

March

Sandown North News



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



The winds were howling, the rain was pouring, and the children were thinking of the great story they had to share when they returned to school. Unfortunately, I have heard that some of you are still without power. I'm sure you can't wait to either no longer hear the sound of that generator or to be able to take a hot shower in your own home. Although many of us were inconvenienced, thankfully we were all safe.

A surprise benefit to this situation was the chance to get together with Sandown Central students and staff at our school yesterday. It was great to see our former students and to have the chance to reconnect. Some brothers and sisters were together in one school building for the first time and were excited to have that opportunity. I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of our Emergency Response Team: Ellen Zimmerman, Cathy Daenz, Sharon Hasfjord, Zig Paszko,

Carol White, Kim DeCristofaro, Patrice Liff, and Nancy Stafford. They arrived at school early on Monday morning to put plans in place so that we could warmly receive Central staff and be sure that all had a comfortable place to teach and to learn.

Although a quality educational environment was provided for all our children, I do need to explain that we were able to accommodate that number of students for a day, and maybe for two days, but it would not be possible to do so on a long term basis. I mention this because I had a great conversation with a dad who questioned why it has been suggested that we need an addition to house all Sandown Kindergarten through Grade 5 children in one building. To do so yesterday we could not teach children in the Enrichment room, the Distance Learning area or the technology labs. The Art teacher and the Music teacher lost their instructional areas and instead put some materials on carts and went to the classrooms. Our two kindergarten teachers taught together in one room. Meetings were not held in the conference room but in different locations where some amount of space could be found or were canceled for the day if the meeting was too large. We doubled up on lunches which was a crowded situation but worked out fine for one day. So, although we could provide places for all to learn yesterday, to do so for a long period of time would not be feasible as it would

seriously impact the quality of education provided for all children.

An event offered in our gym this week was Jump rope for Heart. Mrs. DeCristofaro is committed to helping our children develop healthy lifestyle habits and this event reminds us all of the importance of exercise in maintaining a healthy heart. All monies raised from this event are donated to the American Heart Association for research and to support individuals who do have heart disease. Many parents volunteer to help out at this event as do many staff members. Those ropes are swinging and the children try new moves. I'm always amazed by how quickly they learn new steps and ways to jump...and by their energy levels!



With March comes the registration of new students to our kindergarten program. We would appreciate your help in contacting parents who will have incoming kindergarten children as well as those who will be entering grade one in our school for the first time. Please ask them to phone Deb or Sharon in the main office at 887-8503, ext. 300 and the process will begin. Thank you for your help.

Curriculum and Other News



Focus on Bus Behavior:

Welcome back! I hope that all of you enjoyed February vacation and are ready to return to the routine of school. Recently, we have found it necessary to remind our students of expected bus behavior. As you know, we focus on establishing appropriate bus behaviors through our Star Quest Roll-outs, and we revisit these expectations throughout the year. Our main priority is to keep the children safe while riding to and from school. Our efforts are supported by bus company personnel and our drivers have always worked with us to help the student learn expectations.

Soon we will be meeting with all the students to review our expectations for bus behavior. We also will meet with all our bus drivers to review bus procedures. The bus drivers do their best to insure that your child is delivered safely door to door. They take their jobs very seriously, and their primary concern is to keep your child safe during the bus ride to and from school.

I'm hoping that you will take a few minutes at home to discuss the importance of bus safety with your child. We are reinforcing the following rules:

- Use Inside Voices
- Stay in Seats
- Sit Facing Forward

- Back Packs Zipped and on Laps
- Keep Hands to Self
- Keep Legs Forward

It is very important that the students understand that we follow these rules to stay safe and responsible on the bus.

As always, thank you for working with us! Have a safe and healthy March.



Patrice Liff, Assistant Principal

From the School Counselor



During these difficult financial times many families may find themselves in unique living arrangements. You may find the following information useful.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act addresses the problems of homelessness and education. Under this program schools must ensure that homeless children have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as other children. The McKinney-Vento Act defines “homeless children and youth” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

- Children and youth who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as *doubled-up*)

- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations

- living in emergency or transitional shelters

- abandoned in hospitals or awaiting foster care placement

- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings

- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings

- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

If you are homeless, your child can still attend the school he/she does now and will be eligible to receive services such as the free lunch program.

As the school counselor, I am the coordinator for homeless students. If

you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Nancy Stafford
School Counselor
nancy.stafford@timberlane.net

For a list of local resources please visit: <http://www.Home4Hope.com>

News from Everyday

Mathematics



Kathy Fowler
Elementary Math Coach

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Website has a link to some great Family Resources:
<http://www.nctm.org/resources/families.aspx>

Below is the opening page. Once there, you can click on the links for more information.

Family Resources

Help your child learn math

[Help Your Child Succeed in Math:](#)

You can make a big difference in your child's attitude, motivation, and math ability.

[Homework Help:](#)

Key concepts to make those homework sessions more effective, and more fun! It includes additional resources to use in daily homework sessions.

[Math Education Today:](#)

Math is taught differently now. Here's help to get up to speed.

[Figure This! Family Corner:](#)

Family members are crucial to student success. And the more that adults become engaged in their children's education, the greater the chances that children will succeed.

Sandown North Elementary

March, 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Monday Morning Meeting	9 Professional Development Day NO SCHOOL 	10	11	12	13
14 Daylight Savings Time begins	15 Monday Morning Meeting	16	17 	18	19	20 First day of
21	22 Monday Morning Meeting	23	24 10-11 Kindergarten Parent Night 6:30pm - 7:30pm	25	26	27 Pancake Breakfast Central School 8:00am
28	29 Monday Morning Meeting	30	31			

Spring Vacation – April 26 – 30