

December

Sandown North News



*From the desk of
JoAnn K. Georgian Principal*

The Kindness tree is up and the wreaths are on the building so....it must be December! It feels as if we just greeted your children for the start of a new school year but when I look closely at the children, it is clear how much they have grown as independent, careful learners. We have the best job in the world because we get to see growth on a daily basis and the look in their eyes when "Eureka! I've got it!" moments hit. They are so excited to share their learning.

Last week we practiced our most complex drill yet, our offsite evacuation. I explained to the children that we would leave the building if, say, a skunk came in and sprayed so that we couldn't stay here and smell that strong odor. There could be other, more pressing reasons, of course, but I wanted to give them an example that made sense to younger children. We do evacuate to Chester in the event of an emergency so that is where we went. Chief Gordon likes that site for us because in the event of a town emergency, we would not be contributing to traffic by heading into town, but rather we would be safer by heading out of town.

Whenever we do a drill, staff members give us feedback as to what they saw and how it went, and then offer input as to how it can be made better. It did take 45 minutes for all our buses to be loaded and that's too long, especially if it's cold. The bus company saw this as a learning experience for them as well and have adjusted their procedures to better meet our needs. We appreciate that. The other glitches were just that, minor changes that we can make to have a more seamless flow.

In the event of a true emergency, your children would be sent home from Chester Town Hall. Some parents may opt to pick their child up there which is possible and we have a dismissal station set up. What is not possible is to come here to school to pick your child up. It is imperative that all children are accounted for here and quickly taken off campus with us. We cannot stop to get individual children to be dismissed as that would be chaotic and cause angst. Chief Gordon has worked on our plans with us and will have police officers stationed here, denying access to our facility. You would receive an Alert Now message telling you that we are evacuating so that will remind you that we are in Chester. Our plans are designed to assure the safety and comfort of all and although sometimes they may seem inconvenient for you, as an individual, know that we always have to think of the whole and then try to work with individuals. We appreciate your cooperation, as always.

I need to give a huge Shout Out and Thank You to Cathy Daenz, Kindergarten teacher,

and Mary Beth Sharp, School Nurse, for chairing the Emergency Response Team. This process took countless hours of preparation and, as you can imagine, is a rather thankless job. People do appreciate it but don't see all that it involves so I wanted to take this opportunity to thank them and the rest of the team for doing so much to ensure our safety.

We will be celebrating the holiday season and the children's success as STARS before the holiday break. Our children are amazing. We recently had guests from the Beaver Meadow School in Concord. They are thinking of beginning their work with PBIS and it was suggested that they visit us. They had lots of great questions, causing us to reflect on our practices, which is always a good thing. The principal sent me an email after their visit telling us how much they enjoyed "our wonderful school". Hopefully we will be able to be a resource for them as they begin their work.

I wish you a joyous holiday season. The smiles on the children's faces light up our days as I am sure they do yours.



Curriculum and Other News

Happy holidays to all! The students and staff will be busy completing many activities before the holiday break. It is a great time of year, but a busy time of year.

Focus on the Common Core:

One activity keeping the staff busy is an ongoing activity comparing our current instructional activities and state standards with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). As mentioned before, we are in transition to the usage of the Common

Core Standards that the majority of states have chosen to adopt. We are examining the standards and making notations when our practices and the CCSS appear to differ. The CCSS generally maintain higher standards and are stated in a manner that helps direct how the standard could be assessed. It is good work that will continue throughout the school year. Some of the information developed will guide our usage of certain materials and determine if our chosen programs meet the CCSS expectations. Emphasis is being given to the reading, writing and math pilot programs currently in use. Much of the professional development being planned for this school year will focus on CCSS and the student expectations teachers should establish in their practices.

News from Title I:

In January, we will be hosting an informative gathering at the school for all Title I parents. As you know, Title I is a federally funded program that promotes literacy development in young children. Children who participate are assessed in various areas of literacy development several times a year. Title I is a supplemental reading program that supports classroom instruction, and is provided during a time that does not interfere with the classroom reading curriculum.

If your child currently participates in Title I, you are invited to join Mrs. Tubbs, our Title I Tutor, Mrs. Chauvette, our Literacy Specialist, and Mrs. McLaughlin, our Media Specialist on Wednesday, January 9 from 3:45-4:45 to learn about our program and how to access our online resource "Destiny" at home. Please RSVP to 887-8503, extension 307 by January 2nd if you will be in attendance.

Remembering Playground Safety:

Winter weather is right around the corner. The children continue to play outside at recess during the winter months. It is important to all staff that our students continue to have fun during the winter months. Here are a few reminders to talk about at home. The safety of your children on the playground is most important. Recently, our staff reviewed the winter playground rules and we have talked about them with students. Ice buildup causes slippery conditions on some of the playground structures, and throwing and pushing snow can result in unintentional injuries. We have reminded the children of ways to stay safe and still have fun in the snow.

Dressing for Winter Fun: We do take the children out for recess unless it is dangerously cold. Please make sure your child dresses appropriately with coat, hat, gloves or mittens, snow pants and boots. Unfortunately, if children come unprepared, we are unable to let them go outside.

Fun without Using the Equipment: Students can still have fun without going on the equipment. They can play ball, four square, jump rope, hula-hoop, skip-it. Swings are allowed as long as students are dressed appropriately. Have a safe and healthy holiday season!

Patrice L. Liff, Assistant Principal

**From the School Counselor,
Nancy Stafford**

As part of our school counseling program, I spend time in the classrooms. My schedule this year allows me to work with each class on a weekly basis every few weeks throughout the school year. This gives me the opportunity to work with the classrooms on a more consistent basis. The theme for all grades focuses on 3 areas: Feelings, Friendship and Bullying. I have spent a few weeks in each of the afternoon kindergarten classes and will be going in at various times to the morning kindergarten classes as well. During my time in the classrooms we also talk about our STAR behavior. The STAR Quest program fits naturally into all of the guidance lessons I do with the children. 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.

Last month our first graders learned about the 3 types of bullies: The Muscle Bully, who uses his/her body to hurt others, the Mouth Bully, who uses words to hurt others and the Friend Snatcher Bully who hurts relationships with other people by doing things like starting rumors, controlling etc.

In 2nd grade the students heard the story, "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" by Carol McCloud. It's a beautiful story that uses the analogy of an invisible bucket we all carry. When we are kind to others, we are helping to keep their buckets filled. When people say or do unkind things, they are bucket dippers and "take" from others' buckets. We talked about trying to end our days asking ourselves, "Did I fill a bucket today?"

The 3rd graders were treated to a wonderful assembly put on by 7th & 8th grade students from the Hampstead Middle School Anti-Bullying Committee. This passionate group of students shared videos, skits and songs that they had written about bullying. It was a wonderful presentation and I am hoping this will become an annual assembly for our 3rd graders. You will be happy to know that the students and staff from Hampstead who accompanied them, complimented our students and were very impressed with their behavior throughout their presentation.

If you have any questions about the classroom guidance lessons or any social/emotional concerns regarding your child, please feel free to contact me through email or phone at:
nancy.stafford@timberlane.net
or 887-8505 x317.

SANDOWN NORTH ELEMENTARY TITLE I PROGRAM



Learn how to support your child at home, by reading together and using computers for motivation. We all know that children love playing on computers, so why not allow them to read on computers? Please join us for a snack, literacy discussion, and exploration of our on-line library catalog system called, "Destiny." You will learn how to find fun, interactive books for your family to enjoy.

Wednesday, January 9th, 2013

3:45 – 4:45

School Library

RSVP

887-8503 x317

By January 2nd, 2013



Our November, Pajama Literacy Night was a huge success! It was so nice to enjoy stories, cookies and milk together!

I want to say thank you to our Guest Readers: Ms. Walker, Mr. Barczak, Ms. Morasse, Mrs. Aprahamian, Mrs. St. Hilaire, Ms. Skelton, Ms. Janvrin, Mrs. Stafford, Mrs. Vanderhoof, Ms. Gomes and Mrs. Liff. The evening would not have happened without their help.

I also want to thank Mrs. Borbone, Mrs. Longchamps, Mrs. Difeo, Mrs. McDonough, Mrs. DiBenedetto, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Sotirakopoulos, Mrs. Perkins, Mrs. Kellaway, Mrs. Tubbs, and Mrs. Georgian for making the evening run smoothly. Mrs. Rose did a wonderful job providing us with milk, so the children could wash down the yummy cookies.

Many families were happy that Ms. McLaughlin opened the book fair so they could purchase books.

Everyone worked as an incredible team and provided a wonderful evening for our students and family members. Sandown North is lucky to have such dedicated staff and community members!



Enjoy Reading!

**Diane Chauvette
Literacy Specialist**

Sandown North Elementary December, 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	<div style="text-align: right;">3</div> Holiday Gift Shop Monday Morning Meeting 8:50 am	<div style="text-align: right;">4</div> Holiday Gift Shop	<div style="text-align: right;">5</div> Holiday Gift Shop	<div style="text-align: right;">6</div> Holiday Gift Shop	<div style="text-align: right;">7</div> PTA Holiday Auction 6:30 – 9:00 pm 	8
9	<div style="text-align: right;">10</div> Monday Morning Meeting 8:50 am 3 rd Grade Strings Concert PAC 7:00 – 8:30 pm	11	<div style="text-align: right;">12</div> PTA Board Meeting 6:00 pm	13	14	15
16	<div style="text-align: right;">17</div> Monday Morning Meeting 8:50 am	18	19	20	21	22 Vacation
23/30 Vacation 	24/31 Vacation 	25 Vacation 	26 Vacation 	27 Vacation 	28 Vacation 	29 Vacation

Holiday Break – December 22nd - return to school January 2nd