

Sandown North

News



February, 2005



*From the desk of
Jo-Ann K. Georgian,
Principal*

Each year, the National Education Association (NEA) sponsors Read Across America on March 2nd in remembrance of the birthday of the late Dr. Seuss. NEA encourages families to celebrate Read Across America, too, by reading with their children.

To make literacy part of your life with your child and to encourage lifelong learning; the following ideas may help:

Make reading fun-a time you and your child look forward to spending together.

Get a subscription in your child's name to an age-appropriate magazine.

Check out The Read Aloud Handbook by Jim Trelease. It's full of great recommendations!

Visit the library and bookstore often. Look for books by favorite authors.

Keep reading to your child when s/he can read. You can stretch his/her thinking and expand his/her vocabulary by reading books that are more difficult than what your child can read independently. Ask your child to explain why a character may have taken a specific action. Ask for information from the story to support his/her answers.

Compare characters in the book to people you know. Compare happenings to events in your own life. Making connections greatly impacts comprehension.

The NEA website at www.nea.org/readacross offers a variety of tips for promoting reading among children of various ages. I hope you visit the site and help your child become a successful, avid reader.

I am so pleased to tell you that the Yankee Candle sale was very successful. We raised almost all the money needed for the much needed information sign. It will be in place this spring, informing you of upcoming events and generally serving as a reference for you. Thanks to Sharon Hasfjord and Nancy Stafford for spearheading this effort. Thanks to all

our wonderful families. You were incredibly generous in your support.

I do want to make you aware of a problem we're having and to enlist your help in solving it. At the end of the day, some relatives, neighbors, and daycare providers are calling us looking for children. If your child is absent, dismissed, or has a change in routine, please inform the people who are caring for your children. The main office is very busy at the end of the day and receiving these phone calls is creating confusion. If you each inform your daycare provider, it should alleviate our problem. Thank you for your cooperation. I also need to remind you that when you are visiting our school, you cannot park in the yellow striped zone. It is striped for a reason. I know it can sometimes be difficult to find a space, but you must keep the striped areas clear so busses can safely make the turns.

“Reading aloud with children is known to be the single most important activity for building the knowledge and skills they will eventually require for learning to read.”

Marilyn Jager Adams

The Valentine's Day parties were such fun. Children love reading the cards from their friends. The treats you so willingly provided were enjoyed by all. Please remember that invitations, cards, and gifts should only be brought to school if you have one for each child in the class. It is hurtful to not receive one if other children are getting an invitation or gift. In addition, if a child is the only one in class to get a gift, s/he is usually uncomfortable with the attention. I ask that gift giving for friends occur outside

of school. Once again, thanks for your cooperation.

I wish you all a wonderful winter break with your children. Please think about the tips mentioned in this newsletter and start your child on the road to lifelong learning.



Curriculum Corner Nancy Barcelos

Spotlight on the Classrooms



Ms. Emerson's third grade students are learning about Native Americans in class. They are applying knowledge gained by creating stories that might have taken place when Native Americans first came to our country. They didn't use words to tell stories; they used symbols! Stop by to see the writing from yesteryear.

Mrs. Difeo's class used their creative talents to make representations of animals from fairy tales they read and made authentic masks. They learned it takes a lot of planning and patience when working with plaster of paris. They had fun making colors of paint. The final products were embellished with lots of flair! The children culminated the fairy tale study by writing and producing a fairy tale of their own.

History lessons in Mrs. Thompson's second grade class were highlighted when children put together books about Martin Luther King. His life was remembered through pictures and text. Non-fiction is a genre students learn about and enjoy reading. This activity gave them an opportunity to combine reading and history.



All classes were treated to a performance by the Infinities Chamber Ensemble recently. The audience was introduced to classical music and the woodwind family. The instruments came alive with a presentation of Peter and

the Wolf, presented with narration and costume. The master of ceremonies had a noteworthy message for those interested in music. "Practice is on-going and must happen daily, just like breakfast". I think we can generalize this to all areas! This was a PTA sponsored event. We thank them for bringing this program to our school.

Young Inventors Annual Celebration



It's time to prepare for the Young Inventors Annual Celebration. The Invention Convention is for **ALL** students! The process places a strong emphasis on defining an actual problem, formulating an original solution, developing a product, and sharing the results or products with appropriate audiences. The invention process provides an opportunity for all students to participate and be successful. All children can identify problems in their homes or neighborhoods. Almost every day they will face at least one problem. An unmade bed, a dog that eats the cat's food, a mother with a broken leg that must be elevated when she sits, a

grandfather who cannot grasp a bar of soap because of severe arthritis - all are examples of real-life problems identified and solved by students participating in this program. When students identify a problem to be solved, they become actively engaged in the learning process as they analyze, ask questions and practice high-order thinking skills.

Participation is voluntary and completed at home. Inventions can be as simple or as elaborate as your time allows. The inventions must reflect children's work. Parents may help with the paper work only. If your child chooses to participate, please send the invention to school by Monday, March 14, along with the necessary paper work. The inventions will be on display during school hours in the library. One invention from each grade level will be chosen to represent Sandown North at the Annual Celebration April 9 at a location yet to be determined. Contact Nancy Barcelos if you have questions regarding this endeavor.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 28 - Winter vacation
Return to school March 7th
March 7 - NO Monday Morning
Meeting
March 8 - Election Day

March 14 - Monday Morning
Meeting - 9:00 am

March 16 - Early Release - 1 pm
March 19 - Pancake Breakfast at
Sandown Central

March 21 - Monday Morning
Meeting - 9:00 am

March 28 - Monday Morning
Meeting - 9:00 am

March 30 - Incoming First Grade
Parent Night - 7:00 pm

