



November, 2006

# Sandown North

## News

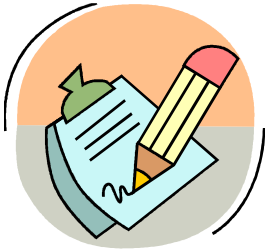


*From the desk of  
Jo-Ann K. Georgian, Principal*

Engaged, active learners, dedicated, knowledgeable staff members, caring and cooperative parents... these are the key components of a school that offers a quality education. As November is arriving, I think about how thankful I am to be the leader of Sandown North. Our children are enthusiastic learners; our staff members are lifelong learners. They are never satisfied with the status quo, but rather continually strive to improve their practices. When reflecting about the practices in our school, Patrice Liff, our new Assistant Principal, said: "I think that the collaboration model is significant in providing the support necessary to meet every child's learning needs. The staff works together so well, and instruction is the focus." I am so appreciative to work with these educators and again, warmly welcome Mrs. Liff to our school.



Recently, Lorraine Beucler, Judy Tubbs, and I attended the Volunteer Celebration at the Convention Center in Manchester. Our school, along with all the other schools in the Timberlane Regional School District, was awarded the Blue Ribbon, honoring the high level of volunteerism in our schools. We are all so grateful for all that the volunteers do for us and our children. I encourage you to be involved in any way you can, doing whatever interests you. Our PTA is currently planning the auction, along with numerous other activities for our children. Our Volunteer Team members are brainstorming fun activities that they can offer to our families. If you are interested in learning more about PTA, Christine Augusta, Laura McLaughlin, and Amy Difeo are always willing to talk to you. Kristen Dalphond and Lorraine Beucler would love to include you on their Volunteer Team. Check in with Mrs. Hasfjord in the office and she'll connect you to these folk.



To keep you and our children safe when in the building, we've tightened up our sign-in procedures. Mrs. Hasfjord will give you the Visitor, Volunteer, Substitute Teacher, etc. ID badge after you sign in. You must return your badge when you sign out. In addition, we are practicing our safety drills regularly, to include: Shelter-in-Place, Fire Drill Evacuation, Lockdown, and Reverse Evacuation.



Next week, we will be conducting an off-site evacuation, using our busses to safely leave this campus. I've seen many of you, smiling, with us, during our drills. You've been locked in the Volunteer Room, pulled into the office during a lockdown, and walked a long distance during an evacuation drill. Thanks for being so cooperative. Working together to follow our procedures ensures the safety of all.

As you know, the district is using the Alert Now system to notify parents of emergencies. The test was very successful. Some of you contacted us right away to change numbers. Thank you. I do want to clarify one

aspect of emergency dismissal, including if your child is ill. We will always attempt to reach you, the parents, first. If we cannot, we will call your Emergency Contacts and will release the child to one of those individuals. In a non-emergency situation, such as a threat being made to the city of Boston, we will not dismiss your child to a neighbor who has come to school to pick up his/her child. I hope this clarifies the situation. If you have questions, feel free to contact me, Ellen Zimmerman, or Cathy Daenz. They are the Chairs of our Emergency Response Team; they do an incredible job working with other members, of doing all that they can to keep us all safe. I am sincerely thankful for all the leaders in our building who work diligently and respectfully to make our school a positive learning community.

## From the Curriculum Corner



### Update on Every Day Mathematics and Homework

#### **Beginning, Developing, and Secure Math Goals:**

*Beginning in December, Home Links or Study Links for Every Day Mathematics will be labeled with a B, D, or S. This information is intended to help you and your child*

understand the level of skill that is being worked upon in the classroom - beginning (B), developing (D), or secure (S).

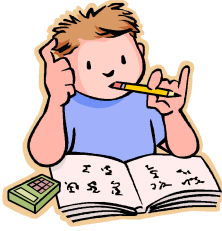
When you see a *Home Link* or *Study Link* labeled beginning (B) your child's teacher has just introduced the concept. It has been taught in class, but with the understanding that it will be reviewed many more times throughout the school year, and often into subsequent school years. A beginning (B) skill is not taught to Mastery and we do not expect the students to perform at a Mastery level during practice. Your child may actually have difficulty completing beginning skill tasks.

*Home Links* or *Study Links* labeled developing (D) contain skills that have been **reinforced** throughout unit lessons. These skills will continue to be reviewed through daily classroom instruction until they reach the secure level. Mastery is still not expected, and some students may need a hint or suggestion to complete the task.

*Home Links* or *Study Links* that have been labeled secure (S) contain practice activities that students should be able to complete independently. The

guidelines for assigning the B, D, or S label have been established by the authors of *Every Day Mathematics*, and are reinforced by the Timberlane Regional School District. It is conceivable that not all students will reach the secure goal at the same time. The goals of B, D, or S are simply a guideline and some students may progress at different rates towards Mastery. Our teachers are aware of this possibility and are working with individual students to help them reach the goals of the program.

By understanding that *Home Links* and *Study Links* will be marked beginning (B), developing (D), or secure (S), we are acknowledging that students develop skills in mathematics in much the same way they develop skills in reading or writing. Having time to practice and process mathematical skills and concepts is important to the overall development of mathematical understanding and knowledge. And remember, Mastery is only expected at the secure (S) level. Please watch for the B-D-S labels on your child's math homework and also on the *Individual Progress Profile* that accompanies the *Family Letter* at the beginning of every math unit.



**Homework:** It is our belief that students should receive 10 minutes of positive math practice every night. This may take the form of a *Home or Study Link*, or a math game. There should be no power struggles over math homework. Taking 20 or 30 minutes to complete a math assignment should be a thing of the past. The goal is simply “**quality over quantity**”. Students are not penalized for not completing every item on the page; in fact, math homework is not even graded. It is however, reviewed the next day in class, and the teacher pays close attention to the student’s understanding of the concepts covered on the homework assignment.

You can support your child with math homework by reading the parent letters sent home at the beginning of each unit, including the section that gives you the answers to the *Home or Study Links*. Many parents find it strange that the answers are sent home before the homework assignments. The authors of *Every Day Mathematics* believe very strongly in the home school

connection, and the intent of this practice is not to give your child the correct answers, but to help guide him/her in the problem solving process. If you have any questions regarding this component of the program, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher.

Have a safe and happy November.

*Patrice Liff,  
Assistant Principal, Sandown  
North/Central Schools*



### **Title I Early Literacy Support**

This year, Sandown North will once again be offering Title I support to qualifying children. We are fortunate to have Mrs. Jacqui Sanford back for a second year. Mrs. Sanford works with our youngest readers in first grade. Children remain in the classroom for Title I instruction. Title I supplements the direct reading instruction provided by our classroom teachers. We are also fortunate to have Mrs. Carol Medeiros and Ms. Kelly Bayek providing early morning Title I

support to our second and third grade students. Mrs. Medeiros worked for many years as a first and second grade teacher in Sandown. Ms. Bayek is new to our school this year, and is a member of our early literacy team.

A Title I open house will be held on Monday, November 6, from 6:00-7:00pm in our school library. The entire I team is looking forward to meeting all parents of Title I students.



We are very excited to be working together this school year. On Tuesday afternoons we are teaching a Movement and Relaxation Class. The class meets for 45 minutes and each classroom will meet for 3 or 4 times throughout the school year. We began by meeting with our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and focused on enjoyable activities, which would help them before, during and after the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade testing. The activities we will be offering encourage cooperation, good sportsmanship, listening and following directions and relaxation. The first part of the class is active movement activities. We conclude each class by doing some brief yoga type

and/or muscle relaxation exercises by means of verbal direction while listening to calming music.

We are enjoying collaborating together and working with the children and their teachers in this way.



From,  
Mrs. DeCristofaro, PE Teacher  
Mrs. Stafford, School Counselor



## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- October 30 - Monday Morning Meeting 9:00am 🍁
- November 6 – Monday Morning Meeting 9:00am
- November 6 – Title I Open House 6:00 – 7:00pm
- November 7 – Picture Retakes
- November 9 – **NO SCHOOL** for Students  
Professional Development Day

November 10 – ***NO SCHOOL***  
Veteran’s Day

November 13 – ***NO MONDAY  
MORNING MEETING***



November 14 – Early  
Release – 1:00pm

November 20 – Monday Morning  
Meeting 9:00am

November 22 – 24 Thanksgiving  
Holiday