



# Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

December 19, 2019

***From the Principal:*** We would like to wish you a very happy holiday break. We hope you enjoy time with family and friends. See you in 2020!

## ***Upcoming Events:***

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 are talking about our special holiday celebrations and how this time of the year is referred to as the season of giving. With this in mind we have been busy making gifts to give to friends or family members. We are also enjoying the time we spend together as a class and hope everyone enjoys the extra time with family and friends over the holiday break.

We would also like to say, “Thank you” to Ms. Wendy for helping our class with a special cookie project! We appreciate the extra time spent to make this project possible.

***Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah:*** In anticipation of all the holiday celebrations coming up next week, we did some holiday activities in our classroom. We played some holiday themed games and read several books to learn about the various holidays that are celebrated at this time of year. We found that they all have similar themes of light, giving, and gratitude. We made potato latkes from scratch. And tomorrow, we will be picking a classmates’ name out of a bag and decorating a gingerbread cookie to give them. Happy Holidays to everyone!

***First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen:*** First graders are excited to work with SCA teachers Ms. Biz and Mr. Patrick. They will be developing hands on science lessons with the theme sun, moon and earth. They will work with first graders Thursday mornings. We are also very happy to have received 120 brook trout eggs this week. We are keeping our water chilled to 42F and we will raise the temperature after our holiday break. Once they hatch we will feed them. We are designing our own wrapping paper for a special holiday gift for families. Have an enjoyable holiday!

***Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson:*** As we continue to think about the approaching winter holidays, we also continue to focus on writing about gingerbread men and snowmen. After brainstorming our lists of describing words, action words, places, and times, sentences such as the following were created:

- The fat snowman melted in the field in March.
- The yummy gingerbread man was baked in the kitchen on December 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The small snowman waved from the field in the morning.
- The gingery gingerbread man was eaten on a picnic blanket in the afternoon.

Our theme of snowmen and gingerbread men also spilled over into other classroom activities, as we read a poem called “A Chubby Little Snowman” and decorated gingerbread men for our winter holiday celebration.

As our thoughts turn to the approaching winter vacation and time spent with family and friends, our second grade class wishes all the Sanderson families a warm and wonderful holiday season. Happy Holidays to everyone!

***Second Grade News from Ms. Wyckoff:*** This week we are wrapping up our December number corner as well as our polar bear writing. In our number corner this month, our focus has been on various shapes and the number of sides and vertices each shape has. During one recent lesson, children were exploring the idea of symmetry using shapes all represented on our December calendar markers. We talked about how many lines of symmetry each shape has and why. The circle seemed to be the most challenging, as a circle has infinite lines of symmetry, because you can continue to fold it over itself multiple times to create a line of symmetry. An easy way to tell if a shape has more than one line of symmetry is to see if the shape itself has changed based on the folding. Second graders described this as “two equal parts” or a “mirror image of itself” To connect our symmetry lesson to something we are all very familiar with, we read snowflake Bentley and then created our very own snowflake and toothpick symmetrical snowflakes.

On Wednesday afternoon we had the most wonderful time getting together with our 6th grade buddies for some pre holiday cheer! We decorated sugar cookies, played some math workplace games, decorated cards and played some festive Christmas bingo!

From second grade to your family, we wish you a fun, relaxing and safe vacation! Enjoy this extra time to be with the ones you love and take a moment to think about all you and your family have to be grateful for! See you in 2020!!

***Third Grade News from Ms. Fisher:*** We are feeling grateful for the huge turnout and support for our family performance and luncheon this week. The students had a great time showing you their learning, and we appreciate your willingness to come and witness it. If you missed it or would like to share it with someone else, no worries! We will be consolidating all of the reports, along with photos, drawings, and maps, into a class book which we will assemble in January. Sending along best wishes for a peaceful and fun vacation week!

***Fourth Grade News from Mrs. Lagoy:*** I would like to commend all of your children for their resiliency during this transition. They have all embraced me and the new routines that come with having a new teacher. We quickly established new quiet signals, lining up and dismissal procedures, and classroom

participation guidelines to ensure that everyone's voice is heard and how to respectfully disagree and/or question someone's thinking. Academically, we are well into the first quadrant of our C.I.A. book, Shiloh. If you haven't heard about our C.I.A. reading program, be sure to ask your child about it. We have identified the main characters, made some conclusions about the setting and have begun tracking the important events in the first quadrant as well as the problems. During writing, students spent time brainstorming topics for their opinion essays. As the week drew to a close, students chose the topic they would write about and worked on writing strong opinion statements. Our anchor chart showed some examples of student revisions. Instead of writing, "It's fun for kids to have pets," students considered writing, "Every child needs to have a pet." Instead of writing, "You should practice your math facts," students tried, "If you want to become a better mathematician, you must practice your math facts every single day." Be sure to ask your child about what topic they chose for their opinion essay and how they revised their opinion statement. In math, we are continuing to work on multiplication arrays and started working on building ratio tables. Ratio tables show the multiplicative relationships between numbers. Students worked in partners to create ratio tables and they currently adorn our supply closet doors. During geography, we finished our study of the land and water of the Northeast Region. Students are compiling their notes and will create a final scrapbook page reflecting their learning. I can't wait to start building our geography scrapbooks. Be sure to ask your child what interesting facts they have learned about the Northeast Region so far.

***Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson:*** We are wrapping up our American Revolution unit this week. Students most recently learned about the Articles of Confederation and Shays Rebellion. As a fun culmination to the unit, we watched *Johnny Tremain* and learned some colonial games like 11 Men's Morse and Cat's Cradle.

***Sixth Grade from Ms. Schreiber:*** We have begun looking at South America and the Inca. We are also wrapping up our character essays and this week we have begun writing argument essays about Daylight Savings Time.

***Speech and Language News from Trish Aurigemma:*** This week in Mrs. Freeman's class we completed the story Thinking Thoughts and Feeling Feelings. The children learned that we can share our thoughts and feelings with other people and depending on what is happening around us that those thoughts and feelings can change from one moment to the next. They also learned that when our feelings are hurt by someone else that the hurt can be fixed by the other person and we all can feel good again. After the story, the children enjoyed dancing to the song "Show me what you are feeling," where all the children got to share showing their favorite emotion. After the holiday break, the students will be listening to a new story called, "The Group Plan." I wish everyone a very Happy Holiday and New Year!

***Special Education News From Leann Loomis:*** The Special Education Parent Advisory Council, in collaboration with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will be hosting a parent orientation to learn about the upcoming Special Education and Civil Rights review in our district. The parent orientation will be held at Mohawk Trail Regional at 9:00 am on January 14th, 2020. Please join us! You may contact Leann Loomis at 413-625-0192 x 1025 or [lloomis@mtrsd.org](mailto:lloomis@mtrsd.org) with questions about the parent orientation or the review. You may also find this information on our district website.