

December



Sandown North News



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

The holidays are here again and so is the PTA sponsored Holiday Gift Shop. The smiles on the children's faces brighten all our days. We appreciate all the hours our volunteers spent helping the children shop. They agreed that it got them more excited about giving, too.

Last week, the children shouted with glee when they spotted the large, bright blue ribbon on the top of a tree. "The Blue Ribbon has arrived. It's really here!" They needed to see the "ribbon". We did receive the Blue Ribbon plaque and flag at a very special ceremony in Washington, DC on November 15th. Prior to the actual award ceremony, we were involved in many breakout sessions where we learned alongside people from around the country. Many of us exchanged addresses in order to stay in touch, and recently we heard that there will be an on-line network of Blue Ribbon Schools so that we can share ideas and challenges with each other. We are all

2011 Blue Ribbon Schools and will proudly use that logo this year.

In choosing the Blue Ribbon Schools, the Department of Education looks for the practices that they want to promote in other schools in the nation. The Sandown North practices that received commendations were:

1. Teamwork
2. Commitment to celebrating learning
3. On-going communication
4. Engaging, positive culture
5. Consistently high test scores
6. Passionate educators
7. Innovation
8. Culture that inspires everyone to live up to their full potential

We were requested to celebrate this honor all year and to plan a high profile celebration. I would like to host a coffee hour on Friday, January 20th from 10 – 11am to share the "Blue Ribbon Experience with you and to talk to you about your ideas regarding a celebration. So, if you're free, I'd love to have you come in so we can share coffee, pastry, and conversation. We need your ideas and energy. Feel free to bring your friends! ☺

The holiday gardens look wonderful and certainly add to our holiday spirit. Thank you to Troop 10765, the Whyte, and Thompson families for using their talents to add to the festive air around the school. We so appreciate the time they put into

making the school an attractive and fun place for our children to be.

At this time of year, we notice the children love to be read to even more. I encourage you to read holiday stories with your children at home. It's a great way to enjoy the season. Let your child sit back and just enjoy the book with you, looking closely at the illustrations and laughing at the humor. If your child is practicing reading a book at home, it's ok for it to be an easier book for him/her. We want them to practice reading as if they were talking and that means that they can't be struggling with the words. Our children work hard all day and have many challenging opportunities to learn, so at home it should be pure enjoyment.

Enjoy the holidays with your friends and families. It is such a wonderful time of the year in New Hampshire, although these 50-60 degree days don't lend themselves to the feeling of the holiday season. Happy New Year to all!



Curriculum and Other News

Important Winter Playground Information

Winter weather is right around the corner. The children continue to play outside at recess during the winter months. It is important to all staff that Sandown North students continue to have fun during the winter months. Here are a few reminders to talk with your child about at home.

Playground Safety: 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.

Dressing for Winter Fun: 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.

Fun without Using the Equipment: Students can still have fun without going on the equipment. They can play ball, four square, jump rope, hula-hoop, skip-its. Swings are allowed as long as students are dressed appropriately.

Title I Information Night and Pajama Literacy



It was wonderful to see all our families at the Pajama Literacy night on November 10th. Thank you to Diane Chauvette for organizing the event, to Judy Tubbs and Jill Farrell, Title I Tutors, for presenting to the parents of our Title I Students, and to Laura McLaughlin for organizing the book fair! It is one of my favorite nights of the year.

Have a safe and healthy holiday season.

Patrice L. Liff, Assistant Principal

FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR



As the holiday season approaches, many children have told me about the latest electronics and video games they would like such as Nintendo DS, Xboxes, Play Stations and Wii. One of the concerns I often read about on various school counseling websites and journals is video game violence and I feel it is important information that should be shared with parents.

As many of you know, video games are rated for age appropriateness. The ratings generally fall into several categories and are labeled differently depending on the

company. For instance, Play Station rates its games in the following way: “**EC**” stands for Early Childhood and has no material that a parent would find inappropriate. “**E**” stands for “appropriate for Everyone”, “**T**” stands for “appropriate for teens and older” and “**M**” ratings stand for “Mature” and are for persons ages 17 and older. “**AO**” stands for Adults Only, for ages 18 and older. The American Psychological Association has found 3 major effects of watching violence either on television or video games. Children who watch violence on TV or play violent video games may become less sensitive to the pain and suffering of others. They also can become more afraid and fearful of the world around them. Lastly, these children are more likely to exhibit aggressive and cruel behavior towards others.

If you are buying video games for your child please take note of which games you are purchasing. If your child requests a specific game, find out about its contents. On the game package there is a rating symbol which suggests age appropriateness but also be sure to read the content description which indicates why a game was given that particular rating. Just as you need to monitor your child’s TV viewing, you also need to know what video games they are playing. One helpful website is put out by the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB). This board applies and enforces ratings for video games. It will give you the most up to date list of video game ratings and content descriptors. The web address is www.esrb.org. If you have any questions/concerns or would like more information, please give me a call.

Nancy Stafford, School Counselor
887-8505 x317

Technology

Students have been working diligently in Technology class. They have been practicing fundamental skills such as logging-in, accessing documents, using applications and saving work. This year the Timberlane Regional School District adopted the Tech-Steps curriculum program. Tech-Steps can be accessed at www.Techsteps.com. Using Tech-Steps first graders used an Excel template to learn about sorting. Second graders worked with Power Point to compose descriptive writing. Third graders used PowerPoint to create an auto-biography puzzle.

For more information on the Sandown North Technology program please visit my Moodle Page at: <http://moodle.timberlane.net/>.

The registration key for this page is smile. This page contains links to many of the applications students use in Technology class. It also contains Tech-Steps project examples and log-in information.














Students are currently learning to upload their work to Mahara. Mahara provides a framework for students to maintain an e-portfolio and collaborate with teachers and other students within the Timberlane Regional School District. My Moodle page contains instructions for accessing Mahara.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions at 887-8503x308 or justin.bentley-melle@timberlane.net



Sandown North Elementary December, 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	 MMM 5 8:50 am Holiday Gift Shop 	6 Holiday Gift Shop 	7 Holiday Gift Shop 	8	9	10
11	12  Monday Morning Meeting 8:50 am	13	14	15	16	17
18	19  Monday Morning Meeting 8:50 am	20	21	22	23	24 Vacation 
25 Vacation 	26 Vacation 	27 Vacation 	28 Vacation 	29 Vacation 	30 Vacation 	31 Return to school on January 3, 2012