

Sandown North News



November, 2004



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

Dear Families,
Active learners, cooperative parents, dedicated, caring staff, supportive community . . . these are but a few of the reasons why I am thankful to be the principal of Sandown North. Chair of the visiting committee from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges stated, "This visiting experience was one of the finest I have participated in since I began this process 8 years ago. The team was a wonderful group of professionals. The staff uses a variety of instructional practices across the curriculum. At Sandown North, instruction promotes the development and application of higher order

thinking skills and problem solving techniques." I am thankful to have been selected to be their leader.

On December 2nd, Amy Difeo, Nancy Stafford, and I will participate in a ceremony to receive initial accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges in Boston, MA. We are proud to be representing our staff and community, who have worked so hard to make Sandown North the wonderful school that it is. Our children are so fortunate to have so many people working closely together to provide them with a quality education.

Maureen Platt, Reading Consultant, is excited about working with Reading Mentors again this year. If you would like to connect in a special way with a child, or have a parent, sister, brother, neighbor who would like to share books with a child, please fill out the form attached and Ms. Platt will contact you.

As a staff, for the next 2 - 3 years, we will receive on-going training and support from the

New Hampshire Center for Effective Behavioral Interventions and Supports. Our goal is always to maximize academic achievement for all students and through PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support) we will be using positive, preventive, evidence-based strategies to create a common vision, language, and experience for all members of the school community. The Universal team, comprised of 8 members, will utilize reliably gathered school data to guide the process of school-wide decision-making regarding behavioral support and school discipline. We are fortunate to have Nancy Stafford and Gloria Caron as our co-coaches, guiding and promoting the implementation process in our school. Our training will begin in January; and we will be excited to share our learning with you.



Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday!

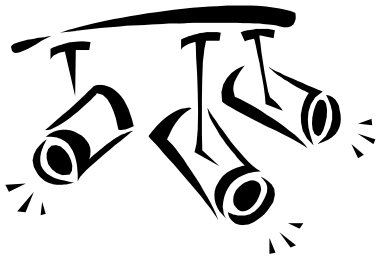
Curriculum Corner



Nancy Barcelos

Reflection Program
Sponsored by Sandown PTA

We invite all children to participate in the Reflections Program. This year's theme is *A Different Kind of Hero*. The National PTA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages children to pursue artistic expression through participation in the Reflections Program. Children are asked to create works of art in four areas: Literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts. Rules and entry forms are available in the school office and school library. All projects are due at school on December 2, 2004. There will be a Reflections Gallery in the School Media Center during the week of December 6. More information will be coming home in the Sandown Express about the Gallery. If you have any questions about the program, contact Ann Moss, PTA Reflections Coordinator at 887.4241.



Spotlight on the Classrooms

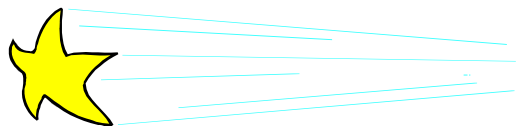
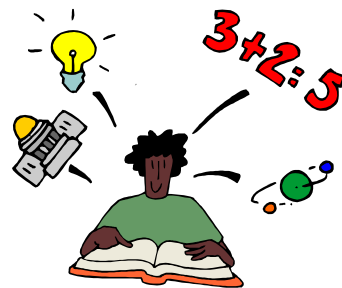
The students in Mrs. Hemingway's class have reflected on their learning and created math board games. The game objectives represent skills they have learned in school and allow them time to practice the skills with their peers. Serious thought went into planning the games. Students had to define the objective, write the procedure to play the game, and design the board itself. This activity is an example of how teachers often use their skill to blend the teaching of curriculum areas.

Mrs. Janvrin's class is working on creating a math vocabulary book. They are practicing composition skills as they are including a table of contents page and a summary page in addition to the definition. Students are asked to use correct mathematical terminology when explaining their thinking. Using correct language is imperative if we expect our children to keep up to the ever-increasing demand for mathematics competence and problem solving ability.

Number sentences are coming alive in Miss Low's class as the

students learn to represent and record equations. Learning basic arithmetic is critical before we can expect children to delve into higher order and critical thinking activities. The uses of manipulatives are a must as children investigate numbers and problem solve with objects. You can find bears in many combinations in the class!

Mathematical content is taught in a repeated fashion, beginning with concrete experiences. Each grade level builds in and extends concept understanding so that children approach each new challenge from a firmly established foundation. Remember to ask your child what he learned in math today!



From the School Counselor

The toy catalogues have been arriving at my house, reminding me (in case I didn't know!), that the month of gift giving is just

around the corner. I have noticed that so much of what is wanted by children revolves around electronic items, such as CD players, Gameboys, Xboxes and Playstations. One of the issues I often read about on various school counseling websites and journals is video game violence and I feel it's important information that should be shared with parents.

As many of you know, video games are rated for age appropriateness. The ratings generally fall into several categories and are labeled differently depending on the company. For instance, PlayStation rates its games in the following way: **"EC"** stands for Early Childhood and has no material that a parent would find inappropriate. **"E"** stands for "appropriate for Everyone", **"T"** stands for "appropriate for teens and older" and **"M"** ratings stand for "Mature" and are for persons ages 17 and older. **"AO"** stands for Adults Only, for ages 18 and older. The American Psychological Association has found 3 major effects of watching violence either on television or video games. Children who watch violence on TV or play violent video games may become less sensitive to the pain and suffering of others. They also can become more afraid and fearful of the world around them. Lastly, these children are more likely to exhibit aggressive and cruel behavior towards others.



If you are buying video games for your child this holiday season, please take note of which games you are purchasing. If your child requests a specific game, find out about its contents. On the game package there is a rating symbol which suggests age appropriateness but also be sure to read the content description which indicated why a game was given that particular rating. Just as you need to monitor your child's TV viewing, you also need to know what video games they are playing. One helpful website is put out by the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB). This board applies and enforces ratings for video games. It will give you the most up to date list of video game ratings and content descriptors. The web address is www.esrb.org. If you have any questions/concerns or would like more information, please give me a call.

I would also like to let parents know that as of November 15th, I am working full time at Sandown North. As most of you know, for the past few years I have been job sharing with Cheryl Henry. What you might not have known is that on the days Cheryl was not working in our building, she was working at Timberlane High School as a school counselor. There was an opening, due to another counselor going on maternity leave, for Cheryl to work full time at the

high school. We mutually decided that this would be good for us and beneficial to our schools. I'm happy that she is remaining in the district and will continue to be a colleague of mine!

Nancy Stafford, School Counselor
887.8503 x317

Art Enrichment News



I am Melissa Squires, the art enrichment teacher, and I would like to share some of the exciting things happening every Wednesday at Sandown North School! Art enrichment is a program that works with teachers to develop visual art projects that tie in with the classroom curriculum. It also gives students who have a natural desire for the arts a chance to shine! Some of the activities we have worked on so far this year are:

1st grade: Puppet making, pattern drawing, crayon resist, and collage.

2nd grade: Tree life cycle projects, pattern drawing, leaf collages, yarn drawing, and observational drawings.

3rd grade: Crayon resist and image-making for writing development.

As with every art teacher, I am looking for donations of common items you may have around your house. If you are able to help out with any of the following materials, it would be greatly appreciated! Just bring them to the enrichment room and label them "for art enrichment".

Baby food jars
Fabric scraps
Containers with lids
Craft materials (beads, ribbon, yarn, etc.)
Egg cartons
Magazines for cutting
Styrofoam meat trays
Empty dishwasher soap or syrup bottles
Anything else you think we might be able to use. . . we'll take it!
Thanks in advance for your help!

"Every child is an artist, the problem is how to remain an artist once he (she) grows up."



Picasso