

Sandown North News

March 2013



*From the desk of
JoAnn K. Georgian Principal*

We will be turning the clocks ahead this weekend which makes it feel as if spring is right around the corner. We all begin to get outdoors more and generally become more active. Since it feels like a new beginning again, it might be time for us to think about what we can do to help our children be successful in school and in life.

I just read a book called The Literacy Principal by David Booth and Jennifer Rowsell. Prior to my becoming an administrator, I was a 4th grade classroom teacher and later a Reading Consultant. I feel that as an Elementary Principal, it is my obligation to be a Literacy Principal so I take every opportunity I can to learn more to help our teachers think about our instruction.

As educators, and families, we must embrace literacy education as we know that young children must develop the

skills to read but also the desire and passion to become a lifelong learner. I have a 15 month old granddaughter and see the excitement in her face as we reread a favorite book. I also see her take the book from my hands and put it on the floor if she is not interested in a book. Even though I may be disappointed, ☺ I know it's ok to follow a child's lead when s/he is reading for pleasure at home. Please know that we will introduce your children to the various genres of books, as it is important for them to learn about the different ways in which we may read different types of literature, but when they want to relax and just read, it really should be the child's choice. When children are interested in a topic, they can read on a higher level because they have the background knowledge to attach the new information to as well as the vocabulary. Similarly, when they read another book in a series, the reading is more fluent because they already "know" the characters and can begin to predict what they will do. They have figured out some words in previous books so when they reappear, they read those same words automatically in the new text. That's powerful for them as it becomes their own proof that they are growing as readers/writers. How exciting!

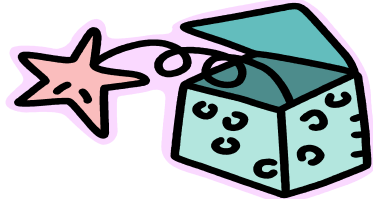
As we work to develop competence and positive attitudes toward reading, meeting books in their homes and sharing

these books with loving adults help children to see that reading is a lifelong activity. After the read aloud at home and at school, conversation is critically important. It gives the child an opportunity to reflect on what s/he heard and his/her feelings about it, to make connections to his family's life, to hear what others are thinking, and to get excited with someone else. In these busy times in the classroom as well as at home, we worry that we do not allow enough time to simply talk and to honor each individual's thinking and feelings. Children learn through talking with others. A story is only a beginning point for expanding ideas and increasing language strengths.

Many years ago, we had two little girls in our school who were excited about reading and learning. I had many conversations with their mother, Lori Aubrey, who volunteered in our school. During one such conversation, I encouraged her to consider being on the School Board for the Timberlane Regional School District. Her commitment to doing what was best for children was clear and I knew that she would be a champion for children at all levels and in all towns. She agreed to try it and nine years later, she is now leaving the board and welcoming others as they begin their service.

On March 21st, at 7:30pm, we will be hosting the School Board meeting at Sandown North. We encourage you to come and thank Lori Aubrey for all her hard work and commitment. She is officially "off the board" but is willing to attend one more meeting so we can have a chance to honor her. Please feel free to

come by, see Lori, and stay for probably half an hour when our students will be hosting a mini-Monday Morning Meeting. We hope to see you on the 21st at 7:30!!



Yearbook News

The Sandown North Yearbook will soon be ready for the publisher! Orders are due by April 17th. The yearbook purchase price is \$10 per copy. Please order online at www.GSOrder.com use key code: 7ZF7JY27

Alternatively you can send in a check made out to Sandown North. Be sure to include YEARBOOK in the memo area. Yearbooks will be sent home by June 14th!

This is a fun way to celebrate a year of learning and fun at Sandown North!



Curriculum Corner: Focus on Writing

Our students are busy writing stories at school. If you have been able to visit your child's classroom during writing time, you know how enjoyable this process is to

students. Students practice writing in a variety of genres and in a variety of subjects. Not only are they learning to express their ideas and thoughts, but they are experimenting with language at their own level. Here are some fun tips that you can use to encourage your child to write at home.

- Provide a variety of writing supplies such as sketch journals, crayons, colored and regular pencils.
- Children love to make up stories – encourage them to write it down.
- Going on vacation? Have your child keep a travel log by taking pictures, drawing pictures, or writing down events.
- Encourage your child to write down observations. This could be sketching a tree during different seasons, drawing a garden at different times of growth, or simply jotting down things he/she notices.

Writing supports the development of language skills, so remember to praise your child every time he/she creates a story or sketch. Praise and support from you will encourage your child to become a confident and proud writer.

If you have any questions about your child's writing at school, don't hesitate to contact his/her teacher. S/he will be happy to talk with you.

Title I at Sandown North

Every three years, the United States Department of Education requires Title I funded schools to participate in an onsite evaluation of programming. On March 18, Sandown North will host members of the New Hampshire Department of Education as they review our program.

As part of the onsite, parents are invited to participate in a parent interview with a representative of the New Hampshire Department of Education. If you have a child who is currently enrolled in Title I, and would like to contribute in this manner, please give me a call.

In addition, if you have any questions about your child's participation in Title I, or about our programming in general, please feel free to contact your child's teacher, Diane Chauvette, our Literacy Consultant, Judy Tubbs, Title I Tutor, or me.

Happy Spring!

Patrice Liff, Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

