

January

Sandown North News



*From the desk of
Jo Ann H. Georgian, Principal*

Happy New Year to all of you! December was certainly a month to remember. Although it was difficult for many of us who were without power for so many days, the children have shared warm memories along with the family struggles. We worried that we would not have a chance to have our Star Quest celebration and sing along, but we all came together during the afternoon of the 23rd. The Grinch and his dog visited us in our very own Whoville. He celebrated and danced the afternoon away. After the celebration, the adults were sharing that it now felt like Christmas. The singing voices of the children put a smile on all our faces.

Lorraine Beucler and Sally Morris, along with many of our parents, offered a Holiday Gift Shop experience for our children. As you entered the room, you could feel the excitement. The children really enjoyed shopping for their loved ones. They put a lot of thought into the

decisions and looked for items that individual family members would enjoy. In addition, the children had a chance to practice their money skills in a real life situation. They were proud of their choices and readily shared a story associated with the gift. Thank you to all who offered this experience to our children.

Our annual holiday auction was a huge success! There are so many people to thank for that fun-filled night: all of you who supported the event, all the staff who volunteered that evening, all the parents who worked to make the evening a success, the auctioneers, Christine Augusta who is our Interim PTA President and our Chairs of this event. Therese Young, Tracy Kripp and Kristen Dalphond worked with others to create a magical evening. Appreciation is also extended to Linda Meehan and the staff of Playmates who provided daycare so parents could shop and bid on items.

The holiday season may have ended but the winter months with stormy weather have really just begun. The district, as you know, uses Alert Now to communicate with parents. Please be sure that the numbers you have provided to us are your up-to-date numbers. If there have been changes, send those in to Sharon Hasfjord and Deb Ray in the office and they will update your information. Also, if you drive your child to school when it is stormy, please drive very carefully. Our site is a real challenge to plow. It is narrow; the driveway is curvy and

narrow due to parked cars. The grounds are plowed early and frequently, but some weather conditions make it difficult to plow here. We are all concerned about safety so if you notice something that Mr. Zig and I may have missed, please don't hesitate to tell us. The conditions sometimes change during the day with the wind and additional snowfall so even if you dropped your child off in the morning, it may have changed by the afternoon.

Again, I wish you all a great



.....one filled with good health and happiness!

The Speech Connection

Welcome to Speech Connection, a word from Jocelyn Lister, Speech and Language pathologist at Sandown North. This column will feature some tips and resources for parents with children who have a diagnosed disorder in the area of speech and language development. Ideas posted here are suggestions to enhance a child's development of speech and language and can be beneficial to children of varying ages. If you need further information or clarification, please contact Jocelyn at her email: Jocelyn.lister@timberlane.net.

One of the ways to promote good narrative skills is to work on retelling or telling a story. This skill, as simple as it may appear, is a critical skill for connecting socially with others, and it is a key component to written

expression. Narration is the basis for sharing information, and it is a key skill that is needed to understand text book language as well as the language of stories.

One of the best and easiest ways to promote story telling is to take a set of pictures of a trip or activity that you and your child are actively engaged in such as a trip to visit Grandma or Grandpa that is in some way special or important, a visit to a museum or place of interest, a vacation or trip to the movies, etc. Take pictures of the sequence of the activity beginning with the start of the trip—preparing or planning, leaving, driving to the destination, arrival, activity, ending and departure. After the activity, print off the pictures and ask your child to sequence the pictures in the correct order. Then talk about each of the pictures attaching language to each picture. Then sequence the pictures together using connector words such as then, next, first and last. Your student can learn this task with you and then practice it by telling and retelling this story to grandparents, aunts, uncles, peers, etc. This is a wonderful way to teach and improve the story telling skills of your child.



Stay tuned next time for tips and resources on social skill development. If you have questions regarding this or

any other issues related to speech and language, feel free to contact me here at Sandown North. Thank you.

Literacy



Practicing to be Good Readers & Writers

Sandown North works diligently on the five critical areas of reading that are listed below. We also know how important it is for you to be involved with your child's learning, so we compiled a list of research-based activities that you and your child can do to help them become more successful in school.

Phonemic Awareness

- Sing songs with your child
- Share nursery rhymes
- Have fun saying words that rhyme
- Say chants and read poems together

- Have fun saying words with the same sounds
- Clap syllables in words—"How many syllables in hippopotamus?"
- Encourage your child to write the sounds they hear in words while writing

Phonics

- As you read with your child, point to various letters and ask him/her to name them
- Play I spy games—"I see a word that starts with the letter B"
- Make alphabet books filled with illustrations for each letter
- Encourage your child to write letters, notes and stories
- While reading to your child, stop and show him/her where sentences begin and end
- Read books that are interesting for your child and take turns reading the pages
- Encourage your child to reread passages that are challenging
- Reread books you and your child love

Fluency

- Encourage your child to read **LOTS** of books, magazines, signs, letters and newspapers
- Read aloud to your child and change your voice for the different characters

Vocabulary

- Have lots of discussions about personal interests, family events and school activities
- While reading with your child, ask him/her to describe the pictures or illustrations

- While reading with your child, ask him/her to point to words they can define
- While reading, create a list of new words and encourage your family to use them orally
- Look up new words in a dictionary to find out what they mean

Comprehension

- Visit interesting places, then talk about the experience with your child
- Do things together, then talk about the experience with your child
- Encourage your child to tell stories, then ask him/her questions about the characters
- Encourage your child to make predictions while reading (What might happen next?)
- Make personal connections you and your child might have with the characters in stories
- After reading, ask your child to talk about the meaning of the story
- Encourage your child to write for different purposes and audiences (letters, lists, notes, stories and research)
- Read **MANY** different kinds of books, magazines and newspapers

Some activities are more challenging than others. Please choose the activities that will be fun for your child and not frustrating.



Diane Chauvette
Reading Consultant

Sandown North Elementary

January, 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Happy New Year!	2 Vacation	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Monday Morning Meeting 9:10 am	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Civil Rights Day NO SCHOOL	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Monday Morning Meeting 9:10 am	27	28 Early Release am K only NO pm K	29	30	31