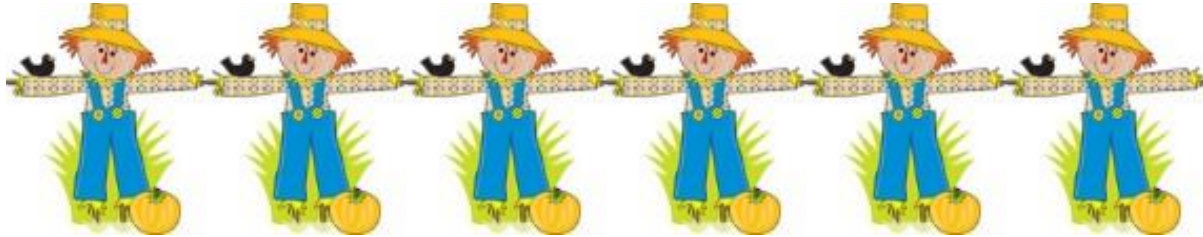


# SANDOWN NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# OCTOBER 2016

## NEWSLETTER



**FROM THE DESK OF JO-ANN GEORGIAN, PRINCIPAL**

November is the month when we give thanks for all that we have, including our health, family, and friendships, to name a few. As the Principal of Sandown North, I am so thankful to work with colleagues who come to school each day to do what is best for our students. They plan lessons that teach the curriculum to all, while at the same time, differentiating to meet the needs of individuals. They instruct in a way that is most likely to lead to maximum growth for each child; they teach in an engaging, challenging manner while always offering the scaffolding needed. ALL staff members collaborate to help all students access the curriculum so they are successful in their learning and social interactions. The respectful environments for allow our children to feel comfortable to take risks in their learning, leading to continued and accelerated growth. Each member of our staff takes his/her professional responsibilities very seriously. As a member of various committees in our school, I am impressed with the high level of discussion I hear, with the questions posed and the willingness to learn more to be able to answer the questions. All staff members have created a culture of inquiry and learning that leads to growth for students and staff members alike, and for that I am sincerely thankful.

We could not accomplish all that we do without the support of our Sandown North community: parents, families, and community members. Last week I was fortunate to be able to celebrate our Blue Ribbon for Volunteerism award at a breakfast in Manchester with Kristen Gondolfo, our Parent Volunteer Coordinator, and Pamella Pitman, our PTA President. These women, along with many others, give so much of their time and energy to make our school a place where families feel welcome and are willing to work with us to make our school an even better place to be. Whenever

we reach out for assistance, our families respond. We are all so appreciative and love seeing you at Monday Morning Meeting to celebrate our learners.

Chief Gordon and Chief Topley work closely with us to help our students understand that they are there to help students and to educate them as well. We all want to remind you that our children need to know and understand your family's plans in the event of an emergency. If there should be a fire in your home, children need to know the plan for escape. Chief Topley shared that deaths are more likely to occur in the home than in the school because children panic in their homes. They may hide or crouch down in panic and not act. We practice fire drills almost monthly so they know just what to do and respond right away at the sound of the alarm. Also, please be sure that your child knows what to do if s/he comes home and you are not there. Our young children are not dropped off if an adult is not visible; our bus drivers do their best to ensure safety, always, but children should know what to do in the event that all does not go according to plan. Please take the time to review possible situations with your children so they will not panic, but instead will know what to do and will feel empowered, not afraid.

I have said this for years, but especially at this time of year and especially this year, I need to repeat that we, in the Sandown North community, are so lucky to work together to benefit our students. I appreciate that you are willing to work together to brainstorm ways we can meet the needs of our students. I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving.....and a fun Halloween, too.



For the past few weeks students have been working on their playground behaviors. We continue to be safe by using the equipment properly and walking near equipment. Students are showing they are trustworthy by returning found objects and following playground rules. They are sure to include others in games and take turns and share. Please help reinforce these STAR behaviors when your child is playing with others.



## **Curriculum News!**

Last week, 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. I have attached instructions to the newsletter as well. 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. I also wanted to remind parents that you may access our Envisions math program online. Here you will find additional information, games and videos that will help support your student’s learning. Below are the instructions:

#### Instructions for Accessing Envision Math Online

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 under “programs”.



The PTA would like to extend a warm welcome to our new board members, Jessica O’Beirne (Treasurer) and Priscilla Despres (Assistant Treasurer). We are very excited to be working with these two ladies!

The PTA hosted our annual Bingo for Books on October 21<sup>st</sup> with a Halloween twist! We thank you for the book and raffle basket donations; we can’t do it without you! We had a great time and hope everyone enjoyed themselves!

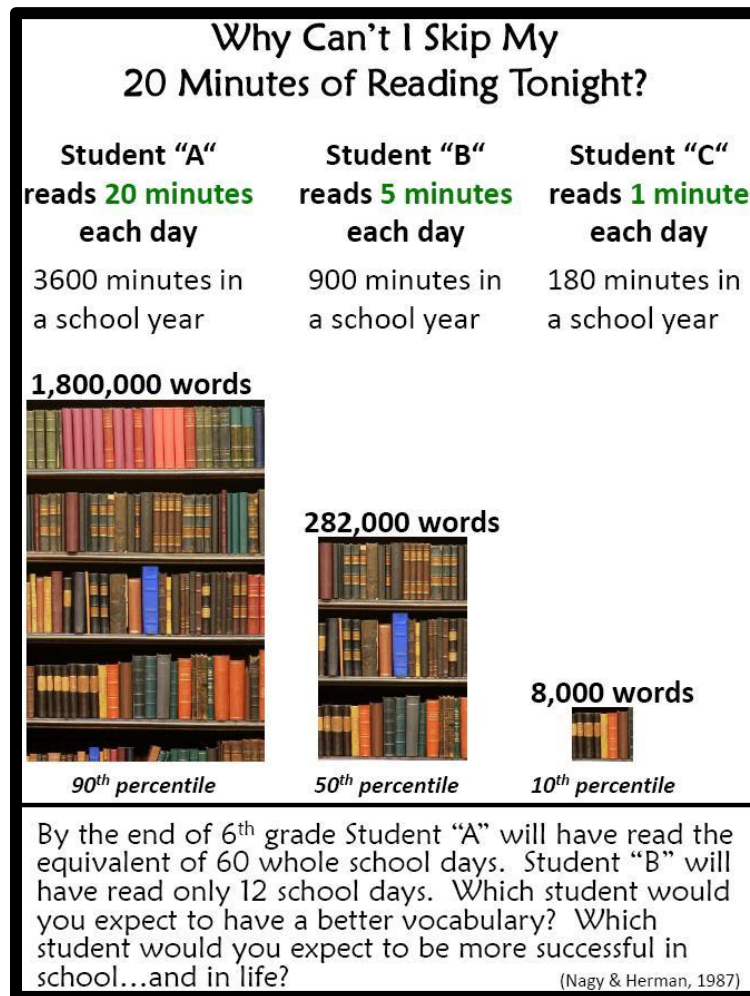
During the month of November we will not host any PTA events, but will continue planning for some great fun coming up in the month of December! Hard to believe we are talking about December already!

Please join us at our next meeting, which will be held on Weds. November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Sandown North. We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and hope you enjoy the beginning of this holiday season with your loved ones. We are thankful for your continued support and dedication to our schools and children.

See you on November 9<sup>th</sup>!

Ashley Smith

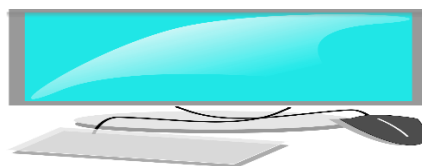
## Literacy News!



***Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body!"***

**Happy Reading**

Diane Chauvette, Literacy Specialist



## Technology News!

Our technology program continues to support the learning needs of our students by providing them access to and instruction for tools that build skills, feed curiosity, and enable creativity. Our first and second graders are learning how to save and access files as they build projects. They are also pacing their learning on MobyMax and Learning.com. Students in grades three through five have been learning to add to their digital learning portfolios. They are also learning to provide source citations

as they add to their US history fact pages. Other programs of recent interest to students include Light Bot, Typing Club, and Brain Pop.



### **Music News!**

Rehearsals for band, strings, and chorus are in full swing already at Sandown North! One tool that Mr. Mainella and I have implemented for our instrumental students this year is a reflection form--based on our school's STAR expectations--for students to complete at every lesson. Students are held accountable for their learning at home and at school, which helps them to be more successful musicians. We are looking forward to performing for you at the Sandown North Winter Concert on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at the PAC.

Students in general music work towards being STARS as well as "tuneful, beatful, and artful" musicians. The Golden Instrument is awarded each week to classes that demonstrate these qualities. Classes that earned the Golden Instrument for the entire month of September are:

Mrs. Difeo, Mrs. Douglas, Miss Low, Mrs. Vanderhoof, Mrs. Warwick, Ms. St. Hilaire, Ms. Perry, and Mr. Stone. Congratulations!

Please feel free to contact me or Mr. Mainella if you have any questions about your child's progress in music.

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Thank you for your support of your young musician(s)!

Musically yours,

Alison Yankowskas