



*Sandown North
Newsletter*

September, 2004



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

Dear Families,

We have just had our 1st Monday Morning Meeting and I am so impressed! The 2nd and 3rd graders served as wonderful models for our 1st graders. They were respectful listeners and demonstrated appropriate audience behaviors. It was nice to see so many of you at MMM as well. The children enjoy having their family members celebrate their learning. I invite you all to join us whenever you can at 8:45 in the cafeteria/gymnasium. You do

not need to call ahead of time. You are always welcome!

The start of a new school year always brings some changes and this year it's an improvement in traffic flow. The busses are loading in the front of the building. Those people who are picking children up by car are driving around the back of the building. It seems to be much more efficient and much safer. To ensure the children's safety, all cars are prohibited from driving down the hill by the front of the building from 8:00am - 9:00am and from 2:30pm - 3:30pm.

Signs are posted to remind you of the hours. Please respect our request that you drive around the back of the building to the parking lot if you need to come into the building. Our children's safety is our concern. Since we now have 5 busses, our children are arriving home earlier. If your child does not currently ride the bus, consider having him/her do so.

Our PTA has kicked off the year with an ice cream social, fall fundraiser, and Book Fair. Linda Meehan was hoping to host a Blue Grass Festival with the proceeds to benefit the Sandown Schools, but Ivan just wouldn't cooperate.

We thank PTA, Linda Meehan and Ed Mencis, and Sandy and Rick Smith for all they have done for our school community. Our building looks so festive for the fall season!

I look forward to working closely with you this year. Our children benefit greatly when we do!

The new federal legislation, No Child Left Behind, requires that all parents in any school receiving Title 1 funds be notified that they may request information regarding whether or not their child's teacher is highly qualified to teach the subject and grade level that they are teaching. Our school does receive Title 1 funds and so we would be happy to give you this information if you request it in writing. To be considered as a highly qualified teacher the state and federal government require that a teacher be certified by the state in which s/he works. All of our classroom teachers meet the federal and state guidelines for being considered highly qualified teachers. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 887.8503.



Curriculum Corner

Nancy Barcelos

No Child Left Behind Federal Act (NCLB) requires that all states develop expectations for student achievement in mathematics and reading/language arts in each of grades 3-8. To meet this challenge, the Commissioners of Education in Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont instituted the New England Compact (NEC) in 2002.

Common grade level expectations have been developed at each of grades 2-8. The grade level expectations are aligned with the NH State Frameworks. The Timberlane curriculum is written in accordance with the state frameworks. These grade level expectations are otherwise known as the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) expectations.

Third grade students at Sandown North will be participating in a test pilot of NECAP October 24-26. Because this is a pilot year, the students will be tested in the area of reading/language arts only. The testing will consist of 3 testing sessions of approximately 40

minutes. Students will be permitted to continue working as long as they are productively engaged, as determined by their teacher, who will be administering the test. Currently, the state is saying NECAP testing in the fall will replace NHEIAP testing typically done in May of third grade for this academic year.

What can you do to help prepare your child for this test?

- Read with your child DAILY
- Limit television viewing DAILY
- Review your child's homework with him/her. Ask questions to help them explain their work
- Have at least one meal a day with your child, without distraction from a television

A home-school connection is essential to the academic success of all children. We are all a part of an important team. Should you have any questions regarding testing, please contact me at 887.8503. I look forward to working with my teammates!

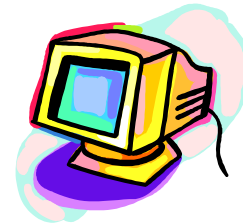
Your Actions Show Your Child What Behaviors You Expect

Are you trying to improve a quality of your child's, such as responsibility? Focus on your actions in this area, too. For example, do you keep your promises? Finish your work on time? No matter how much you talk

about an issue, your actions will "say" even more.



Health and Technology in Sandown North



This year at Sandown North your children will be having health and technology added to their curriculum. Anna Lizier is teaching these two subjects. She will be at our school every other week during the school year to work with your children. The first half of the year will be devoted to the health curriculum. She will be working with the classroom teachers to cover the "Here's Looking at You" lessons that address drug awareness. She will be also discussing ways to stay healthy.

For the second half of the year your children will be going to the computer lab to learn about the computer and basic computer skills.

Sandown North Art News

Justin Bentley-Melle



I am happy to see our students return to the art room ready to create. I look forward to another year of using paint, clay, paper, glue, markers, string, fabric and more to build skills, knowledge and imagination.

This month we are looking at Native American artifacts. Students will be exploring themes and concepts from Chumash rock paintings, Navajo Blankets, Hopi-Tewa pottery, a Lakota painting, and Hopi Kachina dolls.



From The School Counselors

Cheryl Henry
Nancy Stafford

As part of our school counseling program here at Sandown North, we will continue to work with all of the classrooms. For those families new to our school community, the school counselors spend time in each classroom on a monthly basis throughout the school year. We will continue using the book the “North Star”, by Peter Reynolds as our school wide guiding theme. The book emphasizes the point that we are all on our own

unique path, and are all individuals with our own strengths and weaknesses. The book is available in the library as well as our office for you to borrow. Along with the North Star theme, we will be talking with the students throughout the year about character education as well as personal safety. We will be utilizing the personal safety curriculum Kids and Company. You will be receiving more information about this program during the year.

This year, our monthly school counselor articles will spotlight the recently approved Timberlane Comprehensive School Guidance and Counseling Program (TCSGCP). The program will reflect a comprehensive and more cohesive approach to the foundation, delivery, management and accountability of our district’s multi-level school counseling program. Based largely on the American School Counselor Association National Model, it is the mechanism with which school counselors and school counseling teams will design, coordinate, implement, manage and evaluate their programs for students’ success. It provides a structure for the program components, the school counselor’s role in implementation and the underlying philosophies of leadership, advocacy and systemic change. School counselors will be switching their emphasis from service-centered for some of the students to program-centered for every student. It not only answers the question, “What do school counselors do?” but requires school counselors to respond to the question, “How are students different as a result

of what we do?”. Each month’s article will be devoted to a particular element of the program and will ultimately provide you with a clear picture of how the program will benefit your child. *Next month: The Program Rationale, Mission and Statement of Philosophy*

If you have any questions regarding the school counseling program or any concerns regarding your child, please feel free to contact us.

Cheryl Henry x318
Nancy Stafford x317



Dates to Remember:

October 5 Title 1 Open House
7:00 PM

October 11 Columbus Day

NO SCHOOL

October 13 PTA Meeting
7:00 PM