



Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

February 6, 2020

From the Principal: We would like to sincerely thank all of the host families for opening your homes to our guests from Mexico. You make the exchange program possible! Thank you again!

Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, February 10: LEC Meeting at 4:30

Wednesday, February 12: School Committee Meeting at 6:30

Friday, February 14: Winter Enrichment Day

February 17 - 21: February Vacation

Wednesday, February 26: 1:50 Release

Preschool News from Mrs. Freeman: Ms. Trish has been coming into our classroom on Wednesdays to teach Incredible Flexible You lessons. She has been helping us learn about thinking thoughts and feeling feelings through stories, songs, and activities. Our most recent study has been learning how to work together as a group, and follow a group plan. Ms. Trish read a story about a group of friends working together to make an apple pie. The story showed us how others feel when everyone follows the group plan. The story also shows us how others feel when someone is not following the group plan and is thinking their own thoughts. As a special project, we created a group plan and made an apple pie together! Each preschooler helped peel and slice apples to add to the pie. We took turns and waited patiently to help sprinkle sugar and cinnamon on the apples. We mixed butter, sugar, and flour to make a crumble top. Ms. Wendy helped bake the pie and most of us enjoyed eating it! Thank you to Ms. Wendy for baking the pie and to Clark Brothers Orchards for donating the apples. You all were an important part of our group plan!

Preschool News from Ms. Melanie: Spring is in the air (sort of) and we were delighted to return to our outdoor classroom after several weeks of playing in the woods closer to the school. We were excited to see our outdoor space again--checking on fairy houses, and exploring our wonderful space. Shortly after we arrived, a lively and imaginative game began in which a few of the children became horses, unicorns, or puppies who used "magic leaves" to give them special powers for tree climbing, or jumping, or whatever

challenge they wished. Soon, more children joined the game and we had “cats” and even a “fish” seeking out that magic leaf and then trying out their newfound powers. There was much laughter and high spirits echoing through the woods that day--what a joy it was to be back.

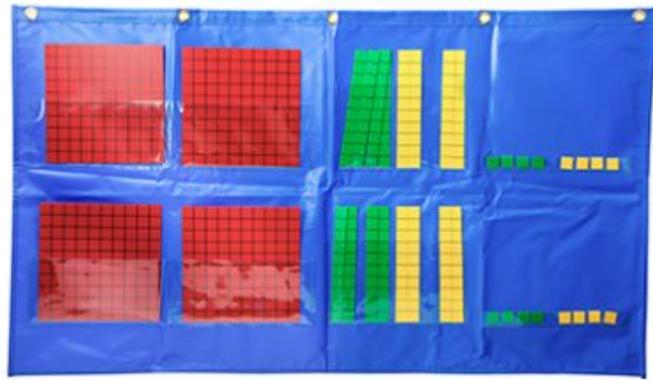
Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah: Tomorrow, we will have a 100 days of school celebration with our fourth-grade buddies. Students will rotate through six centers to do activities with 100, including games, predict & test challenges, making crowns, and ending with a special snack (make your own 100 trail mix). We will also be sharing a “Count to 100” song and dance at All School Meeting!

First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen: First grade had a wonderful visit with our guests from Mexico last week. We were all so enriched from the opportunity to share ideas and to ask questions. This week we welcomed firefighter Mike to learn about fire safety. In science we are learning about day and night and seasons in relation to the earth and sun. Our math lessons and workplaces continue to guide in story problems and automatically knowing our math facts to 10. We look forward to celebrating the 100th day of school.

Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson: The first week in February finds us starting new Number Corner math activities and building upon prior ones. The activities this month have us practicing concepts and skills such as: fractions (using the terms half, thirds, and fourths to talk about the parts into which a rectangle has been divided), story problems (solving one-step addition story problems with an unknown total or an unknown partner), addition to 1,000 using various strategies (concrete models, drawings, place value) and telling time (tell and write time to the nearest five minutes).

Our calendar markers this month focus on the flags of various countries, with the common feature of each flag being the color red. (See a photo of calendar markers below.) After observing the day’s flag and determining if the red makes up exactly half of the flag, more than half of the flag, or less than half of the flag, we locate the country on a world map and then solve a related story problem. We have also “opened” the “Base Ten Bank”, where we “deposit” base ten blocks (hundreds, tens, ones). (See a photo of the Base Ten Bank below.) After we make a deposit, we figure out our new balance using various student generated strategies. For example, if our current deposit is 34 and we are making a new deposit of 42, we have the addition problem of $34 + 42$. One strategy the students might use is drawing a picture using ten sticks and one circles to show 34 and 42 (ex. $/// \text{ooo} + /// \text{oo}$) and then counting by tens and ones to determine the answer. Another strategy might be using an open number line, where 42 is placed on the number line, and then three jumps of 10 and four jumps of 1 are made to arrive at the answer. Or a student might use the “splitting strategy”, where 34 is split into $30+4$ and 42 is split into $40+2$. The student next adds the tens ($30+40$) and the ones ($4+2$) and then adds $70+6$ to find the total. We are also having a month-long telling time tournament, called Capture the Clock, where we are practicing telling time to the hour, the half hour, quarter to, quarter after, and to the nearest five minutes.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 1	 2	 3	 4	 5
 8	 9	 10	 11	 12
 15	 16	 17	 18	 19



Second Grade News from Ms. Wyckoff: This week maps seem to be the focus across many subjects including math, ELA and science! Our new number corner has us thinking about story problems related to countries around the world. As we turn over a new calendar marker we refer to our world map to locate the country and then answer a word problem related to that country, such as “how many reindeer did people see in Canada?” In ELA we read a story about a very well accomplished writer named Jacqueline Woodson. As we read the story, second graders referred to our United States map to locate the different states and cities mentioned in the story. Second graders were also identifying states they have traveled to, where family members live and taking a moment to comment on the size of the various states in relation to our very tiny Massachusetts! In science we continued to work with Biz and Patrick, our SCA members, to map the landforms around Sanderson. First students had to decide if a landform was natural or man made and if it was an important feature to be added to our large map. Once we had a running list of these specific landforms, each student was assigned a landform to draw on the map. During this activity we talked a lot about the size of something compared to our school. This activity also has us thinking about what works well in group work as well as what are ways we can better work together as a group, especially if we don’t agree with someone else’s idea. Second graders came up with the idea of compromise as one way to solve the problem when there are two different ideas or opinions happening between two friends. We are excited to show you all the final project when we finish it up next week!

Third Grade News from Ms. Fisher: Third grade math has been focusing on using various techniques to add and subtract three-digit numbers this week. We have also been learning how to use rounding and estimation to decide if our answers are logical. In Language Arts we have been using the dictionaries which were gifted to each student in the class by the Montague Elks. We are learning how to look up words using the guide words at the top of the page, and then sorting through the various definitions of words that are presented in the dictionary. Next week we will be grinding some of our dried corn from last fall’s harvest to make cornbread, which we will enjoy during our Valentine’s Day party on Thursday.



Fourth Grade News from Mrs. Lagoy: Before saying goodbye to our friends from Lomas Altas we were able to get together one last time for our Spaghetti Tower challenge. Competition day had finally arrived. As previously mentioned, students worked together to build the tallest tower they could using only 30 pieces of spaghetti, 30 mini marshmallows, 1 meter of tape and 1 meter of string. Once their towers were engineered, they had to be able to hold a large marshmallow for 5 seconds. The tallest three towers all broke previously held records! First place, built by Gwen and Maja, measured 60 centimeters. Second place, built by Blake and Lucio, was 55 centimeters. Third place, built by Zephyr and Luciana, measured 51 centimeters. I was impressed with students' determination and perseverance throughout this challenge. We will definitely be doing another STEM challenge soon!

Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson: In fifth grade, we are starting to study the westward expansion of our country. So far we are reading from a variety of resources to learn some of the big ideas of what it was like for pioneers and why they moved west. Students learned that the Oregon Trail was about 2,000 miles long and took about six months to travel. The read aloud that we are about to finish, *Halfway to the Sky*, takes place on the Appalachian Trail. Students made the connection that the AT is about 2,000 miles long and takes hikers about six months to hike as well. It's pretty neat to see connections and comparisons being made. They also thought about what we have today to travel that pioneers didn't have.

Math News from Mrs. Prew: For students accessing the Title I Math program, please be on the lookout for mid-year progress reports. The report briefly compares the beginning of the year skills to the skills our students are showing now that we are at our mid-year point. It is so exciting to see the incredible learning happening for Sanderson students! If you have any questions or comments about the report - please send me an email at aprew@mtrsd.org. Keep up the hard work, everyone!

Library News from Mrs. Shippee: Students are also being asked to bring in their past-due Library Loans before February Break. Thursday, February 13th would be best, as the Winter Enrichment is the Friday February 14th. All Grades come in to learn how to **be** in Our Library space, and to know how to **use** any

