

 **NOVEMBER 2015** 

# Sandown North News



*From the desk of  
JoAnn K. Georgian Principal*



I can't believe I am actually writing **November's** newsletter! The weather has been beautiful and the children are enjoying simply being outside together at recess. I hear that Kevin Skarupa, who visited Atkinson Academy this week, believes that this winter will mirror last winter. We will have mild weather through Christmas and then can expect snowstorms and harsh weather for January and February. The first reaction for most of us is a groan but really, how lucky are we in New England, to be able to experience fully the four beautiful seasons. This fall's color

has been nothing short of spectacular!!

As we work this year to meet our school and district goals, our staff members are working collaboratively and collegially. As with any organization or group, we are getting to know each other and developing trust. We have reconsidered the purpose of our committees and may have changed the focus depending on the needs of our learners from Grade 1-3. We have invited the Kindergarten teachers from TLC at Sandown Central to join us in our Professional Learning opportunities here at North. Our goal is to have Sandown North's student voice be represented by educators from each grade level and across all disciplines on each of our school's culture and performance committees. Our Leadership Team is helping us to move that forward in a supportive, cohesive manner.

As you know, this has been a most difficult month for us all as a school community. Christopher Chester, a fourth grader, lost his life suddenly a couple of weeks ago. His

absence continues to be felt by all of us, of course, but increasingly, children are wearing smiles as they share a warm memory with others. So many Thank You's need to be said and so many individuals still need to be acknowledged privately, but I need to tell you that, as a school community, the level of quiet support was incredible. I need to say a special thank you to Nancy Stafford, Mary Beth Sharp, and Kristin Clifford for their work on the Saturday we heard the sad news. I was out of town for most of that day, so they immediately went into action and took the first steps. Dr. Metzler, Mrs. Susan Rasicot, Mrs. Roxanne Wilson and Mrs. Louiselle were there to offer district support in any way that we determined would be helpful. I so appreciated that they understood our need to move forward with what we believed our staff and students would need and then to respond. Our Emergency/Crisis Team responded by meeting all morning on Sunday and then being here to support students, staff and families on Sunday afternoon. On Sunday and for the next couple of days, counselors from the Timberlane High School, Danville Elementary, and Pollard School worked with our students and staff. The team was led by Shayna McTeague, the School Psychologist from Atkinson

Academy, and supported by several members of our team. I tell you this to assure you that plans are in place in the event of a crisis such as this one. We thank those of you who also reached out in person or by phone in so many ways, and to let you know that we welcome your calls informing us of your concerns for your child. By working together, we can give our students what they need to process situations and to feel safe and comfortable in their school. Our thoughts continue to be with the Chester family in this most difficult time.

One again, thank you for working so closely with all of us and for truly being partners in your child's education.

Remember, you are always welcome to join us at Monday Morning Meetings at 8:45, to smile, as our students share their learning.



### **Daily Dismissal Changes**

Please remember to send daily dismissal change notes to school in the morning with your

child for a smooth transition at the end of his/her school day. We ask that you do not email attendance or dismissal changes. There is always the possibility of a staff member's absence or inability to check emails.

For an emergency change during the school day, please call the office at 887-8503.

### **Morning Parent Drop Off Time Frame**

Student drop off begins at 8:15. Please make every effort to ensure your child arrives at school by 8:25 as class begins at 8:30.

### **Enjoy November!**



### **Technology News**

This is a great time to take a digital tour of your child's technology work. Grade 1 and 2 students can show you what they have completed in Learning.com as well as the links available on the Learning.com Activities section. Grades 3-5 students can show off their

Digital Learning portfolios, Google Classroom Technology Projects, Google Drive documents, Learning.com progress, and MobyMax accomplishments.

Justin Bentley Melle  
Technology



### **Curriculum News**

I hesitate to write about Blizzard Bags when it is 65 degrees out in November; however, we are New Englanders and know that in a week things may look and feel very different! On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, students in grades 1 & 2, and students in grades 3-5 preferring paper copies, brought home their Blizzard Bag folders containing assignments for 2 possible days. Please keep the folder in a safe spot so that your child can easily access it if a Blizzard Bag day is called by Dr. Metzler. Students in grades 3-5 accessing their assignments online should have all practiced the procedures and know how to sign on to their Google Classrooms. If you have any questions, look for additional information on our website, [www.sandownnorth.com](http://www.sandownnorth.com) and scroll down to the bottom right hand side of the home page where you will find a blue box

that says "Online Learning and Blizzard Bag Information". There is a Frequently Asked Questions sheet with helpful information. You may also contact your child's teacher or me.

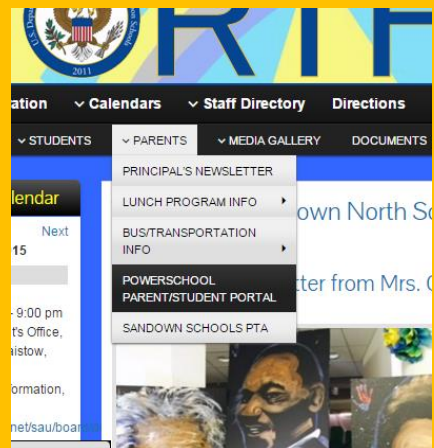
During our curriculum night in early October, I showed parents how to access the enVisions math program online. Our Technology teacher, Mr. Melle, has written up instructions to assist you in accessing this resource. I have included the instructions below. Next Tuesday is an early release day and many of you will be coming in for parent/teacher conferences. During that time, I will try and make myself available in the technology lab for those who would like to see how to access the math program. Mr. Melle will be in the lab for part of that day and will be available to assist you as well. Feel free to stop in to the tech lab either before or after your child's conference.

Nancy Stafford  
Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator  
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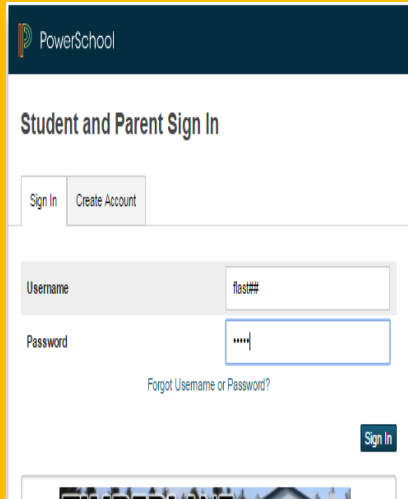


### Instructions for accessing Envision Math

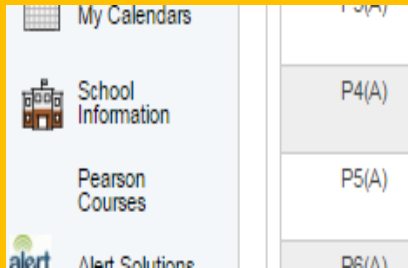
1. Go to [www.sandownnorth.com](http://www.sandownnorth.com)
2. Select the PowerSchool link under the Parents Link



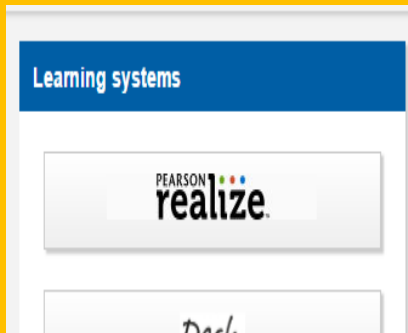
3. Enter the student's Timberlane username and password in the Sign In area.



4. Select the Pearson Courses link found on the left side of the window.



5. Select the realize link found on the right side of the window.



6. Envision is on the bottom left corner.



## Music News—November 2015

In general music, students have been working towards becoming more “tuneful, beatful, and artful” musicians. All classes have been enjoying songs about friendship and peace, as well as some sea-themed Beatles songs (Octopus’ Garden and Yellow Submarine) in anticipation of the school’s enrichment Day at the Coast in November.

Many students have enrolled in Sandown North’s band, strings, and chorus. These groups will present a winter concert on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the PAC at Timberlane Regional High School. More details regarding this concert will be sent home soon by Mr. Mainella and me. Also scheduled is the chorus’ performance of “America the Beautiful” on Sunday, January 17 at 3:00 at the

Manchester Monarchs' game and the Honors Band and Orchestra concert on Tuesday, December 15 at 6:15 PM at the PAC. Thank you to the supportive families of these fine musicians!

As always, please contact Mr. Mainella or me if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress in music class.

Musically yours,  
Mrs. Alison Yankowskas

