

November

Sandown North News



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

As we enter the holiday season again, we think of family and friends in a warm, caring way. In addition, we think of all we have to be thankful for this November. We have such strong community support, people who are willing to give so much of their time and their energy. Yesterday, I was privileged to attend the



Blue Ribbon Ceremony for exceptional volunteerism in a school with Lorraine Beucler, Sally Morris, and Doug Rolph. It was a chance for us to celebrate not only what these women do for us every day, but also the whole spirit of volunteering. In these tough economic times, it will be increasingly more important for us to pull together as a community to support each other. Our educators and children have responsibilities as part of this Sandown community and we will be helping our students to understand their role and possible contributions. If you would like to volunteer in some way in our school or at home, and

would like to talk to someone, please contact Sharon Hasfjord or Deb Ray at 887-8503, ext. 300, and they will put you in touch with Tracy Kripp-Burns, our new Volunteer Coordinator. She is very willing to look at comfortable ways you can be involved that fit into your schedule. If you would like to be involved with PTA, Amy Difeo and Laura McLaughlin are our staff members on the Executive Board and both would welcome the opportunity to talk to you.

Our Emergency Response Team has been working on fine-tuning some procedures. We have been practicing our fire drill and during Fire Prevention Week, our Fire Department members helped us practice. They arrived at our school and watched us as we conducted the drill. Their feedback is always appreciated. In addition, they provided us with an assembly on Fire Prevention and Safety. The presenters arrived in uniform and the children understood that the message was very important. They listened attentively. A



special is extended to Chief Tapley, Lt. Cheney, Firefighter Saltalamacchia and Firefighter Colella.

When you are in the building volunteering, we want to keep you safe as well, of course. We ask that you always sign in and get a badge, and that you also sign out when you leave. Doing so tells us that, indeed, you have left the building. In the event of a fire,

we check all our lists to be sure that everyone is accounted for. If you leave without signing out, we would assume that you were still in the building and then may put a member of our fire department at risk by entering the building to look for you. The goal of all the procedures we have in place is to operate efficiently while assuring the safety of all.

As a school staff, we are continuing to work collegially in our Professional Learning Communities. We are looking at our instruction and assessing where our children are in the learning process. We are providing additional supports for those children who may need scaffolding at this time, as well as enrichment opportunities for those children who would benefit by digging deeper. Children learn at different rates and in different ways. It is our responsibility to continue to move them along the continuum, knowing for certain that they will accelerate at times, stall at times, be confused at times, while understanding fully and making connections at other times. As members of a learning community, we are able to learn from each other so that all our children benefit. Our collaborative work in grade level pods helps us all to learn from each other and to grow as educators.



As you know, our Roll-Out has been on Safe, Respectful bus behaviors. After a long day at school, it can be challenging for children to remember the expectations. We will continue to remind them and hope that you have conversations with them as well. Our buses are moving along the

road as our children earn Star Bucks. When they have arrived at their “destination”, we have fun celebratory activities planned.

The Roll-Out Celebration is just one of many activities we have planned for our children during this holiday season that is just beginning. I wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving, a time to enjoy each other and good food. 😊

FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

As part of the school-counseling program here at Sandown North, I will continue to work with all of the classrooms. For those families new to our school community, as the school counselor, I spend time in each classroom throughout the school year. I will continue using the



book *The North Star*, by Peter Reynolds, as our school wide guiding theme. The book is about a boy who is on a journey. Some parts of his journey are difficult and some are easy. Various characters help him during his journey. 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 the counseling office for you to borrow. I will also be talking with the students throughout the year about our **STAR** and incorporating lessons around

Safe

Trustworthy

Always respectful

Responsible

With our kindergarteners, I will be spending time talking about school behaviors, identifying and expressing feelings and practicing sharing and playing well with others. Our 1st graders will also be talking about feelings, and identifying people in our school and community who are "helpers". We'll talk about our similarities and our differences. In our 2nd grade classrooms, we will explore and recognize our variety of emotions, the causes and possible consequences. Third graders will be working on communication and decision making skills. Lessons will be taught in a variety of ways including using children's literature, art projects and role plays.

For the 3rd year, Mrs. DeCristofaro and I are teaching a Movement and Relaxation class

with our 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms. Classes meet with us 3-4 times during the school year. The activities we teach 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. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the school counseling program. I can be reached at 887-8504 x317.



October is Parent Involvement in Education Month in NH!



This October, Governor John Lynch will be proclaiming NH's first "Parent Involvement in Education Month." This effort has come about through a collaboration between NH State PIRC and other programs at the Parent Information Center (PIC), and the NH Department of Education. The proclamation will be announced around the first of October during a planned press conference in Concord. A copy of the proclamation can be found at www.NHParentsMakeTheDifference.org.

The Parent Information Center has been promoting parent involvement in education for over 30 years on the conviction that every child can do better in school and in life when parents take an active role in his or her education. Research shows that students from families with above-average parental involvement rated 30% higher than those from families with below-average parental involvement, as measured by grade-point averages and test scores in math, science, reading, and social studies. In addition, home learning activities such as reading aloud and frequent

open family discussions, have been shown to contribute to improved student achievement.

How can you as a parent be more involved in your child's education? It's not hard as you think! Many of the traditional avenues of parent involvement – attending parent-teacher conferences, volunteering in the classroom, and getting involved with the PTA – are of course wonderful activities that will make a lasting difference in your child's educational experience while increasing the quality of the school. But there are simpler things that parents can do in the course of day-to-day life that can also have a great impact on their children's academic success. Here are some ideas to consider:

- Let your child know that school is important. Be sure to ask questions about school and homework, and set up a quiet place for your child to work.
- Read everything that is sent home from school – report cards, homework assignments, school lunch plans, vacation and bus schedules. Show your child that you are well informed.
- Encourage your child to read at home. Set a good example by choosing to read instead of watching a TV program.
- Explore ways to interact with your child by sharing facts, perceptions and opinions related to things you are reading.
- Challenge your child to read the book before seeing the movie based on the book.

- When your child asks for help with homework, provide guidance, not answers. It's not your job to know your child's classroom material. You can help best by asking questions, giving encouragement, and having your child review class notes, previous homework and completed tests. You can always call or write a note to the teacher if your child is struggling.
- Learn to ask questions and share thoughts that promote critical thinking. Some good questions might be: "What is the purpose of that?" "Why did that happen?" "What do you think the solution might be?" "Is there another way to look at that problem or issue?"
- Be willing to learn from your child, and express your appreciation for the gift of his or her knowledge and enthusiasm.

All parents are encouraged to celebrate Parent Involvement in Education month this October and throughout the coming school year.

Visit www.NHParentsMakeTheDifference.org for more information and ideas promoting parent involvement in education. For advice or to find out more about free parent involvement workshops, DVDs, and other resources, contact the Parent Information Center at (800) 947-7005, or visit www.parentinformationcenter.org.

Curriculum Corner

Supporting Mathematics at Home

Parents often ask, "How can we support the development of mathematic understanding at home". The answer is...*ten minutes of positive math practice every night!* Math practice may include completing a *Home or Study Link*, practicing a math game, or working on fact triangles. The goal is simply **"quality over quantity"**. The math homework assigned by your child's teacher is not graded, and students are not penalized for not completing every item on the page. In fact, homework is 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.



Another way you can support your child is 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*

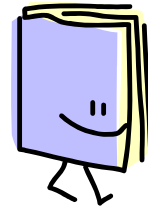
Links. Many parents find it strange that the answers are sent home before the homework assignments. The intent of this practice is not to give your child the correct answers, but to help guide them in the problem solving process. If you have any questions regarding this component of the program, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

Below is a fun way to encourage mathematical thinking at home!

Create a home estimation station!

- ✓ Purchase a large mason jar
- ✓ Fill the jar with M&M's, marshmallows, jelly beans (or non-edible items)
- ✓ Place several small pieces of paper and a pencil by the jar for several days - encourage your child guess the number of items in the jar
- ✓ After a few days count the items, placing them in groups of 10
- ✓ Eat the contents if appropriate

Patrice Liff, Assistant Principal



Library News

The beginning of the year has been a busy one in the library! All students have had orientations and have also learned how to use our new library cataloging system, Destiny. You can access Destiny from home by going to <http://destiny.timberlane.net/>. Click on Sandown North School and you are there! There is a lot of information on this new site; have your child show you around... One thing you will find on the homepage of Destiny are links to all of the school databases. These are a terrific resource for homework or looking up information in general. Feel free to utilize them!



Every year, Sandown North participates in the Ladybug Book award program and that has just begun. You can find more information about the program here: <http://www.nh.gov/nhsl/bookcenter/programs/ladybug.html>. Over the next few weeks, students will hear 10 different picture books read aloud to them by various staff members. New this year, we will be hearing one of the books read aloud by 4th grade students at Sandown Central School via our distance learning system. That will be fun! In November, we will borrow the town voting booths (thanks to Linda Meehan!) and the students will vote for their favorite Ladybug Book. Our votes will then be sent to the New Hampshire State Library to be

combined with votes from all over the state. The winner is announced in December.

Also, our book fair is coming! It will run from November 17th until November 20th. Volunteers are needed!! More information to follow soon . . .

Literacy News



When my boys were younger, I was always looking for fun ways to pull them into literacy activities. **Reading Is Fundamental** is a wonderful website that has booklists, fun literacy games and computer generated read along stories. I encourage you to check it out at www.rif.org. Attached you will find a “**Reading Activity Calendar for November**” from this website that is filled with interesting activities you can do with your children. My favorite is on the 25th and it states, “Charles Schulz creator of Peanuts was born this month. Create a comic strip in his honor.” I would love to see any comic strips that are made at home. Each month I will send a new calendar for you to review. I hope you find time to enjoy fun literacy activities with your family!

Diane Chauvette,
Reading Consultant

Enrichment North News

Ms. Low’s first graders have been exploring the properties of matter.




They have been identifying and sorting objects by color, shape, texture, size, and weight. They have also classified matter according to its state (solid, liquid, or gas).

Ms. Emerson’s second graders have been exploring the states of matter. They have conducted experiments comparing fixed volumes of liquid in various containers, gas taking up space, and heat energy melting solid ice into liquid water. Students manipulated the rate of melting with added heat or added insulation.

Mrs. Janvrin’s third graders have been learning about Native Americans. Recently we have been focusing on the Kwakiutl people of the North West Coast. Students have been learning about their mask making traditions, craftsmanship, and style. Students used what they have learned to create their own masks and write legends about the characters depicted on their masks.

Dates to Remember:

October 31 - 



November 3 – Monday
Morning Meeting – 9:10 am

November 4 – Professional
Development Day
NO SCHOOL



November 10 - Monday
Morning Meeting – 9:10 am

November 11 – Veteran's Day
NO SCHOOL



November 17 – Monday
Morning Meeting – 9:10 am



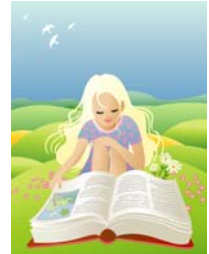
November 17
Pajama Literacy Night – 6:30pm

November – 17, 18, 19
Book Fair

November 20 – Book Fair will be
open from 1pm – 6pm

November – 17, 18, 19
Book Fair for students

November 20 – Book Fair will be
open from 1pm – 6pm



November 20 – Early Release Day
Dismissal at 1:10 pm



NO AM or PM KINDERGARTEN



November 24 – Monday
Morning Meeting – 9:10 am

November 26-27-28



Thanksgiving Vacation