

November

Sandown North News



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

November signals the beginning of the holiday season. Our children anxiously await the first snowfall while many of the adults cringe at the mere mention of it. Still, we all come together in looking forward to the great food and company of family as we celebrate Thanksgiving. As a staff, we are so fortunate and thankful to work and learn together, sharing ideas and expertise. We are supported on a daily basis by our volunteers and community members who keep the focus on the children and what is best for them. When we all work together, our children are provided with quality, fun learning experiences in a nurturing, safe environment. I want to sincerely thank all of you for what you offer to all of us in such a warm, caring way. Once again, our school received the Blue Ribbon Award for Volunteerism because of all the hours parents and family members have volunteered in some way. Unfortunately, Tracy Kripp-Burns and I were not able to attend the celebration ceremony in Manchester due to illness. Tracy certainly deserves to be recognized for encouraging and supporting parents to be involved in their child's education.

She is always willing to talk to parents and help to connect them to activities that fit into their schedules. If you are interested in being involved in some way and have not yet spoken to Tracy, simply call Sharon Hasfjord and/or Deb Ray and they will be sure to get that information to Tracy. If you have been wondering about PTA and the possibility of joining the Board, Amy Difeo and Laura McLaughlin would be more than willing to talk to you and to answer your questions. When many people share the workload, we can accomplish so much and have fun together at the same time

Recently, during Fire Prevention Week, our Fire Department members came to school and watched us during a fire drill practice. They looked to see that our systems were efficient so that the children and staff will be safe in the event of an emergency. We were all so impressed with how seriously our children exited the building and followed through on practiced procedures. In addition, they met with all our children at an all school assembly and taught them about fire safety. A Thank You is extended to Chief Tapley and Lieutenant Cheney for working so closely with all of us.

We were excited to also have the opportunity to have a dental clinic set up right in our building last month. The dental needs of many of our children were able to be met. This was made possible for us through the Alexander Eastman Foundation Grant. Thank you to Mrs. Zimmerman for

working closely with the medical personnel to provide an experience that was pleasant and so very important to the children's overall health.

Just today, our school bus drivers came to school along with Sandy Hodgkins, our liaison, to meet with our Universal Team. The goal for all of us is to provide a safe and pleasant ride to school and home for our children. The children have a responsibility to be safe and respectful while riding the bus and we will be working on that with them for the next 6-8 weeks. We will teach, reinforce, and then expect STAR behaviors on the bus. All adults have agreed on what that will look like so that we can use the same language and be consistent when talking to children. Next week, we will do the bus roll-out with the children. Throughout the roll-out time, we will offer motivators and visual supports to the children so they can see how their bus is doing compared to others and if they need to work together more so they, too, can earn a special privilege. It's fun to learn and earn!!!

Speaking of earning,☺ if you are interested in earning some extra money by being a substitute for the Timberlane School District, please contact Grace Morgan at 382-6119. She will direct you as to what you need to do to become eligible to work in our schools. We'd love to have you join us if you are interested in working with our children.

I wish you all a peaceful, Happy Thanksgiving with your families.

FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Often during the school year I hear parents say that it's difficult to find out about their children's school day. I hope the information below will help you learn more about your child's day with us and for your child to gain practice in conversational skills.

FINDING OUT ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S DAY AT SCHOOL



Sometimes getting more than a one-word answer about your child's school day can be frustrating. Remember, asking questions that only require one-word answers will produce just that. In order to encourage your child to give you more information, ask more situation specific questions. Here are some conversation starters, which might help:

“What did you do on the playground today? Whom did you play with?”

“Tell me the best part of the story your teacher read today.”

“What was something you learned in math today?”



Start a story with your child about school and let him/her fill in the blanks. For example, you can begin with: “Today I went to school and sat next to _____. Then we opened our _____ backpacks _____ and _____. At lunch I sat next to _____ and played _____ at recess.” Continue until you are satisfied that you heard more than your child would normally volunteer.

Ask your child, “Is this a good time to talk about school?” Your child has been working hard all day and may need time to unwind before entering into a conversation about school. Family dinnertime is often a good time to talk about the day. One fun way of initiating conversation at dinnertime is to have each family member talk about his/her “highs and lows” for the day. In other words, what was the best part and the hardest part of the day? From time to time you might hear information that may concern you. It is then you might want to ask, “Are you sure?” Check out information with the teacher rather than express worries or fears or call the school counselor.

Remember, conversation is a skill children need to acquire. Learning to begin with a greeting, ask questions, make eye contact, use appropriate body language and close with an

ending are all components of a good conversation which can be effectively modeled by parents.

Please let me know if you have any questions about these suggestions or any part of the guidance program. I look forward to working with you and your children this school year.

Nancy Stafford
School Counselor x317

Curriculum Corner

Patrice Liff, Assistant Principal

*“Children are
made readers on
the laps of their
parents”*

~Emilie Buchwald



As you know, The Timberlane Regional School District has adopted the Scott Foresman reading program, *Reading Street*, for core literacy instruction. Our district’s language arts committee spent time last year looking at reading programs and aligning them to the State of New Hampshire’s Literacy Plan. After this process was completed, the committees chose *Reading Street*. *Reading Street* focuses on teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, comprehension, vocabulary, and listening skills. Students participate in various activities that reinforce learning on their level. The curriculum is multi-cultural and incorporates the study of social studies and science into daily literacy activities.

As part of this program, you will receive a weekly newsletter entitled *Family Times*. The newsletter is informative and explains to parents what their children will be learning each week during literacy time. Homework is assigned according to the day the unit begins, which may not always be a Monday. This is a new concept to many of us, and we appreciate your support as we learn and develop our practices. Although the homework may look different to you, our philosophy of helping children to learn to love literacy has not changed. One of the most important things you can continue to do as parents is read to your child every night. As your child develops their own reading skills, you can share these moments by taking turns. Spending 10 to 15 minutes a day with your child reading to each other sends a positive message that reading is important.

If you have any questions regarding *Reading Street*, please feel free to contact me or your child's classroom teacher.



Parents' Right to Know

In response to regulations set by the New Hampshire Department of Education and the United State Department of Education, we are required to notify you of our staff's highly qualified status. All teachers, Title I Tutors, and support staff at Sandown North Elementary School meet these requirements and are highly

qualified to teach. We are also required to inform you that parents have the right to request information regarding their child's performance level in the classroom or from Title I. Any parent of an ELL student has the right to withdraw his/her child from English language instruction if they feel that they are proficient. If you have any questions about these regulations, please contact Patrice Liff



News from Everyday Mathematics

Kathy Fowler
Elementary Math Coach

How Children Learn in *Everyday Mathematics* (from the *Home Connection Handbook*)

Think about the master chefs you see on television-how do they acquire their knowledge and skills? No one starts out chopping onions at high speed, inventing their own dishes, or running a restaurant! Chefs develop their cooking expertise over time, starting with basic skills and easy recipes. Gradually, they practice those skills, learn important food science concepts, and gain experience by cooking in many restaurants.

In a similar way, *Everyday Mathematics* is based on research that shows children build understanding and develop skills as a result of many meaningful and connected learning experiences. Mastery of mathematical concepts and skills comes with repeated exposure and practice, not after just one lesson. This enables

children to make new connections and build on the mathematical content they already know while gradually learning more difficult and challenging content.

To help children develop mastery, you may notice the content is taught in a repeated fashion or spiral, first with informal exposure and then through more formal and directed instruction. For example, children will have many different hands-on experiences with subtraction – they will take items away from a set, count backwards on a number line, and make up subtraction stories – all before they learn pencil-and-paper procedures for subtraction. Similarly, children have many hands-on experiences with algebra – they will draw and act out number stories, write number sentences, find missing information in Frames-and-Arrows diagrams, and graph functions before they begin to explore variables in algebraic equations.

The design of Everyday Mathematics allows children to gain a more genuine understanding of mathematical concepts, a solid mathematical foundation, and exposure to the entire scope of mathematics (numbers and numeration, operations and computation, data and chance, geometry and measurement, and patterns, functions and algebra) every year.

How can you help? Because homework is one way children revisit concepts, you can support your child by helping with Home Links (K-3) or Study Links (4-5) and by playing math games at home when they are assigned, or just for fun and extra practice.

Garden Club News



The Sandown North Garden Club would like to thank The Tarlin, Guzman, Borbone, McLaughlin and Weymouth family's for generously donating bulbs, plants, soil and materials for our school gardens! Thanks also to The Guzman, Young, Arahamian, and Kontos families for joining Mrs. Janvrin, Mrs. Sotirakopoulos, Mrs. Kellaway, Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. Lenihan and Mr. Melle on Friday afternoon to work on our school gardens. The front of our school will be spectacular this spring! We look forward to more gardening events next planting season.

Enrichment News



Please check your November 5th Express envelope for information about the Sandown North Young Inventors Program. This program was lots of fun last year. Two of our students even received awards at the state competition! To check the program materials ahead of time click

the **Invention Program** link at www.sandownnorth.com
Happy Inventing!

National Geographic Channel and National Geographic School Publishing Respond to Critical Need for Student Continuity of Learning During Flu Season

National Geographic Channel and National Geographic School Publishing are responding to the urgent call of U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to provide continuity of learning to keep students, sick or well, engaged in meaningful education activities if they are kept home during flu season.

To help address the needs of students who will be impacted, National Geographic Channel and National Geographic School Publishing are providing a special programming block and free education resources that will be made available during what is expected to be peak flu season. Beginning November 9th, National Geographic Channel will air two-hour programming blocks from 11am -1pm ET, weekdays, over a six-week period. All programming is G-rated and culled from the network's award winning specials and ongoing series including Explorer, Naked Science, and Wild Spaces.

For those who do not subscribe to the National Geographic Channel, over half of the programs to be shown on air will also be made available anytime online via the NGSP continuity of learning portal, National Geographic Home Zone: www.NGSP.com/homezone, and at

www.natgeotv.com/education

All programs in this block are complemented with free web-based activity guides and resources provided by National Geographic School Publishing. The educational materials are suitable for elementary, middle school and high school students, and applicable to science, social studies and other disciplines. The free web-based activity guides and resources materials are available at the Home Zone website.

NURSE'S NOTES

As you hear in the news, influenza-like illness is wide spread in NH. There are some schools in the state that have had a greater number of students absent with flu like illness than others.



Information from state sources indicates that most cases are fairly mild and children are only sick for a few days. The population that is at higher risk for complications are those with chronic diseases such as asthma. If your child has a chronic illness such as asthma and comes down with flu-like illness (fever with a cough or fever with a sore throat), you should speak to his/her doctor at the first sign of illness. You should also ask your child's doctor about the H1N1 vaccine.

It has been very helpful for you to leave a detailed message when calling your child in sick. We are tracking the number of students who are out with

flu-like illness in order to get a handle on how best to approach your child's educational needs.

Mrs. Sherman-DeRoche, the Sandown Central School nurse and I will give an H1N1 informational presentation at the PTA meeting on November 10th.

Please remember also to talk to your children about cough etiquette (coughing in their sleeve), washing hands frequently and the need to stay home when they are sick.

Thank you for your continued support. As always, you are welcome to call me for further information.

Ellen Zimmerman RN
Sandown North School Nurse

Sandown North Elementary

November, 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2  Monday Morning Meeting	3 Professional Development NO SCHOOL	4	5	6	7
8	9  Monday Morning Meeting	10 PTA H1N1 Information Night 6:30 – 7pm	11 Veteran's Day NO SCHOOL 	12	13	14
15	16  Monday Morning Meeting	17	18	19	20	21
22	23  Monday Morning Meeting	24	25 Thanksgiving Vacation NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL 	27 NO SCHOOL	28
29	30					