Sandown North News



The year is underway and staff members are working together to achieve our school goals. I want to share them with you as we are all on this journey together and we appreciate your perspective, input, and feedback.

Our goals for the 2013-2014 school year are the following:

- 1. By January 2014, the Leadership Team will develop data collection systems to and assess adapt instructional practices data response and educator feedback, measured by a completed data collection form.
- By June 2014, we will have established communication norms and procedures to optimize collaboration, as measured by 80% staff consensus.

- 3. By June 2014, teachers will make informed instructional decisions based on formative and summative data to accelerate student achievement by 5%. Pacing and instruction will be responsive to assessments.
- 4. By June 2014, students will partake in weekly experiences that engage multiple modes of learning, as measured by walk throughs and observations.

Our Leadership Team is the keeper of the goals, so to speak. They look at the action plan that accompanies each goal to determine next best steps to help us get there. They are not the only ones to work on the plan; all school staff members are responsible for the goals.

As we work this year, I will keep you informed as to where we are in achieving our goals. We will be surveying staff members and parents for input as well. Our direction is clear and we are excited about the possibilities.

It is so important that your children come to school every day, ready to learn. However, if your child is ill, we ask that you keep your child home. Please call the Attendance line to inform us that s/he is home ill. If we don't hear from you, we will have to call you to be sure that s/he is safe with an adult. If we can't reach you we do try to reach your emergency contacts, which causes them some worry. If we don't connect with anyone who knows the child's whereabouts, we do contact the Sandown Police and ask them to do a "well-check". As you can imagine, all of this takes time. We want to insure everyone's well-being, for sure, but if this whole process can be averted by a simple phone call, we would appreciate it. You can even call in the middle of the night and just leave the message. Lastly, Sandy Hodgkins, our Bus Coordinator, has asked me to remind you that there can be no trespassing on a school bus. Parents are not allowed to board a school bus for any reason. If you have a problem or concern, please contact Sandy directly at 382-6119, ext. 2229 or Mrs. Liff here at school, Please do

not talk to the driver directly about it. We will assist you as best we can.



Did you know that listening to music can help children learn to read? Listening to music, and singing along to the lyrics helps children practice and learn new words. It's a fun way to help strengthen the use of our language! Happy Singing!

Are you looking for a fun literacy activity to do at home? Here's one:

<u>Materials needed</u>: Six sheets of paper, color markers or pens, small scissors, old magazines, glue, hole punch, colored ribbons

Label each sheet of paper with a different color word (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple). Set out some magazines or catalogs. Look through these materials for pictures of different-colored items. Cut out pictures. Put all pictures that feature something red in one pile. Put all pictures that feature something orange in another pile, and continue to make picture piles for all colors. Then, paste the

pictures from each pile onto a piece of paper that is labeled with the name of the color. When the pages are full, punch holes along the side or top of each page and bind them together with colored ribbons. You can even help your child label each picture so they can read the book over and over again!

Happy Reading! Diane Chauvette, Literacy Specialist



From the School Counselor

As part of our school counseling program I spend time each month in each of the classrooms. The theme for all of the grades will focus on 3 Feelings, Friendship and Bullying. One of the resources I use for my quidance lessons is the Second Step Program, a researched based curriculum developed by the Committee for Children. particularly excited to be using the program this year as it was recently updated. Throughout the year, your child will be bringing home Home Links that go with some of the Second Step lessons. The Home Links provide fun activities you may do with your child and also are a way for your child to share what he or she knows. The Second

program teaches skills in the following 4 areas:

- 1. Skills for Learning:
 Students will learn about listening, paying attention, how to stay on task and how to ask for help.
- 2. Empathy: Students learn to identify and understand their own feelings and the feelings of others. They will learn about understanding others' points of view and how to show compassion.
- 3. Emotion Management:
 Students learn specific skills
 for calming down when
 feeling sad, angry or anxious.
- 4. **Problem Solving:** Students learn a process for solving conflicts with others in a positive way.

This program is a natural fit with our Star Quest program. I am proud of how well the children understand and use the concept of our STAR - Safe, Trustworthy, Always respectful & Responsible, both in the classroom and throughout the school.

If you have any questions about Second Step, Star Quest or the Guidance program in general, please feel free to contact me.

Nancy Stafford, School Counselor 887-8505 x317

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McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

During difficult financial times many families may find themselves in unique living arrangements. You may find the following information useful

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act addresses the problems of homelessness and education. Under this program schools must ensure that homeless children have equal access to the free, appropriate public education as other children. The McKinney-Vento Act defines "homeless children and youth" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

- Children and youth who are: sharing the housing of other
 persons due to loss of
 housing, economic hardship,
 or a similar reason
 (sometimes referred to as
 doubled-up);
 - living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
 - living in emergency or transitional shelters:

- abandoned in hospitals; or
- awaiting foster care placement;
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

If you are homeless, your child may still attend the school he/she does now and will be eligible to receive services such as the free lunch program.

As the school counselor, I am the building coordinator for homeless students. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Nancy Stafford School Counselor 887-8505 x317

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For a list of local resources please visit: http://www.Home4Hope.com



It was a pleasure to meet parents and students at the Sandown North Open House in August. Thank you all for the warm welcome to your school! I am honored and delighted to be your child's music teacher. In addition to teaching general music classes to students in grades 1-3, I also direct the third grade string classes. My deepest appreciation goes out to music colleagues and predecessors Mrs. Susan Quigley and Mrs. Marjorie Nelson for the strong musical foundation that they have given our young musicians in the past.

Here is what the students have done already this past month in music class:

In <u>general music</u>, students are learning and demonstrating different ways to use their voice: singing, speaking, and whispering. They realize that a "playground" voice is a better choice for outdoor, rather than indoor, activities. The students also learned to sing "hello" in many different languages. In 1st and 2nd grade, I presented the nursery rhyme, "Jack Be Nimble," to

the students as a chant, skipping game, and instrumental piece. We also reviewed a few favorite rhymes and will continue to use some of these as themes for future lessons. In Grade 3, the students learned and practiced a hand-clapping game to the song, "Long-Legged Sailor." The third graders were respectful and followed my directions for working in pairs and then sharing their variations for the hand-clapping pattern. Some classes have already learned Orff accompaniment on the instruments for this piece. I am so proud of their excellent behavior and creative efforts!

The string classes are off to a great start! 18 third graders are enrolled in string classes this fall. Many of them began back in June with several large group lessons. Some students continued their studies throughout the summer by attending a few semi-private lessons. In class this past month, I have been reviewing material and proper rest and playing positions. We will begin to work on new techniques and repertoire for our Winter Concert, which is scheduled for Monday, January 13, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Timberlane Performing Arts Center This concert includes (PAC). Sandown Central's performing groups: band, strings, and chorus. Please encourage your child to practice at least 4-5 times during the week to reinforce concepts and

pieces learned in class. Having a regularly scheduled time and a quiet, convenient area at home to practice helps to make sessions more focused.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to a great year at Sandown Central!

Musically yours,
Mrs. Alison Yankowskas
Alison. Yankowskas@timberlane.net



The Nurse's Office

Well, flu season is now upon us now. Please make sure that you are teaching your child about the importance of washing his/her hands and coughing/sneezing/ blowing his/her noses nose into a tissue. Not spreading germs also applies to those trying to help. If you see a tissue on the floor, remember the motto, "If it's wet and it's not yours, Don't Touch It!" If you do, wash your hands!

When you call your child in sick to school, please tell us his/her symptoms, especially if it is a fever, cough and/or a sore throat. Remember, to have yourself and your child get the Flu vaccine.

There are so many ways to be get it now that make it easy.

Also, please remember to keep your child home for at least 24 hours after he/she no longer has symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea or fever (over 100F). That means without taking medication to control symptoms. This helps children fully recover and prevents others from getting sick too.

Mrs. Mary Beth Sharp



Extended online shopping for Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Have friends and family shop online @ www.yankeecandlefunraising.com. Click on the 'Seller Login' button and fill out the 'Sign up to be a Seller' form; use group number below to register. Online shopping will be open through December 31, 2013 and candles will be shipped to your house. A great last minute gift and still support the school. School Group Number is 99878043.

Thanks