

February

Sandown North News



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

Our children are learning; our teachers, our para-educators and our support staff are collaborating. What more could we wish for? At weekly grade level Professional Learning Community meetings, our staff members discuss the skills and concepts that will be taught in the upcoming units. In addition, they examine the assessments from the last unit of study to determine if some students may need re-teaching or additional practice. As learners, we all know that some skills are easier for us to grasp than others. Our job as educators is to provide the support or scaffolding necessary to ensure success for all students. At these meetings, information is shared and next steps of action are planned. Being a part of these meetings is exciting for me as an educator. In their voices and in their statements, I hear enthusiasm; I hear passion; I hear commitment; I hear collegiality; I hear pride; I hear professional knowledge shared. Your children are instructed daily by a caring, knowledgeable group of individuals who consider the needs and abilities of all when planning

instruction. You can see snippets of what has been accomplished at Monday Morning Meeting every week. I am always struck by how fluent children are in their reading and by the risks they take in playing a piece of music on the piano, for example, but weekly I am so thrilled with the level of confidence they display. When I ask adults to share something from the stage, I'm often faced with sighs or groans. Most children volunteer to share with us because they are proud of their accomplishments. Our hope is that the more opportunities they have to share with a large group, the more likely they will be to continue to do so in a comfortable way. We are trying to prevent that feeling of almost panic that many adults feel in such a situation. If you can't attend the meeting with us, I suggest that you watch it on Channel 17. Mrs. McLaughlin videotapes Monday Morning Meeting every week so it can be shown repeatedly on the local channel.

In Talk About Teaching, Charlotte Danielson makes the point that for schools to be grounded in best practices, a thorough understanding of the big ideas is essential. She further reminds us that ideas in a professional organization provide the energy for action. Do we have ideas!! On a daily basis, I overhear: "Do you know how we can do that in a more effective way?" "Wait until you hear what I was thinking this weekend." "I just tried this and I can't believe what

happened.” “Let’s have some fun with this one.” Our conversations about teaching and learning are often spontaneous and powerful, but are always based on an understanding of best practices.

Our teachers continue to have professional development opportunities with Mary Ellen Giacobbe, a teacher of writing, and with Kim Boothroyd, a teacher of reading. Needless to say, these two areas are both components of literacy but are being looked at individually in terms of instruction. As readers and writers, we know that our abilities and skills in one area directly impact our performance in the other. Our children are learning that as well. Our children are learning to choose Just Right books for them so they can practice their reading, so they can be fluent in their reading, and so they can understand the text at a higher level. Our writers are sharing information in a concise, sequenced way with a voice that matches the topic or situation. Audience members ask questions to understand, which then leads the writer to edit his/her work. I encourage you to celebrate your child’s reading and writing at home. There is much to celebrate!

I hope you have a great month and look forward to your joining us at Monday Morning Meetings.



From The Curriculum Corner

Patrice Liff, Assistant Principal,
Curriculum Coordinator



It's officially winter and our playground is packed with snow! We do take the children out for recess unless there is a dangerously low wind-chill. Please make sure your child dresses appropriately with coat, hat, gloves or mittens, snow pants and boots. Unfortunately, if children come unprepared, we are unable to let them go outside.

Speaking of recess, the support staff created a list of items for children to play with including jump ropes, balls, and plastic shovels. With the support of our PTA, we were able to purchase a basket full of goodies for use at recess time. These items are so appreciated, by students and staff alike. Thank you PTA!

The safety of your children on the playground is most important. Recently, our staff reviewed the winter playground rules and we have talked about them with students. Ice buildup causes slippery conditions on some of the playground structures, and throwing and pushing snow can result in unintentional injuries. We have reminded the children of ways to stay safe and still have fun in the snow.



On January 28, Sandown North held the annual Invention Convention. Students thought creatively and solved problems. They invented solutions and built representational models. We are proud of all our participants. This year, Liam Hill, grade 1, Kaitlyn Mazur, grade 2, and Grace Kripp-Burns, grade 3 will be representing our school at the State's Invention Convention on Saturday, April 3. Good luck young inventors!

For grade 3 families, the NECAP scores (remember that testing from October) will be released sometime at the end of January or the beginning of February. Our staff will be reviewing and analyzing those scores, and once they become available to us, you will be receiving a copy of your child's test results. Please watch for a small envelope in your child's express over the next few weeks.

I hope you all enjoy the remaining weeks of winter. Spring is just around

the corner. 



Physical Education

The first and second grade Physical Education activities for the first trimester included: games such as Tag Games in which locomotor skills are learned and practiced. Spatial awareness, including both general and personal space are practiced. Soccer lead-up games in which skills such as dribbling, trapping, passing and kicking on goal are learned. Football lead-up games in which football skills such as passing, catching, hiking, kicking and punting are learned and practiced. The trimester concluded with fitness activities such as parachute play in which heart rate and muscles were discussed.

Third grade students participated in the same units as the first and second grade but different activities geared for their age group and were expected to perform skills at a more proficient level than the first and second graders.

The first and second grade Physical Education activities for the second trimester included the second half of our fitness unit with Cargo Net and Climbing Rope as well as cooperative games and activities. Good sportsmanship, teamwork and safe, trustworthy, respectful and responsible play are emphasized. Students will also participate in Pillo Polo Floor Hockey in which stick handling/ball handling skills will be practiced. Basketball lead-up games, in which

children pass, dribble and shoot, will be learned and practiced.

Second trimester activities for third grade students include a continuation of fitness activities such as Cargo Net, Climbing Rope, Scooter Hockey and Cooperative games. Activities which emphasize good sportsmanship, teamwork and safe, trustworthy, respectful and responsible play are always enjoyed. Students will also participate in Pillo Polo Floor Hockey in which stick handling/ball handling skills will be practiced as well as basketball games in which the basketball skills of passing, dribbling and shooting are learned and practiced. Third graders also have a greater exposure to the actual games, rules, team play etc., than first and second graders do and are expected to perform at a more proficient level of skill than the first and second graders.

Our annual 🎀 Jump rope for Heart Event is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 from 3:00 PM -5:00 PM in our School Gym with a snow date of Tuesday, March 2, 2010.



News from Everyday

Mathematics



Kathy Fowler
Elementary Math Coach

From the *Everyday Mathematics Home Connection Handbook*:

Why do children play games during math lessons?

Everyday Mathematics (EM) games reinforce concepts in a valuable and enjoyable way. They are designed to help children practice their basic facts and computation skills and develop increasingly sophisticated strategies. Some games give children experience using a calculator, while other games emphasize the relationship between the money system and place value. Games also lay the foundation for learning increasingly difficult concepts.

Children are often asked to play EM games with family members as part of their home practice. As you learn to play the games yourself, you will understand how the games help children learn mathematics. Many of the games can be played with a regular deck of playing cards. Ask your child to teach you some of his/her favorites.

Many games you have at home or see in stores also involve mathematical thinking. Here are some with the age-levels suggested by the manufacturer. More games can be found on the Internet by searching under “educational math games.”

Counting, Adding, Subtracting

Chutes and Ladders® (3+)

Hi Ho! Cherry-O® (3+)

Sorry!® (6+)

Trouble® (5+)

Uno® (6+)

Attributes, Patterns, Geometry

Crazy Eights-traditional card game (4+)

Guess Who?® (6+)

Guess Where?® (6+)

jigsaw puzzles

Rummikub® (8+)

tangrams (5+)

Strategy, Spatial Perception

The a-Maze-ing Labyrinth® (8+)

Battleship® (7+)

checkers (3+)

Clue® Jr. (5+), Clue® (8+)

Connect Four® (7+)

Jenga® (6+)

mancala (6+)

memory (many names exist for this
game of matching face-down pictures)
(3+)

Mille Bornes® (8+)

Othello® (8+)

Sandown North Elementary February, 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Monday Morning Meeting	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Monday Morning Meeting	9	10	11	12	13
14 	15 Monday Morning Meeting	16 Jump Rope for Heart 3-5pm	17	18	19	20
21	22 <i>Winter</i> Vacation	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL	27
28						

March 9th – Professional Development Day – NO SCHOOL
Spring Vacation – April 26 – 30
Snow date – Jump for Heart March 2nd