



Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

December 5, 2019

From the Principal: Mrs. Kate Rida, fourth grade teacher, has taken a leave of absence from the Mohawk Trail District for the rest of the year. We welcome back Mrs. Jennifer Lagoy. Ms. Lagoy has been teaching in Greenfield and will return to Sanderson Academy as the permanent fourth grade teacher on Monday!. Welcome back!

Upcoming Events:

We will not have an All School Meeting this week.

Friday, December 6: Third Grade to Norman Rockwell Museum

Wednesday, December 11: School Committee at 6:30

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 Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault. This book inspired us to create our own coconut trees, sing the alphabet song, and have fun using magnetic letters!

Preschool News from Ms. Melanie: Snow, snow, snow! We broke a trail through the deep snow to reach the giant snow banks out back by the garden. We had a great time being “otters” sliding and rolling down the frosty mountain. Some of our preschoolers made seats in the snow and others sampled the frosty goodness, offering us a cone of “vanilla” or “chocolate” snow. Inside, we are continuing to learn about birds and have become ardent bird watchers with binoculars and bird sighting journals to keep track of what we see. Please continue to send those warm winter clothes and check for wet gear coming home each night. We love to be outside!

Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah: In math this week, our focus has been all about building fluency: being able to do some basic math skills automatically so that we can free up our thinking power for other tasks. To help us do this, we played games to practice comparing quantities as more or less, automatically naming what number comes before or after any number within 10, and showing quantities of 6-10 as 5+some more without counting (i.e. knowing that 7 is 5+2 more without having to count “5, 6, 7”).

First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen: Our new math topic in December will be geometric solids as part of our number corner/calendar routine. We will continue our work place math games using spinners for addition and subtraction strategies. The class looks forward to a new author study of Jan Brett’s books. We look forward to our continued daily reading groups and opportunities to read at our own levels. We are planning to raise brook trout in a 30 gallon tank. We look forward to the arrival of our trout eggs Dec. 16 from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson: As Thanksgiving approached last week, we ended our read alouds about Pilgrims by reflecting on the question “Are there Pilgrims in the world today?” We read aloud the story Molly’s Pilgrim by Barbara Cohen, which told the story of a young Russian girl who immigrated to the United States. Molly, the young girl, came to identify with the Pilgrims of 1620, as she was searching for religious freedom and a new home in a foreign land. With the winter holiday season approaching, our read alouds will now focus on books by author and illustrator Tomie dePaola. We will hear stories about his well-known character Strega Nona, as well as stories about the winter holidays, as Christmas is Mr. dePaola’s favorite holiday.

This week, being the first week in December, brings changes in our Number Corner area. This month our calendar markers focus on two-dimensional shapes, with the emphasis being on quadrilaterals (flat shapes with four straight sides) and symmetry. Another focus will be on conducting surveys to collect data, which will then be used to make graphs. We also continue our work with place value during our math time. This week we used unifix cubes to build two-digit numbers, such as 56 and 92, emphasizing the place value of each digit in the number (5 tens and 6 ones, 9 tens and 2 ones). We then looked at other ways we could show such numbers, with 56 being shown as 4 tens and 16 ones or 2 tens and 36 ones.

During our theme time we continue our study of maps and we are currently learning about map keys. We played twenty questions to figure out that the hidden object a mystery bag was a key, which served as a springboard to a discussion about what keys do. With the knowledge that one of the uses of keys is to unlock things, we learned how map keys “unlock” maps, by using simple symbols to represent things on a map. For example, the symbol of a flag can be used to represent a school and a symbol such as =|=|=|= can be used to show railroad tracks.

Second Grade News from Ms. Wyckoff: We hope your family enjoyed a lovely Thanksgiving day along with all that snow! Winter is definitely here! Just before the break, second graders worked on writing their very own page for our class book of *There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a ...* Children referenced a collection of books written by Lucille Colandro that had different versions of the original story *There Was*

An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly. Each page created by second graders are unique and full of silly rhymes. We kicked off our First day back by diving right into our new December number corner. Today we learned two new math terms: data and survey. Many second graders connected the word data to computers or their families cell phones. Children had to vote for a color they prefer best, either red, blue, purple or green. This led us to a completed graph that gave us data to interpret. First, we sat quietly and thought about what the data was showing us. We found that red is the color that second graders prefer most. Throughout the month of December, we will conduct more surveys as a class as well as in small groups so we can continue to interpret data collected.

Third Grade News from Ms. Fisher: Last week third graders enjoyed making and eating Baked Pumpkin Pudding. We started with a sugar pumpkin, baked it, and scraped out the flesh. Then we mashed it and added all the other pudding ingredients and spices. The class loved it, and most went back for seconds. This week we are learning how to create google docs as we finish up our stories based on Norman Rockwell pictures and prepare to type them. We are looking forward to visiting the Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge this Friday.

Fourth Grade News from Mrs. Lagoy: Mrs. Lagoy will be returning to Sanderson on Monday, December 9th. She will include an entry next week.

Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson: Fifth grade has been learning about the American Revolution. We watched a couple *Liberty's Kids* episodes and have been reading about Paul Revere. In writing, we have started looking at the formatting of letters. Students have each selected an author and we are starting to write letters to them.

Sixth Grade from Ms. Schreiber: PJ reading day was a success as we spent the day before Thanksgiving break reading. Now we are jumping back into work looking at unit rates and exploring how we can measure how fast we walk. In science we are making scripts or comic strips demonstrating our knowledge of fossils and the theory of continental drift and plate tectonics.

Math News from Mrs. Prew: In the last newsletter, I mentioned how dominoes are a fun way to engage in mathematical thinking with your kiddos. At school, we use them often! Playing cards are also a great math tool that we use at school to discuss mathematics and try out different mental math strategies. Below is the description for a simple game that you can play with playing cards that can be differentiated for all age levels! Make 5: Remove all cards above 5 and use the Aces as 1. Each player draws 5 cards then puts together two or more cards that combine to a sum/total of 5. Any cards left over are not replaced, but any cards used in the combinations are replaced. Continue drawing cards until all cards are used or you are stuck with no other combinations. The player with the most cards wins! (To vary the game, change it to Make 10, 20, or 100)

Library News from Mrs. Shippee: Welcome Back from Thanksgiving Break! There's been a lot of book-talk going on ever since Our BookFair! Many students and parents have shared how they've enjoyed reading their new books. Our Library also bought new books from the Scholastic BookFair for our own collections, intended for immediate use. Some books in the Wings of Fire series were purchased to fill in gaps in our collection, and two copies of The 2020 Guinness Book of World Records were purchased this year (as usual) from Our BookFair. Some new books, purchased with BookFair funds, are on their way to us from Amazon, as well. The selection includes: a couple of new Thanksgiving stories, some updated and colorfully illustrated history books (by Cheryl Harness), some kindness books, and some just-plain-fun stories! BookFair money also pays for our annual membership to The Junior Library Guild, which always offers meaningful and beautiful books of various genres, for students of all ages. Children's eyes light up with *Joy*, *Inspiration*, and *Happiness* when they check out the new books! Thank You **another** Million, Sanderson Community: Staff, PTO, Parents, and Extended Families! You've **all** helped to make these good things happen. We are Thankful for Your Positive Influences in Our Students' Daily Lives!

Music News from Ms. Shippee: As we head into the winter holidays, lots of good sounds are coming out of music class as the older grades are learning to play an arrangement of "Carol of the Bells" on the Orff instruments. Third grade is preparing for their family luncheon performance of a song about Cape Cod, connecting with their study of Massachusetts. Second grade has been getting to know the instruments in the classroom, moving to a steady beat and joyfully singing songs together.

Speech and Language News from Trish Aurigemma: This week in Mrs. Freeman's class during the Incredible Flexible You lesson everyone had a chance to practice how to share a thought by playing a fun game called "What am I thinking about." All the children took turns thinking of a color, then the rest of the group walked through the classroom hunting for something of that color. On a few occasions, the children shared the same thought and found something together.

Health Office News from Nurse Loranna: Please remember to send in winter gear for your children, we have been having lots of fun outside sledding and playing in the snow and I only have a limited amount of clothes to lend out. Also children should have sneakers to change into here at school. And lastly, please reach out to me if you are in any need for winter clothing for your children as I may be able to help you get some!

