




# Sandown North News



*From the desk of  
JoAnn H. Georgian, Principal*

Staff and I agree: This was the smoothest opening ever! Our children came to school very ready to begin learning.....and all immunized as well. Thank you so much for all your cooperation in preparing your children for this school year and for working so closely and respectfully with us to work out a couple of kinks. We truly appreciate it.

The beginning of the year signals the beginning of  Monday Morning Meeting. This week was officially our first meeting, but was just for children. We worked with the children outdoors on the playground, as we were teaching them about how to be safe on the playground. Since our first roll-out is Playground Safety, we wanted to teach in the environment in which they will be practicing the skills. We will teach, then acknowledge, safe behavior at recess time. Children will earn Star Bucks as they are practicing safe behaviors. Frequent positive feedback will serve as a motivator to meet expectations. We all do our best to “catch” as many as we can so that we

are handing out those slips of paper very often. Then, children’s slips are put into a basket and used to draw from in many different ways. The Universal Team is exploring ways in which we can offer more opportunities for children. Our creative Mr. Melle is working on some new possibilities which we will be finalizing soon.

Those of you who were able to attend Open House had a chance to attach a name to a face when staff members were introduced. We are happy to welcome our new staff members this year. They have already jumped in and become a part of our school community. All our staff members are listed on our website, in our Parents’ Handbook, on line at



[www.sandownnorth.com](http://www.sandownnorth.com).

If you cannot access the handbook, please let Sharon Hasfjord or Deb Ray know and they will be sure that it is sent home with your child.

Our PTA members have been supporting us already. At our Open House for new children, they were the people who greeted you and directed you to the classrooms. Their children were thrilled to escort you to where you needed to be. A sincere “Thank You” is extended to Patrina and Riley Mitchell, Darlene and Lauren Camella, and Lisa and Dakota Sears. Please think about joining PTA and join us at our monthly meetings, on the first

Wednesday of each month at 6:30. Watch for the announcements that are sent home. It is a nice experience: working together to benefit our children in a relaxed, supportive way. We are fortunate to have Christine Augusta in a Leadership role again this year. She welcomes your involvement.

Our new Volunteer Coordinator is Tracy Kripp-Burns. She will be contacting you about ways in which you can be involved in our school. Some of our parents are able to be in




our school to help out from home. In you are able to be involved in any way, please respond to Tracy and she will do what she can to be sure to include you. We welcome parents in our building and are looking forward to spending time with you during the day and after school hours at the various happenings we will be offering this year. We have an exceptional level of volunteerism in our school. As a result, we were once again selected to receive the Blue Ribbon Award for Volunteerism. Thank You to all of you who do so much for our children and for us. You help to make the Sandown North experience be a warm, caring one, one our children will remember fondly. Thank you to Lorraine Beucler, who does so much behind the scenes to coordinate all our efforts.

Our staff has been busy, both during the summer and during September, to grow and learn as educators. I tell people everywhere how fortunate I am to be working with such a hard-working, collaborative, professional group of people. Kelli Killen, the new Elementary Supervisor, has offered

learning experiences around Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). As members of Professional Learning Communities at Sandown North, we are focusing on, and committing to, the learning of each student. As you may remember, we applied for a grant offering us human resources – trainings and consultations – through the state Department of Education and NH Responds.



We are proud to tell you that we were awarded the grant, one of only 5 districts chosen in the state. We are taking what we have been learning about PBS (formerly PBIS) to academic learning. In a nutshell, we are looking at Universal systems for all children and then looking at ways in which we can help each individual child be successful. Our educators are working in pods, as groups of people working together. They meet, talk about curriculum and on-going assessments, and decide on ways in which they can help all children be successful in their learning. The energy in the building is palpable. One of our teams met with Dr. Howard Muscot for half a day recently. He is helping us look at our processes so that we can operate effectively, yet efficiently. We have worked with him

in our  PBS (Positive Behavior Supports) work through the New Hampshire Center for Effective Behavioral Interventions and Supports (NHCEBIS). In addition, Leigh Rohde, from UNH, will soon be working with us. Our goal is to have our collaborative teams work interdependently to achieve common

goals linked to the purpose of learning for all.

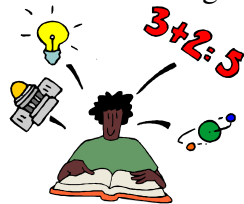
✨ This promises to be an exciting, growing year. We welcome all our children and all our families. We look forward to getting to know you all and to working together for our children!

## Curriculum Corner

Patrice Liff, Assistant Principal

I want to welcome all of our returning and new students back to school. It is so nice to see our halls filled with smiling faces, and our classrooms filled with learning. Every month you will find a section of our newsletter dedicated to curriculum and learning. This month's selection will focus on October's state testing.

During the first three weeks of October, the students in Sandown and throughout the tri-state region of New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island will be participating in the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). All Sandown North students in grades 3 will be tested in reading and mathematics.



The NECAP tests are designed to measure your child's progress in meeting the New Hampshire Grade Level Equivalencies or GLE's. Our district's curriculums are written to correlate to the state GLE's, which define the knowledge a student should

have by the end of each grade level. The NECAP test assesses the understanding of content covered during the last school year. For example, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade test will measure what a student should know and be able to do after completing second grade.

The test itself consists of three parts for every subject tested. Our students will be tested over a five-day period beginning Thursday, October 2 and ending Thursday, October 8.

Parents often ask how they can best support their child during testing dates. Below are some important pointers for you to consider:



- Make sure children receive a good night's sleep before the test.
- Feed your child a breakfast that consists of complex carbohydrates, and protein. This will help your child reason through challenging questions.



- Send in a high protein snack and a cold water bottle for your child to have during the morning hours. This will help your child sustain throughout the testing situation.

- Make sure your child arrives



at school on time. If your child is tardy, he/she will not be allowed into the testing situation and will have to complete a portion of the test during the make-up period.

- Most importantly, encourage your child to try hard and give it the best possible effort. Encourage in a positive manner that lets your child know that you believe in them. If your child seems unusually stressed about the test, please let Mrs. Georgian, Mrs. Stafford, or myself know.

Thank you in advance for your support during our testing weeks.

## Enrichment News

It's great to start a new year at Sandown North. I am excited that in addition to working with enrichment groups, this year I will be teaching enrichment curriculum units in each classroom. This provides an excellent opportunity to work collaboratively with all of the teachers in the building. I will focus on the properties of matter with first graders, the states of matter with second grade and Native Americans with grade three.

I will also continue working with small groups of students as they explore topics of individual interests and talents. These groups explore specific areas of interest as directed by

students. The objectives vary by group but members always benefit from the collaboration built on a shared enthusiasm.

If you would like to contribute your skills or interests to our students' educational experience, there are many opportunities through the Enrichment program! Consider coming to school for an hour or so to show a small (or large) group of kids the tools and techniques of your trade or hobby.



Some examples might include: How to use a sewing machine, soldering copper pipes, cleaning a fish, making a dovetail joint, changing oil, tying knots, pruning, teaching cartography, drawing blueprints, talking about your rock and mineral collection, operating a backhoe, sheering sheep, sharing a travel experience, teaching a foreign language, or playing an instrument. If you are interested please contact me at 887-8503 x 308 or [jbentley-melle@sandownnorth.com](mailto:jbentley-melle@sandownnorth.com). The students would love to have community presenters come in and demonstrate their skills.



Dear Parents:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Tracey Kripp, the volunteer coordinator for Sandown North. I look forward to helping everyone have an opportunity to come to school, volunteer and make a

difference in your child's education. There are many opportunities for you to become a part of your child's education and I am happy to help you find a place for you to volunteer. There is a volunteer brochure, which comes home in the Sandown Express, outlining some of the exciting volunteer positions available. Please take the time to look this over and fill it out.

I would also like to thank Patrina Mitchell, Riely Mitchell (1<sup>st</sup> grade), Darlene Camella, Lauren Camella (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), Lisa Sears and Cody Sears (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), for volunteering at our Open House on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Your warm welcome and help to all those excited students showing up to meet their teachers for the first time is greatly appreciated. Dawn Mazur, Erica Olsen, Sally Morris, Kristen Lucier, and Laurie Duff have been kind enough to give their time once a week to work in the volunteer room helping out in so many ways. Sue Reynolds has offered to administrate the Box Top Program. Heather Lewis and Kristen Gonodolfo stepped up to lend a hand at the up-coming dental screening. Dawn Mazur is administrating the Hannaford Dollars Program. Thank you ladies, you make Sandown North a better place to be!

Appreciatively yours,  
Tracey Kripp

## *Dates to Remember:*



**September 29 – Monday**  
Morning Meeting – 9:00 am

**October 2 – Early Release Day**  
Dismissal at 1:10 pm



AM Kindergarten only  
NO PM KINDERGARTEN



**October 3 – Hot Dog Safari**  
PTA Membership Social  
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm



**October 6 - Monday**  
Morning Meeting – 9:00 am

**October 13 – Columbus Day**  
NO SCHOOL



**October 20 – Monday**  
Morning Meeting – 9:00 am



**October 27 – Monday**  
Morning Meeting – 9:10 am