

**SANDOWN NORTH
ELEMENTARY
NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2016**



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



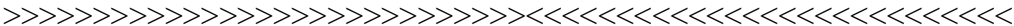
The winter season is drawing to a close and what a difference this year was from last year! Our students have had many opportunities to enjoy the fresh outdoor air during recess this year which they have so enjoyed. I want to take this opportunity to thank both our students and staff for taking a challenging situation and working together to make this the best possible year for all of us. The district continues to seek our input regarding our needs and together we are working to address concerns. Our older students have been most respectful, serving as role models and leaders with the younger students. Our Student Council has been working with Mr. Ciarla to bring fresh student-centered ideas to our school.

I must say that our students are not shy. It is not unusual for one of them to approach Mrs. Stafford or me to offer an opinion or an idea that has been on his/her mind. I thank the staff of Sandown North, each and every one of them, for creating an environment where young students feel protected, where older students know they have a respected voice, and where all students feel supported.

As you know, we take the safety of all very seriously. Our Emergency Response Team recently took the first part of a Federal Safety course together to be certain that we were using the correct vocabulary, the vocabulary that our responders would be using in the event of an emergency. Additionally, all best practices and the rationale were reviewed to be certain that we, in a school setting, understand why things are done the way that they are. The team will now be exploring part 2 of the learning, with a presenter from Homeland Security

joining us for the learning experience. We have clearly specified plans at school and strongly suggest that you have plans at home, especially back-up plans in the event that you are not at the bus stop for your child. Traffic and emergency situations may make you late one day. Please remember that students in grades 2-5 can be dropped off without a parent or adult being present. Your children should know what to do. Do they know where the key is and how to get into your home? Do they have a cell phone number or other way to reach you? Do they have a trusted neighbor whom they can contact? Is the school number posted so they can call us if they feel worried and can't reach you? Everybody's plans will probably be a little bit different but it is important that it is communicated clearly to your child. Hopefully, all will always go according to plan but in the event that it doesn't, we want to be sure that our students know just what to do.

All of our students should know that in the event of a true emergency in their home, when their safety or that of a family member is at risk, they should call 911. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.



Please remember to notify the front office when your child is going to be absent or tardy prior to the start of the school day.

At the beginning of each school day we account for each student's absence. Our priority is the safety of all students. If we do not hear from you, to assure that your child is safe, we will contact you to verify the absence. To do this in a timely manner, it is most important that you notify us before the school day begins.

Please call the attendance line. Notifying a teacher or the school nurse does not mean the information will be passed to the front office. We ask that you do not send e-mails as well.

We thank you for your support and hope you enjoy the month of March!





We all know the importance of family involvement for student learning success. This is why we are sharing our school's Mission Statement (our values), Vision Statement (our goals), Belief Statement, and District Literacy Belief Statement with you. When we all work together as partners to follow these statements, we are ensuring a learning environment where all can succeed.

Sandown North's Mission Statement

Sandown North challenges learners to succeed in a respectful environment.

Sandown North's Vision Statement

Sandown North will provide a safe, nurturing environment that fosters the development of confident learners. We will inspire life-long learners to: take risks, engage in critical thinking and creative problem solving, excel in captivating and rigorous learning experiences, and embrace challenges. We will ensure that each member of Sandown North has the skills and knowledge required to be successful students, practitioners, and community members.

Sandown North's Belief Statement

There are different kinds of success

We agree that...

- *A positive school culture is essential to learning.*
- *All students learn at different rates and in different ways.*
- *Professional learning should be job embedded and on-going.*
- *Individuality should be celebrated.*
- *A safe environment and well-maintained facility promote learning.*
- *All children can learn and want to learn.*
- *Students and staff members should feel successful*
- *Students learn best when educators and families work collaboratively.*

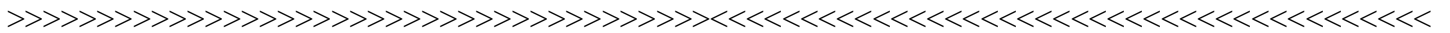
Timberlane School District Literacy Belief Statement

*Elementary educators believe that all learners can **Read like a Writer** and **Write like a Reader** by...*

- *Experiencing and celebrating the love for reading and writing.*
- *Hearing, sharing, and discussing stories and information.*
- *Engaging in a positive, judgement-free environment to build confidence.*
- *Reading and writing across content areas, and transferring knowledge.*
- *Using conversational seeds for analyzing, critiquing, and wondering about literature.*

- *Participating in literacy instruction that is guided by informed decision-making.*
- *Clearly communicating; expressing knowledge, thoughts, and opinions; and voicing needs and wants independently.*
- *Taking ownership and responsibility for synthesizing their learning.*
- *Building a network of strategic actions that foster creative thinking and allows for processing texts and conveying information.*
- *Being given many opportunities to practice and collaborate in order to strengthen perseverance and stamina.*

Everyone has a **story to tell**, and everyone has a **story to read**.



From the Assistant Principal

Beginning this month our students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will be taking the NH standardized Smarter Balanced Assessment. **It is important that your child is present and arrives to school on time. Testing will take place first thing in the morning beginning at 9:00am.** Students arriving late will not be allowed to join their classroom until after the session has been completed for the day and will make-up the test at a different time. Your cooperation and support is much appreciated.

Test dates are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Grade 4 | March 15th - March 25th |
| Grade 3 | March 28th - April 8th |
| Grade 5 | April 11th - April 22nd |

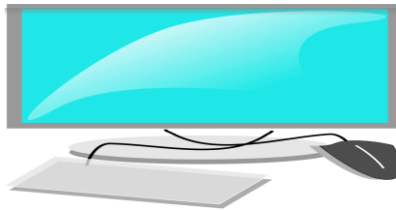
Make up days are built in to the schedule.

The following tips may help you prepare your child for the assessment:

- Explain the purpose of the test. Remind your child that this is not a test that a student can fail. It is an opportunity for students to show what they have learned in school.
- Be sure that your child gets plenty of sleep and has a nourishing breakfast and lunch.
- Send your child with a healthy snack and water bottle.
- Be sure your child is at school on time as we don't want students rushing and worrying about being late.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's classroom teacher, Mrs. Georgian or Mrs. Stafford.

Mrs. Stafford, Assistant Principal
nancy.stafford@timberlane.net

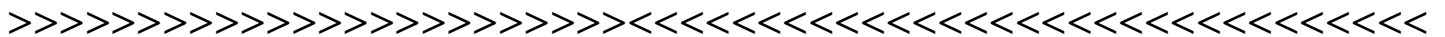


Technology

Students in grades 3-5 have begun work on a project called My Sandown North Journey. This project provides a framework for students to present their interests, record their accomplishments, and reflect on their learning experiences. The work collected through this project will serve as a portfolio and a portrait of the student.

Students are encouraged to add to their Journey document at home and at school. Students can access this work through their Google Drive. It would be great to see them adding content from school and extracurricular endeavors!

Justin Bentley-Melle, Technology Teacher



Sandown North 2016 Invention Celebration

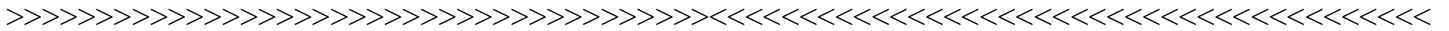


Our 2016 Invention Celebration was another huge success. We had over 40 inventions from grades 2-5 enter their inventions. The ideas were great! Thank you to all the parents who volunteered and helped to make the event a success.

On March 26th our four first place winners will enter their inventions at the NH State Invention Convention at Merrimack Valley High School in Penacook. All winners received medals for their winning inventions. First place winners won a \$25 gift card to the Dollar Tree store. I can't wait until next year's event!



Dave Ciarla, Enrichment Teacher



I'm excited to invite you to join the FREE 2015-16 Fisher Cats Reading Challenge, presented by Velcro USA Inc. **Sandown North Elementary** could win up to \$1,500 by encouraging our child to read at home!

This program challenges students to read five books outside of the normal curriculum during the school year to **earn two free baseball tickets** to a 2016 New Hampshire Fisher Cats game.

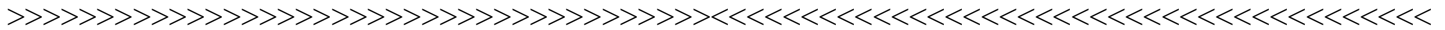
Here's how it works:

- ❖ Fill everything in on the bookmark that was send home before February break.
- ❖ Select the baseball game you would like to attend.
- ❖ Record five books you have read (picture books read as a family are also included), and **mail the completed form back to the Fisher Cats before March 18th**.

**NH Fisher Cats
Attn: Reading Challenge
1 Line Drive
Manchester, NH 03101**

- ❖ After the submission deadline, the Fisher Cats will send your free tickets for the chosen game. You can purchase more tickets if you wish.
- ❖ At the game, your family can join the team on the field for the National Anthem!
- ❖ Each Reading Challenge game will feature a fun theme, kids will be encouraged to dress up, and everyone will celebrate reading! Hope to see you at a game!

Happy Reading!
Diane Chauvette, Literacy Specialist



From the School Counselor



Welcome back!! I hope you and your family had a wonderful February vacation! I am excited to share some information with you about an upcoming presentation coming to the Timberlane School District this month:

Lynn Lyons Presents “Anxious Kids, Anxious Parents, Ways to Stop the Worry Cycle”

When: *Wednesday, March 23, 2016*

Time: *5-8 pm*

Where: *The Performing Arts Center, 40 Greenough Road, Plaistow, NH 03865*



The PTA is excited about all of our events for this month and we hope you will join in the fun!

We are starting off the month with a raffle for a
Disney Infinity Limited Edition Star Wars PlayStation 4 Bundle

*Raffle Tickets are \$5

*All tickets and money **must** be turned in by Monday, March 14th

Chairperson: Alanna Morcaldi, email alanna74@comcast.net

March 19th

PTA Pancake Breakfast

*8 – 11 am at Sandown Town Hall

*The winning ticket of the **PlayStation** raffle will be drawn

*The Easter Bunny will be visiting

We will need help with:

-Cooking 7 – 11 am (one hour shifts)

-Servers 8 - 11 am (one hour shifts)

-Coloring table helpers 8 – 11 am (one hour shifts)

-Griddles

-Chafing dishes

Chairperson: Heidi Chaput, email Heidi.chaput@timberlane.net

Co-chairperson: Amy Kuzdzal

April 8th

Father Daughter Dance

*6:30 – 8:30 pm at Sandown North

*The new theme will be: **Masquerade Ball**

We will need help with:

-Setup 4:30-6:30 pm

-Food table 6:30-8:30 pm

-Clean up 8:30 pm

-We are also looking for cupcake donations

Chairperson: Josee Archer, email josee@sparkcreative.com

If you would like to help with either event it would be greatly appreciated.

We hope to see you all there!

The Sandown PTA

