

October 2015

Sandown North News



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



The 2015-2016 school year is in full swing. The children are engaged in their learning with smiles on their faces; there's a productive buzz. All our students are working hard to be STARS: Safe, Trustworthy, Always Respectful and Responsible. They are currently working on transitioning from one activity to another or one location to another, with little or no loss of instructional time. The goal is the same but the expectations at each grade level may look a little different.

The consolidation of the two schools has brought a few new challenges but so many more

positives. Older students naturally are helping younger children on the bus, in the halls, in the library, wherever and whenever they can. As adults, we are happy to hear the voices of the teachers of the older students as we make adjustments to our procedures and routines. The collaboration and camaraderie amongst all staff members has brightened the building and caused us all to look more closely at our own practices.

We had our first official Monday Morning Meeting last week. Both the Leadership team members and the Universal team members talked last spring, this summer, and this fall. The decision made by all team members was that it was important for all grades to attend the meeting. We are a community of learners celebrating each other's successes. We decided, though, that we needed to consider the developmental needs of all students at the various grade levels and made some

adjustments. Just this morning, at the Universal team meeting, we looked again at ways to get all the students into the gym/cafeteria more efficiently. The collaboration and sharing of ideas at all team meetings and grade level meetings is highly respectful and leads to positive change.

The Emergency Response team is looking at all of our systems for emergency drills now that we have more students in the building and more of the rooms are classrooms. We look at systems both inside and outside the building. With that in mind, I need to ask you to observe the speed limit and to drive carefully as you approach the school on Stagecoach Drive. I have heard from our neighbors that drivers are definitely exceeding the 20mph speed limit. In addition, please know that you cannot drive down in front of the school when busses are due to arrive. The signs on the property are too small and easily missed so we have ordered larger ones but I thought it would be helpful to tell you that no cars can drive down the front driveway from 7:45 - 8:30 and from 2:45 - 3:30. These times are reserved for busses ONLY. I appreciate your

cooperation in following the procedures that keep all of our students safe. I totally understand that when you have a commitment after school, it can be tough to get in and out of our site. However, I am pleased to tell you that, most days, dismissal of all students, whether in cars or on busses, occurs in 15 minutes from the time of the first announcement for dismissal until all vehicles are off the property. Clearly the processes are firmly in place that allow us to dismiss 350 students in 15 minutes and I thank everyone for working together to make it happen.

Enjoy this beautiful fall!



Technology News September 2015

Our students are off to a strong start in technology. They are learning about and learning through our technology

resources. Students are working to meet the following goals.

- Learning.com: Develop technology skills by completing at least three tutorials each month.
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- MobyMax.com: Practice math, literacy, and science skills a few times each week.
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- Digital Learning Portfolios (Google Drive): Add at least one momento each week starting in October.

Students can also find extension projects in their Google Classroom Technology class. Other online learning tools can be found in the Sandown North Library Destiny page and in the Activities class on Learning.com

Throughout the year I will be talking with students about digital citizenship. They are expected to be Safe, Trustworthy, Always respectful, and Responsible with technology. They will treat equipment with care, treat others with kindness, and seek parent and teacher guidance. Specifically, students need to inform parents or

teachers before new websites are used or personal information is shared.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to extend learning and access to creative tools through technology.

Justin Bentley-Melle
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YOU ARE INVITED!



The Sandown PTA is hosting a

HALLOWEEN PARTY

at the
Sandown Town Hall
On **Saturday, October 31st**

TLC, Pre-K , Kindergarten and
First Grade Students
12:30 - 2:00

Second Grade through Fifth
Grade Students
2:30 - 4:00

Games! Prizes! 50/50 Raffle!

- Bring your own pumpkin for decorating
- Costumes encouraged
- \$3 admission per child
- Parent must accompany child, no drop offs
- If you have children in different grades, please feel free to come at the time which is best for you.

If you would like to help, or make an item for the baked goods table, please email PamMcGraveypta@gmail.com



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. Our hope is 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 tan 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 previous 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 gently used children 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 chapter books.

Happy Reading!

Diane Chauvette, Literacy Specialist



From the Art Room...

All of our students at Sandown North were very lucky to have the opportunity to work with the artist in residence, Rob Surette. The children were very excited to meet Rob and excited to work with him. Each student had the opportunity to add 10+ crayons to the community art project for our school. Rob told the students, "You might think this little part means nothing, but it does! You all are working together as a group to help create a masterpiece for our school community!"

The masterpiece Rob created with the children is going to be made up of 23,000 crayons when finished. When you stand close the piece of art you will see tiny dots of colors. When you stand far away from the artwork, you will be able to see the image.

Another exciting piece about this project is the students had no idea what we were making with the crayons. There have been some fun guesses on what the image will be, no one has guessed the correct answer yet!

Rob is currently working on finishing the masterpiece for our school. We will be having an all school assembly very soon to unveil the finished piece of art! How exciting!

Rob Surette has a website (www.amazingheroart.com) check it out!





News from the Transition Team:
Last spring, from the recommendations of the consolidation committee, a Transition team was formed, consisting of staff and parents. The team met several times last spring and began meeting again in the fall. The charge of the Transition team was to look at the transition and consolidation of the 2 schools from the point of views of students, staff and families. The 3 main areas we have been focused on are arrival/dismissal procedures,

facilities and the day to day operation of the school. The Transition team brought suggestions and concerns raised to the appropriate Sandown North Teams already in place as well as to the SAU and continues to communicate with these teams. This Thursday, at the October 1st school board meeting some of the committee members presented an update. The Transition team appreciates all of the input we have received from parents, staff and students. We are pleased with the feedback and encourage ongoing communication as we continue working to improve all of our systems. The team will meet throughout the school year and will update you regarding any changes. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the transition, please contact Nancy Stafford, Chairperson of the Transition Team at nancy.stafford@timberlane.net or 887-8505 x7500.



Music Department News— September 2015

"Peace, Love, and Music" is the message on the music room wall and the theme of many of our general music classes. All students have been learning songs about peace and friendship that we hope to share at some of our Monday Morning Meetings this year.

We welcome Mr. John Mainella, one of our district's esteemed music educators, to Sandown North. Mr. Mainella teaches band to students in grades 4 and 5. Many of our older students have elected to participate in band, strings, and chorus this year. If you have any questions about our music program at Sandown North and/or your child's progress in class, please feel free to contact either me or Mr. Mainella.

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John.Mainella@timberlane.net

Curriculum News:

BLIZZARD BAG INFORMATION

Again this school year, our district will implement Online Learning/Blizzard Bags to be used during a day when inclement weather causes school to be cancelled. Next week students will be practicing Blizzard Bag procedures. Grade 1 and Grade 2 students will bring home a practice lesson. Later in October, they will be bringing home blue Blizzard Bag folders with Blizzard Bag assignments for 2 days. Grades 3, 4 & 5 students with computer access will complete lessons online using Google Classroom. Instructions are included in this newsletter and may also be accessed from our school website, sandownnorth.com. Click on the blue link on the right that says "online learning and blizzard bag information".

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.

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 and Title I Tutors 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.

Nancy Stafford

Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

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