



SANDOWN NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

November 2017

From the Desk of Jo-Ann Georgian, Principal

I have been reading about school cultures and ways to build cultures that last. In simple terms, a culture really refers to *the way we do things*. At Sandown North, we have a collaborative school culture. We all work closely together to do what is best for each child and then, consequently, for all children. When I say "we", I do mean the collective "we" and not just school staff. Our parents and families do so much to help enrich our students' experiences. Recently our PTA hosted a Bingo for Books event, chaired by Heidi Chaput. It is so exciting to see moms, dads, grandparents, and siblings playing Bingo and getting so excited to be able to choose books when they win a game! Parents have reported that their child could not wait to go home and start reading. What fun!

I recently was happy to accompany Kristen Gondolfo, our Parent Volunteer Coordinator, and Pamella Pitman, our PTA President, to a Volunteer Celebration at the Grappone Center in Concord. These two women, along with many others, volunteer countless hours to support our students. To all our volunteers, our staff offers a sincere "THANK YOU"! We could not do it without you.

Our staff members also support each other at their weekly Professional Learning Community (PLC) times. At these times, staff members engage in job-embedded learning as part of their routine work practices. Our goal is always to have our students learn at high levels and for that to occur, staff members must be continually learning. They work in teams, making important decisions and learning from one another. "Every great teacher is leading." (Gardner, 1993)

This year we have four elementary school goals, all with the objective of high student growth. Our last goal focuses on cultivating a positive learning environment as measured by the Tripod Student Perceptions Academic Survey and the completion of school activities. To that end, we plan to engage students through experiences that are personalized to their learning and tailored to their interests. We are planning enriching activities and Mrs. Bruce is planning a whole school enrichment day around our theme of *Sailing to Success*. We hope to provide more after school, interest based activities. We will also, of course, continue to celebrate student successes at Monday Morning Meeting.

The structure of our school is the collaborative team. Our educators do not work in isolation. Together we are engaged in raising the bar while focusing on the interests and needs of our students. Engagement is always key!

Important Dates November 2017

2 - School Board Mtg. 7:30pm
SAU

6 - Monday Morning Meeting

9 - Early Release/ Parent
Teacher Conferences

10 - Veterans Day - No School

14 - School Picture Retakes

16 - School Board Mtg. 7:30pm
SAU

20 - Monday Morning Meeting

21 - Ocean Enrichment Day

22-24 - Thanksgiving Break

27 - Strategic Planning 6:30-
8:30

Dec 1 - PTA Winter Wonderland,
Sandown North Gymnasium



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. If you have any questions, look for additional information on our website, 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
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 "program

Nancy Stafford

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Technology news

Our first graders are working hard to learn how to log into their computers and programs. Once they are logged in they are practicing new technology skills in Learning.com and content skills in MobyMax. I am encouraging students to practice spelling their last names to make logging in easier.

Second and Third graders are identifying interest and skill goals and choosing programs from our Google Technology Classroom page to practice and explore.

Fourth graders are actively reflecting on learning activities in their digital learning portfolios.

Fifth grade students are preparing to colonize a newly discovered virtual island where they will engage in financial and governing activities among their classmates.



Sandown North Elementary Library Notes

November, 2017

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 so children can grow in to life-long readers. 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 bookshelves 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**, and your child's teacher's name. When students make book donations, they will be recognized at Monday Morning Meetings. We have both picture books and chapter books.

Happy Reading!

Diane Chauvette, Literacy Specialist

JoAnn Pinard-Evans, Literacy Para-Educator

Laura Ross, Media Specialist

Hello!

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather we have been having to kick off fall. I am excited to share with your family the Second Step program units I will be starting this month and the lessons that go along with them that I will continue to work on with your student(s) in their classrooms over the next few months. For all three units, I have picked out the best lessons for each grade level to assure that I will be able to teach some lessons from the Empathy, Emotion Management and Problem Solving units; the lessons will not go in order for each unit. There will be HomeLinks sent home after I teach certain lessons for extra practice for you and your child- these are **not** homework and will not come with every lesson.

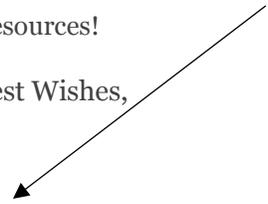
<p>Empathy Unit 2:</p> <p><i>Students learn to identify and understand their own and other's feelings. Students also learn how to take another's perspective and how to show compassion.</i></p> <p>Strategy to try at Home: <u>Strength Thoughts</u>- For the next few moments, think to yourself and/or write down, at least three of your strengths. What do you enjoy doing? When do you feel most proud of yourself? What about times that you have been brave? Now just notice how you feel when you think positively about yourself ☺</p> <p>Suggested Books: <i>The Way I Feel</i> by Janan Cain, <i>Have You Filled a Bucket Today?</i> by Carol McCloud, <i>One</i> by Kathryn Otoshi</p> <p>Emotion Management Unit 3:</p> <p><i>Students learn specific skills for calming down when experiencing strong feelings, such as anxiety or anger.</i></p> <p>Strategy to try at Home: <u>Dandelion Breath</u>- With your hand in front of you, imagine holding a delicate, fluffy dandelion. Breathing in, fill your belly with air. Breathing out, pretend you are slowly blowing the dandelion as the seeds fall, floating away into the sky.</p> <p>Suggested Books: <i>My Mouth is a Volcano!</i> by Julia Cook, <i>My Many Colored Days</i> by Dr. Seuss, <i>I Am Peace</i> by Susan Verde, <i>Wonder</i> by R. J. Palacio</p>	<p>Grade 1</p> <p><i>Empathy Unit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 1: School Counselor Introduction Lesson 6: Identifying Feelings Lesson 7: Looking for More Clues
	<p>Grade 2</p> <p><i>Empathy Unit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 6: Learning More About Feelings Lesson 8/9: Respecting Different Preferences & Showing Compassion <p><i>Emotion Management Unit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 11/12: Introducing Emotion Management & Managing Embarrassment
	<p>Grade 3</p> <p><i>Empathy Unit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 6/7: Understanding Perspectives & Conflicting Feelings Lesson 9/10: Showing Compassion & Making Friends <p><i>Emotion Management Unit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 13: Handling Accusations
	<p>Grade 4</p> <p><i>Empathy Unit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 2: Listening with Attention Lesson 6: Understanding Others Perspectives <p><i>Emotion Management Unit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 10: Introducing Emotion Management
	<p>Grade 5</p> <p><i>Empathy Unit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 2: Listening with Attention Lesson 7: Disagreeing Respectfully <p><i>Emotion Management Unit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 10: Calming Down

Second Step Website:
www.secondstep.org

Activation Codes:
 First Grade: SSP1 FAMI LY71
 Second Grade: SSP2 FAMI LY72
 Third Grade: SSP3 FAMI LY73
 Fourth Grade: SSP4 FAMI LY74
 Fifth Grade: SSP5 FAMI LY75

Create Your Own Login & Gain Access to HomeLink & Resources!

Best Wishes,



Samantha Hickey

School Counselor, Ext.7543

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November 2017 Music News

Students in all general music classes have enjoyed singing, moving to, and playing instruments to seasonal songs in October. Songs such as “There Was an Old Woman” tell an eerie story but also help students find their head voice (light, resonant singing) as they sing the ghost-like response. Kabalevsky’s Pantomime from “The Comedians” Suite served as the soundtrack to an expressive movement activity: Frankenstein coming to life or, in some cases, one’s teenage brother waking up in the morning! Speaking of expressive movement, some of our Sandown North and Pollard School chorus members will be part of a collaborative project with TRSD and the Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra (MVPO). On Sunday, November 5 at 2:30 PM at the PAC, these students will lead the audience in a “Move It” to Copland’s “Hoedown,” accompanied by the orchestra. For more information about this and other MVPO concerts, please check <http://mvpomusic.org/> or the PAC website: <http://www.timberlane.net/pac>

5th grade band and string students are using Smart Music as a learning tool. This program, provided to our students by the district, is similar to a video game in which the player tries to improve his or her score. Mr. Mainella and I strongly encourage the 5th graders to use Smart Music to practice their assignments and become familiar with the program as they will use it for music assessments next year in sixth grade.

As always, please contact me or Mr. Mainella if you have any questions about your child’s progress in music. Thank you for your support!

Musically yours,

Mrs. Alison Yankowskas

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Mr. John Mainella

John.Mainella@timberlane.net

PTA NEWS

The PTA hosted our Halloween Bingo for Books on October 20th. We hope everyone had fun and got lots of new great books to enjoy!

During the month of November we will not host any PTA events, but we will continue planning for some great fun coming up. This includes the Winter Wonderland event on December 1st... more information to come!

Please join us at our next meeting, which will be held on Weds. November 8th @ 6:00pm 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 8th!

Ashley Smith 

