

October 2014

Sandown North News



*From the desk of
JoAnn H. Georgian, Principal*



Don't you just love this time of year in New Hampshire? The colors are becoming more vivid and the air feels so crisp and clean. (Of course, I won't mention the Patriots' game last night. ☺) As the mornings get cooler and the days don't warmup the way they have been, your children will need a jacket. Sometimes their wait at the bus stop is a little longer than expected and then they do go outdoors for lunch recess so they need just a little something to not feel chilled. Please remind them to put on a sweatshirt, sweater, or jacket when they are leaving your home in the morning.



It's important that children feel comfortable while waiting for the bus, and it is even more important that they be safe while **on** the bus. I have received many reports from bus drivers telling us that the children are not being safe on the bus. Some of them are on newer busses with higher seats and I think that since it's more difficult to talk to children around them, they are literally standing or trying to kneel on the seat while the bus is in motion. Young children do get excited and may forget the rules, but my concern is that, when spoken to and reminded by the driver, some are not listening. We also have had more "hands-on" with our younger students than is typical. I ask that you remind your children that they need to stay seated with their belongings in their backpacks and that they must keep their hands to themselves. If they do those three things, we will be in good shape. Also, I would appreciate it if you would make it clear that

the bus driver is in charge of their safety and they must listen when s/he speaks. Sandown North Stars strive to be safe and they work to be Respectful. This is expected when they are riding on the bus as well. I did speak to them at Monday Morning Meeting this week about staying safe and ensuring the safety of others. If the bus driver has to keep pulling off the road to speak to them, it makes the ride that much longer and frankly, more unpleasant. Please remind your children of the expectations and, if necessary, Mrs. Liff and I will be speaking individually to those children who need to understand the importance of a pleasant bus ride to and from school. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.



Chief Gordon spoke to our students at Monday Morning Meeting this week, reviewing the importance of buckling up. He had a chart and had some student's measure themselves against the chart to give a visual of the height of a child who needs to sit on a booster seat. You might be surprised but children under four feet, nine inches and forty to one hundred pounds should use a booster seat with a lap and shoulder

belt until they are between eight and twelve years old, more than eighty pounds and four feet, nine inches tall. He emphasized that children must remain buckled until the car comes to a complete stop with no arms or heads out the window. Remember, at this age, all our children must be sitting in the backseat with their belt on. He also reminded parents and staff that our school is in a residential neighborhood and the speed limit on Stagecoach Road is 25 miles per hour. Periodically, our neighbors will inform Chief Gordon that adults are speeding on their road and request his assistance. They are concerned for their safety, as you can imagine, and ask that we obey the rules on their road.

We have had so much fun with literacy activities this year. In honor of Peter Reynolds's book, **The Dot**, we all wore dots one day and in honor of International Pirate Literacy Day, we dressed as pirates, spoke like pirates (arrrrr is all I know) and read pirate books. What fun! Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. Chauvette, and I had a meeting that afternoon at the SAU and thought of changing, and then thought, "No! Let's step out of our comfort zone and just have fun!" The children need to see that "yes, learning is hard work but is fun and rewarding as well".



I want to thank PTA for our most recent event, the ice cream social. PTA members work hard to provide our children and families with fun, simple get togethers to help us bond into a close knit community and we thank them for their efforts. Consider joining us at our monthly meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. We rotate the meetings between here and Central; we will let you know the location of the meeting for the following month. The one on October 8th is here at North in the library at 6:30. We are so lucky to work in and/or live in such a supportive community!



Dear Families:

I want to say, ***“Thank you, thank you, thank you!”*** Sandown North's Book Exchange Program continues to be a huge success! Your constant book donations allow us to bring literacy into the homes of our students. Books are very expensive, so Sandown

North wants to make sure that families have lots of literacy opportunities during these trying economic times. Our hope is for you to encourage the love for reading at home so your child can grow in to a life-long reader. When your child comes home with a book from the exchange program, celebrate his/her choice and read with him/her. If you notice that your child is no longer interested in the books brought home, encourage him/her to return the books for new ones. We want to keep a constant supply of books for all. Let me explain how the program works for our new families:

When you want some books to read at home, go to the blue Book Exchange bookshelf located across from the office. Pick a few books to take home to read and enjoy with family members. When you want different books, return the previously borrowed books to the bookshelf and choose new ones. You can come after school with your child to pick out books, or your child can choose books on their own at school.



If you have any children's books you would like to donate to this program, please bring them to the office labeled with your child's **full name**. When students make book donations, they are recognized at Monday Morning Meetings. Picture books are the best, but we also distribute simple chapter books.

Happy Reading!
Diane Chauvette, Literacy Specialist



Curriculum and Other News

The students and staff are really getting into the routine of learning. We are already entering the 6th week of school – the year is flying by! Below are a few important things for you to know.

Focus on STAR Assessments:

All students in the Timberlane Regional School District have

participated in beginning of the year benchmark testing using the STAR assessment system. STAR is a product of Renaissance Learning. The tests are computer-adaptive and normed to give accurate information in the areas of Early Literacy, Reading and Mathematics. They are designed in a manner that will provide classroom teachers and interventionists with the most accurate information possible about each child's learning level. We will be using the information gathered from the testing to plan and implement instruction that will meet the needs of all learners at their individual level.

Our staff is currently involved in professional development activities that will help us to understand each report and how it translates to student learning. Teachers will be sharing the first benchmark information with you at parent-teacher conferences in November. During the school year, our staff will continue to monitor the progress of your child in the areas of literacy and math, and as we learn more about STAR, we will share our learning with you.

Parents Right to Know:

In response to regulations set by the New Hampshire Department

of Education and the United State Department of Education, we are required to notify you of our staff's highly qualified status. All teachers, Title I Tutors, and support staff at Sandown North Elementary School meet these requirements and are highly qualified to teach. We are also required to inform you that parents have the right to request information regarding their child's performance level in the classroom or from Title I. Any parent of an English language proficient student has the right to withdraw his/her child from English language instruction. If you have any questions about these regulations, please contact me at the school.

Patrice Liff, Assistant
Principal/Curriculum
Coordinator



From the Art Room...

We are pleased to announce that we will be running the Original Works of Art Fundraising Program at Sandown North School this fall.

Original Works is the #1 art based fundraising company in the country, and currently works with thousands of schools and hundreds of thousands of students each year.

Through the Original Works program, each child will have the opportunity to have their very own artwork reproduced onto a variety of high quality products. The products range from magnets, mugs and mouse pads, to ceramic tiles, t-shirts, note cards and nearly two dozen other products.

Each child is eligible to participate in this wonderful program. Once the artwork is created, parents and children will have the opportunity to select which product or products they would like to feature their artwork. The program is designed to encourage creativity and student self-esteem. The resulting products make unique gifts that are practical for any season or occasion.

Complete details on the program will be sent home shortly. Proceeds from the program will be used for art materials in the art room. For more information on Original Works please visit their website at www.originalworks.com

Any questions please email Mrs. Lenihan at Allison.Lenihan@timberlane.net



Music News—Sandown North

Submitted by Mrs. Alison Yankowskas

In all music classes this past month, students have been working on skills that will help them to become independent music makers. They have learned some techniques to develop their singing voices, such as echoing slide whistle sounds and doing whiny dog (“Bobo”) warm-ups. I have been singing various echo songs with the students, including “My Aunt Came Back” and “No More Pie.” The younger children learned a simple song, “Frog in the Meadow,” and have practiced keeping steady beats through movement and playing rhythm instruments. A new element in music class this year is our “Move It” segment, which is expressive movement to classical music. Students have experienced moving to the music of such composers as Brahms, Satie, and Prokofiev. Additionally, third graders have

been working on folk dancing and can perform three dances already!

String classes have been in session for several weeks already. One of the challenges of playing a new instrument is to carve out practice time to reinforce skills learned in class. Please support your child’s musical endeavors by helping him or her schedule a time and place each day to practice. The string students are learning their first “real” pieces now. Ask your child to share one with you.

Please contact me at Alison.Yankowskas@timberlane.net if you have any questions or concerns about your child’s progress in music class.





Interested in being a substitute?

The Timberlane Regional School District is in need of classroom substitutes! If you are interested, please call Grace Morgan at the Superintendent's office at 603-382-6119 ext. 2214.

From the School Counselor

During these 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 same 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 can 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 at the number below or Susan Rasicot, Director of Student Services, at the SAU, 382-6119.

Nancy Stafford
School Counselor
887-8505 x317
nancy.stafford@timberlane.net

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



Technology News

Students have been making great progress in their use of Google Apps for Education. Our first, second and third graders have been able to log into their accounts, create folders, upload documents, and link to key learning programs. This

promises to be a great platform for collaborative class work. Third graders are starting to add to their online portfolios. In time, your child should be able to log-in from home, and show you their stored work. Please also check out Learning.com and MobyMax with your child. We encourage students to work independently on these two programs at home and at school.