For some students clay is the highlight of their year during art class. Students had the opportunity to manipulate and sculpt clay to create a 3-dimensional sculpture. The clay sculpture they created will be on display at our annual Arts Night on May 19<sup>th</sup> this year.

Students participated in a game called "The Coil Pot Building Game" in art class. Students were placed in groups and given an equal amount of clay. The high energy skill game incorporated teamwork and problem solving skills. The team with the tallest self standing sculpture won.

Students needed to develop strategies, work together, use problem solving skills, listen to each team member, and take on individual jobs as a sculptor.

Here are a few pictures from our exciting clay sculpting day in the art room!

*\*Team  
Building  
\*Problem  
Solving  
\*Sculpting  
Clay  
\*FUN!*

