

# November

## Sandown North News



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

Last night was Pajama Literacy night and what fun we had! It was great to see many of our families here, enjoying a good story, browsing through some really good books and ending the evening with cookies, milk and camaraderie. Mrs. Diane Chauvette and Mrs. Laura McLaughlin look forward to this event every year and this one did not disappoint. The smiles on the children's faces show that this will continue to be an annual event. Special thanks are extended to Roger Barczak, a Sandown school committee member, for joining us and making the evening even more special.

So many people do so many things to make our school a great place to be. Once again, for the many devoted hours families spend volunteering, we have won the Blue Ribbon Award for Volunteerism. This is different from the National Blue Ribbon but important in that it speaks to staff and families working together, which is one of our goals. Thank you again for all you do. Mrs. Borbone, Mrs. Longchamps and Mrs. Liff will represent all of you at the celebration.

PTA members have been actively working to provide our children and families with fun activities. Children really enjoyed the Halloween Dance. They were able to safely enjoy the spirit of the day with their neighbors and friends, as did the adults. Thank you to all involved in making that evening a memorable one.

At our Professional Learning Committee meetings, we have been talking about ways that we can provide you with information or demonstrations that would be helpful to you. We know you want to support your children in their learning. Sometimes, when we provide a "one size fits all" kind of evening, the attendance is less than we thought it might be. We think it's because it wasn't something that was a priority for you and in these busy, highly scheduled days, you need to pick and choose what you will be doing. We want to make it valuable and worthwhile for you. I am thinking that a Principal's Coffee Hour may be the way to begin. I'm hoping that we can work together, first by chatting and, once we have a direction, planning together. We appreciate your completing the surveys and information sheets we send home, but having a chance to have conversations would be more of a give-and-take and would help us to support families in ways that are important to them.

I would like to schedule the first Principal's Coffee on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. I will provide the coffee and goodies so you can just come, chat, and relax. At the meeting, we will set other times so that more people can attend. If you are

interested in attending, and can't make this first meeting, please let the office staff know the time that would work for you so we can consider all suggested best times. Thanks in advance and I look forward to seeing you.



As the holiday season approaches, we think about all that makes us thankful. I am Thankful to be the Principal of Sandown North. Our community is so supportive in doing whatever it takes to help students and staff. Our children are truly STARS and so proud of all they do every day to be Safe, Trustworthy, Always respectful, and Responsible. When we go on field trips, we often hear how impressed people are with our children's behavior and ability to listen. When we invite guest speakers in, they, too, tell us they enjoyed themselves and would like to be invited back to be with our children again. I am thankful for being with such a respectful, inquisitive, kind group of children every day. How lucky are we as staff members?? Lastly, but so importantly, I am Thankful for the staff at Sandown North, every single individual member. Sometimes I wish we could record our conversations as I think you would be so pleased to hear how everyone problem solves with the children at the center of every decision. In my long career, I have never worked with such passionate, committed, educators who see no limits to what we can accomplish. Their positive attitudes contribute to a climate and culture that really does make anything possible. As their principal, I support all our leaders to take the next steps forward, as their energy and talents lead us to think about our practices and consider new, alternative, or just different approaches to our work. Is this best for the students? If

so, we can do it. That is the typical refrain. I am so thankful.

I wish you a nice Thanksgiving with family and friends.



## Technology News

If you have not had the opportunity to take a tour of learning.com with your child yet, I encourage you to do so. Your child will log in using his or her username and password. They will show you the different activities they have done and the activities available to them.

After logging in students see up to three class choices: Basic skill practice is titled with their grade level, the essential activities class is titled with their teacher's name, and extension activities class is titled Grade Level Extras! Students are expected to complete at least one essential activity per class before choosing basic skill practice or extension activities.

Please send me an e-mail if you need log-in information for Learning.com or any of the extension activities.

Regards,

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