



# Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

February 27, 2020

***From the Principal:*** The District Showcase will be held at Mohawk Trail Regional Middle/High School on Tuesday, March 3rd from 4:30 - 6:30. It is a great way to see all the wonderful things that are happening at all the Mohawk Trail schools. A flyer is included in the folders this week.

## ***Upcoming Events:***

*All School Meetings are held at 9:00 on Fridays.*

Tuesday, March 3: Sixth Grade Students Leave for Mexico

Tuesday, March 3: PTO at 5:30

Tuesday, March 3: District Showcase at Mohawk Trail 4:30 - 6:30

Wednesday, March 4: 1:50 Release

Thursday, March 5: Ashfield/Plainfield Seniors Join Us for Lunch at noon

Thursday, March 5: Storyteller/Folksinger

Monday, March 9: LEC Meeting at 4:30

Wednesday, March 11: 1:50 Release

Wednesday, March 11: School Committee at Colrain Central School at 6:30

Monday, March 16: Jabali Afrika Program at 2:00

Tuesday, March 17: Students Return from Mexico

Wednesday, March 18: Kindergarten Family Luncheon

Wednesday, March 18: 1:50 Release

Friday, March 27: School Play - Holka Polka at 6:00

Saturday, March 28: Snow Date for School Play

***Preschool News from Mrs. Freeman:*** Preschoolers were excited to be back at school and with each other. They talked about the places they visited, people they were with, and some things they did. Special trips, outdoor activities, and time with family and friends were common experiences.

This week we worked on creating our own yoga cards to display at the District Showcase. Preschoolers had a choice of modeling their favorite yoga pose or creating their own pose. Our cards will be used to teach our poses to each other and our families. They will also be incorporated into a story for our future Mindful Movement Family Breakfast.

***Preschool News from Ms. Melanie:*** We are happy to be back together after our February vacation. Our first day back, we had a lovely long walk through the woods with our third grade buddies. Our path took us from behind the town salt shed, all the way to our outdoor classroom where we stopped to play. Someone once said, “You can never visit the same forest twice” and this we can see each time we go to our outdoor classroom. There are subtle changes from day to day, yet a comforting sameness about the whole forest experience. It brings to mind a quote by Robert Louis Stevenson, who wrote, “It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon our hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanates from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit.” We are fortunate to have these woods so close by and ready to welcome us each day.

***Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah:*** As part of re-establishing our community after our vacation, students worked in small groups to come up with skits that demonstrate how to follow our class rules and routines. The rest of the group then guessed what skill the performers were acting out. In our social skills program, we continued our focus on thinking strategies that can help when we are having a problem. We learned thinking strategy two, which is noticing our self-talk and if we are saying negative things (inner critic) or positive things (inner coach) to ourselves. Negative self-talk can make us more upset and positive self-talk can help us feel better.

***First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen:*** First grade returned from vacation eager to see one another and get back into our daily routine. This week we introduced a new math workplace called Fifty or Bust. It is a fun game using numbers 10-20 and unifix cubes in order to see how close we can get to 50. We are using strategies to add sums to 20, and adding a 1-digit and a 2-digit number. We are working on our class management and rearranged our class of 20 into smaller groups in order to take best advantage of our ELA and math interventionist and Ms. Taylor our classroom paraprofessional. These smaller groups work well for our spelling/phonics program, reading and math.

***Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson:*** It was exciting to see the effects of our new math program this week as we showed our growth as flexible problem solvers. As we made another “deposit” into our Base Ten Bank during our Number Corner time, we had to solve the equation  $70 + 48 = \underline{\quad}$ . After we solved this equation individually, we shared how we solved it and came up with six different strategies! Some started at 70 and drew 4 ten sticks and 8 one circles and counted on to find the answer. Other students drew a number line and started at 70 and made 4 jumps of 10 and then 8 jumps of 1 to arrive at the sum. Another strategy that was used was the “splitting strategy” where students split 48 into  $40 + 8$  and then added  $70 + 40$  to get 110 and then added on 8 more to get 118.

As we continued our study of poetry this week, we used a Venn diagram to compare and contrast two poems entitled **Fish** and **The Gecko**. We also used a poetry chart to look more closely at four poems (**Covers, I Like It When It’s Mizzly, Why Is It?, and There Was a Camel**) that we had previously read. With both of these activities we utilized our poetry vocabulary, discussing what the poems were describing, how the poems made us feel, and what kind of rhythm the poems had.

The second-grade classes were invited by a former Sanderson Academy teacher who now teaches second grade in Easthampton to be pen pals with the students in her class. We received our first letters from them

before vacation. This week we are learning about letter writing and look forward to sending letters back to our pen pals.

***Second Grade News from Ms. Wyckoff:*** Our return from vacation, has us reviewing classroom rules, routines and expectations for various parts of our day. We are revisiting the steps needed to solve a problem and also thinking about the size of the problem. In science we are learning about the properties of matter and identifying the 3 phases of matter - solid, liquid and gas. We completed a variety of super fun activities with Biz and Patrick during our SCA block. We also placed candy hearts in water, oil and vinegar and first made some predictions about what we thought would happen. Would they sink or float? And what would happen to the candy hearts after 20 mins? How about after a day? 2 days? Second graders were surprised to see that oil preserves the candy hearts whereas the vinegar completely dissolved the hearts! In ELA we read a nonfiction passage about Balto, a dog who saves an entire town in Alaska. From this reading we discussed what is a hero? Can anyone be a hero? And what are the various characteristics a hero has?

As we close out our February calendar in number corner we have continued to locate the various countries on the map. Using western Massachusetts as our “home” base we can talk about the cardinal direction another country is in relation to us. For example, Norway is north east of the United States and Chili is south west of Massachusetts.

A reminder to our families: we will be running all school starting this Friday February 28th! We hope you can join us starting at 9:00!

***Third Grade News from Ms. Fisher:*** Third graders were happy to bring home their copies of our published class book this week. We hope you have had a chance to look them over. We have been solidifying rounding skills in math this week. Rounding to the nearest ten and hundred when using multi-digit numbers requires a certain amount of focus and consideration, and the class is doing very well with this task. We are continuing to work on using various strategies for multi-digit addition and subtraction, and we will soon be moving into more traditional algorithms which should look more familiar to most parents.

***Fourth Grade News from Mrs. Lagoy:*** Wow! A full week of school! This week we have been writing fractions as decimals during our math block. It has been wonderful to see how our new math program has really helped children to quickly acquire this skill with ease. In writing, we have finished revising our opinion pieces. Now we will turn our attention toward editing and publishing. We finished reading Shiloh today and will work on a persuasive essay next week answering the questions: What is the problem of animal abuse and how have the laws and policies attempted to solve the problem? Do you agree with the laws or policies that promote animal rights? Finally, students have completed the first quadrant of their book club book, including their retell summary.

***Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson:*** In fifth grade, students are taking on the role of pioneers. They are part of simulated wagon trains and are headed to Oregon. They have packed their wagons, written diary entries about heading from their homes to Independence, and have had some fates strike them along the way.

***Sixth Grade News from Ms. Schreiber:*** Welcome back from vacation. We have been reviewing our routines and expectations while jumping back into reviewing operations with fractions. We have also started looking at how we can learn about the past through artifacts as well as what we know about the paleolithic era and early humans.

***Library News from Mrs. Shippee:***

Hope that EVERYONE enjoyed a Fun and Happy February Vacation! This is the week that students come in with many wonder-filled stories of what they did during their time with their families! What absolutely fun stories! The students have also been sharing with their classmates, stories about the books they enjoyed during the break. (Two students even shared how their dog enjoyed their book! Thank You, Parents, for going straight away to Boswell's and ordering a replacement copy to keep the series complete!!) Students are using many of the books from our reference section to write their reports! It is all part of Library Skills to learn where to find reference books on specific subjects. It is always inspiring to see how students use Our Library to give their education a boost. Specifically, in the Fifth Grade, there is a LOT of Cooperative Student Networking going on during the note taking and report writing time given! Great time and organizational skills are so useful for each student as they make their way through their school years into their futures. In addition, Our Library has been very blessed to receive some awesome new book donations from a few parents. Thank You, All of YOU, for instilling such a love of reading and writing with Our Sanderson Academy Community! Now, Let the book cataloging begin!

***Math News from Mrs. Prew:*** Please join me at the District Showcase on March 3rd from 4:30 until 6:30 at Mohawk Trail Regional Middle/High School! I, along with other math teachers in our district, will be at the Title I Mathematics table. We will have math games and helpful manipulatives for you to try out! It is a great opportunity to check out the incredible learning happening for our kiddos. I hope to see you there!

***Art News from Mrs. McMillan:*** We had our first Art Club meeting this past Monday. All the kids seemed to have a lot of fun. They were able to vote on a project that they would like to do, and they voted on making clay baskets. I can't wait to see how they come out! **I am completely book for session 2! Session 1 is also now completely booked!** We had some last second additions. Since there has been so much excitement for this club, I am thinking I will do it again next year in the winter/springtime. If you haven't already, please send in your \$10 material fee as soon as possible please. Also, due to the snow day before break, I will be extending session 1 to 3/23 to make up for the first missed class.

Here are some of the baskets that were started on Monday. Grades ranging from K-2.



