



Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

December 12, 2019

From the Principal: We are excited for our all school trip to the Mullins Center for ice skating on Tuesday, December 17. Please be sure to send your child(ren)'s permission slip into school.

Local Education Council (LEC): The Sanderson Academy Local Education Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 16 at 4:30. We will be reviewing the School Improvement Plan. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Upcoming Events:

We will not have an All School Meeting this week.

Sunday, December 15: Community Holiday Party 4:00 - 6:00

Monday, December 16: Local Education Council Meeting at 4:30

Tuesday, December 17: Skating at UMASS Mullins Center

Wednesday/Thursday, December 18/19: Holiday Boutique

Friday, December 20: 12:30 Dismissal

December 23 - January 1: School Vacation

Thursday, January 2: School Resumes

Preschool News from Mrs. Freeman: This week we read different versions of the gingerbread man and several gingerbread related stories. Preschoolers noticed repeating phrases within the stories, how there are different characters in different versions of the story, and similar endings to the stories. As we read each story, we all hope the gingerbread character would not be tricked in the end! Keeping with the theme of gingerbread, we started to make gingerbread houses. Preschoolers love this project! Thank you for your donations and making this project possible.

Preschool News from Ms. Melanie: We had a great time making hanging paper ornaments with our third grade buddies. We have hung them in our classroom for now for all to admire, they will be going home soon. We were thrilled to see our first birds visiting our new bird feeder! One chickadee appeared one day and we told it to tell its friends--sure enough, more chickadees came! We watched as they perched in the crabapple tree outside our window, and one-by-one took turns flying to the window feeder to snatch a seed

and fly right back to the tree. We have been hearing the chickadees in the woods where we play and have learned to identify their call.

In this festive season, we have been singing our favorite holiday songs--we have a real singing group! One of our favorites is a rousing chorus of Jingle Bells--we can't seem to sing it enough!

Just a reminder to our families to check your child's spare clothes bag--especially for socks. Playing outside is an important part of our day and we sometimes get wet. Cozy warm clothes to change into are a welcome thing. Thank you!

Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah: For Science this week, we focused on the concept that a collision between two objects causes a change in the motion of the objects. We did three experiments to test this out. One used a magnetic marble roller set that allowed us to build vertical marble runs on the chalkboard. The second experiment involved different train track runs and differently weighted trains. And the final involved a toy wrecking ball, a wall, and nearby "buildings." Students got to test out using different amounts of force in each of these experiments and see how it affected the resulting motion of the objects.

First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen: First grade created quilt blocks using shapes and fractional pieces as part of their math this week. In addition we created 5 armed sea stars. We are using the quilt for counting by 5s in a variety of ways. In addition first graders are playing games with pennies, nickels and dimes and counting collections of coins. We have a 30 gallon aquarium filled with water set at a temperature of 42F. We look forward to our brook trout eggs being delivered next Monday. We are enjoying holiday books, making holiday cards and special projects for our families.

Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson: As the snow has started to fall and as the holiday season approaches, our writing is focusing on snowmen and gingerbread men. What words can be used to describe a gingerbread man? How about baked and delicious? What actions can a snowman do? How about stand silently or tip over? Where are places one can find a gingerbread man? Maybe on the counter or in one's stomach? And at what times of the year does one find a snowman? Maybe in the month of January or on a frosty morning? Ideas such as these are being brainstormed in class. We will then use our ideas to write descriptive sentences about snowmen and gingerbread men.

During our Foundations block, we have been working with glued sounds (-am, -an, -all, -ank -ink, -onk, unk, -ang, ing, -ong, and -ung). Glued sounds are letters that keep their individual sounds, but when the sounds are tapped out, two or three fingers are "glued" together to show the number of sounds working together. To reinforce our work with glued sounds at home, an activity you can do with your second grader is to think of list of rhyming words, such as bring, sing, fling, king, thing, ring, swing, sting, string, wing. You can then use this list to create silly sentences, such as "The king will sing as he wears a ring made of string."

We are now working with maps of the United States as a part of our map unit. We read a poem called "United States" and made puzzles of the United States to familiarize ourselves with the names of states and their locations. We are currently using our classroom map to locate states and to look at what borders them, such as other states, bodies of water, and countries.

Second Grade News from Ms. Wyckoff: Second graders are getting into the holiday spirit through a variety of activities happening in ELA as well as during daily chatter between friends. A group of girls came up with a plan to create characters for a play, which then turned into the suggestion from another that “we need a script” Roles were then doled out and costumes (hats) started to be created and worn. On the academics side of our day, second graders continue to work on place value into the 100s during our math block as well as creating and conducting surveys during number corner. During ELA, we are using the mentor text *Who’s That Knocking on Christmas Eve* by Jan Brett. This mentor text has us thinking about the evidence in the story to back up our reasoning for a given answer to a question such as, why did Kyri call the polar bear a big cat? We are also reading some non-fiction passages related to polar bears and then collecting facts from the passage as we read. During our second step lessons this week we are focusing on “confidence” and “self talk” Positive self talk can help you persevere through something that may feel hard or challenging and helps you reflect on the skills you already have to help you complete a task.

Third Grade News from Ms. Fisher: We are very grateful to the parents who drove us to the Norman Rockwell Museum for our field trip last Friday. The students did a fabulous job attending during the tours and looking carefully at the art. The volunteers at the museum praised our class for being attentive, purposeful, and well-dressed. We have been busy this week preparing for our family performance next Wednesday where the students will be presenting their learning on the regions of Massachusetts. We hope many families will be able to join us from 10 - 12 on this special day.



Fourth Grade News from Mrs. Lagoy: It has been wonderful getting to know all of your children this week and I can’t wait for our continued learning adventures. Boy did we hit the ground running! During geography we started discovering landforms and water in the Northeast Region. Students finished their narrative writing last week with Mrs. Rida and we have begun our opinion writing unit. We spent the week

building multiplication arrays during math and discussing shape attributes in our number corner. During our reading block we worked on sequencing with some of my favorite picture books and started our first novel study. Be sure to ask your child about their favorite book from the week.

Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson: Fifth grade has analyzed the features of letters. Each student has selected an author to write to. We brainstormed what they might include in their letters and they are writing their drafts, then getting help to edit and revise them. They are looking up addresses, addressing envelopes, and we're getting them in the mail tomorrow. Then the waiting for replies begins.

Sixth Grade from Ms. Schreiber: Sixth grade has finished up a science activity demonstrating their knowledge of the theory of continental drift. Students were given a choice on their project. One chose to write a script of a phone conversation between Alfred Wegener and his mother where he describes his theory and the fact that many other scientists do not believe him and why. Most of the class chose to write a comic strip with a fossil talking to a scientist explaining what they can learn about the past and continental drift from the fossil. We are also finishing up our character essays this week.

Math News from Mrs. Prew: There is a Local Education Council meeting this Monday, December 16th. Ms. Liebowitz and I will be sharing information about the Title I math program. Please join the meeting to hear updates, ask questions, and share your ideas for making Title I even better! On a totally separate note, please join me in welcoming SCA members, Isabel and Patrick, to Sanderson Academy for their education season. Ask your kiddos about their visits this week- we are all so excited to have them!

Library News from Mrs. Shippee:

It's been a wonderful time to be looking at winter and holiday books in Our Library. Well-Loved Holiday-Book-Friends are out on display to be read by children next to a warm fireplace or a sunny window. Many New-Book-Friends are being cataloged and circulated each day, so the children are very excited. Books have arrived via USPS, Thanks to You, the BookFair, and Amazon. These new books are "new to us", and are in great shape. (The dollar stretches farther that way.) Winnie the Witch adventures seem to be a fun read for kids of ALL Ages! She and her cat, Wilbur, are always up to something! Jan Brett sure very popular around here. Look out...you might just see a troll peeking around the Holiday Decorations! Students are loving the books with a snow theme! We also have spoken about why the Celebrations of Light Holidays of many cultures happen around the darkest time of the year. Just ask your student to see what their favorite Holiday Book is!

Music News from Ms. Shippee: We have started to bring in some secular, winter holiday songs, including "Frosty the Snow Man," "Let It Snow," "Winter Wonderland," "Snowflakes Falling," and "Jingle Bells." Snow covers the ground now, and more of it is falling - and we are singing about it in music class! Also, grades 4-6 have been playing an arrangement of "Carol of the Bells" on the Orff instruments. It sounds pretty good!

Speech and Language News from Trish Aurigemma: This week in **Mrs. Freeman's class** during our **Incredible Flexible You** time, the children learned about how our feelings are felt inside of our heart, but shown on the outside of our bodies. When we are happy, we smile, our eyes are wide open, and our arms are relaxed and lifted up. When we are sad, we frown, our eyes are cast downward and our arms are relaxed. When we are scared, our eyes are wide open, our mouths will open in surprise, and our arms will be held tightly close to our body's. Finally, when we are mad, we will crinkle our forehead, squeeze our eyes closer together, our mouths will be closed, our arms will be crossed tightly, and we may even stomp our feet. The children had a chance to explore all these feelings with the body language that match each feeling. They discovered that our bodies show on the outside what we feel in our hearts. They also learned that all these feelings are good and important to all of us.

This week in Ms. Forbes class during our We Thinkers time, the children had a chance to explore what is meant by expected and unexpected behaviors when we are all working together in a group. They learned that when we follow the hidden rules then we are showing expected behaviors, then every one around us will feel comfortable too. They also learned that when we don't know or don't follow the hidden rules then we will do things that are unexpected, then the people around us may feel uncomfortable. The skills of following the group plan, thinking with your eyes, using whole body listening, and keeping our bodies in the group are all needed to learn what the hidden rules are in any social setting. The group practiced these skills when they identified when I did or didn't follow the hidden rules of reading the story to the group. They used a green thought bubble to show that they had comfortable thoughts about what I was doing and then would flip it to a red thought bubble to show that they had uncomfortable thoughts about what I was doing. After each example the group discussed what happened or what went wrong and what skill that wasn't followed. The children all enjoyed learning these skills in such a fun way.



Green Thought Bubble=expected behavior



Red Thought Bubble=unexpected behavior

Mindful Movement with Ms. Sue: Over the past 2 weeks we have been focusing on KINDNESS, using our time together for discussions, some yoga flow sequences and some mindful moments either coloring or mini-meditations. Kindness for ourselves in the form of self-care allows us to build upon our ability to express kindness toward others, therefore creating a ripple effect of kindness throughout our school into our homes and community.

MTRSD After Care: Hilltown Scout Camp

Do you need childcare during February vacation? Or do you want your child to learn about local birds, tracking and other outdoor skills? Join us at Mohawk for the Hilltown Scout Camp this February. This program is open to all students in the area grades k to 6. The hours are from 9am to 3pm and the cost is \$30 per student per day (2nd child is half price). Each day students will go outside, play in the gym, have craft time and experience other hands on learning activities. You don't need to commit to the full week or even a full day. To enroll your child or for more information contact Mrs. Woof at awoofenden@mohawkschools.org or 413-625-9811 ext. 1170.

Second Step: Getting along with others helps make our school a happier place. To get along with others, we need to have empathy for each other. Empathy is feeling or understanding what someone else is feeling. We are feelings detectives. Try to notice how others are feeling throughout the week. Watch their faces and bodies for clues.

In school we are learning to identify our own and other's feelings. We can focus our attention on someone's face or body and on the situation for clues about how the person is feeling. Sometimes people's voices and the words they say can also give us clues. If someone is yelling, it might be that this person is angry. If a person is using a very quiet voice, it might be that the person is scared or worried. Listen to people's voices for clues to figure out how they might be feeling.