



Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

January 16, 2020

From the Principal: We had a wonderful time ice skating at Mullins Center on Tuesday! Thank you to Mrs. Liz Tyler, our physical education teacher, for organizing. Also, a big thank you to all the staff that helped make it a great success! We look forward to welcoming our guests from Mexico next week. There is no school on Monday. We hope you have a great long weekend!

Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, January 20: No School

Wednesday, January 22: Mexican Exchange Students Arrive

Monday, January 27: LEC Meeting at 4:30

Tuesday, January 28: Annual Mini Concert at 2:00

Wednesday, January 29: 1:50 Release

Thursday, January 30: BMX Bike Performance at 2:00

Thursday, January 30: Report Cards go home

Preschool News from Mrs. Freeman: Preschoolers have been learning about shapes and noticing shapes all around them! We have been using shapes for various art projects, reading books about shapes, and participating in activities to help us learn about circles, squares, triangles and rectangles. The first photo shows triangles made with rubber bands and geoboards. The second photo shows our Shape Monsters. Ask your preschooler to name the shapes they used to create their Shape Monster, and please help to feed it!



Preschool News from Ms. Melanie: With the recent warm weather and melting snow, we are able to get out to our outdoor classroom once again! We were delighted to be there, checking on our fairy houses and seeing the changes that the winter has made. During the interim, we had fun using the big snow hill out in back of the school and exploring the ice-covered nearby woods, but it is a treat to be back in our outdoor space once again. We are learning about our five senses and shared a nature walk with our third grade buddies keeping track of what we discovered using each of our senses. It was a lovely walk on an icy day--great fun!

Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah: In writing, we are learning about the genre of fantasy fiction (this contrasts with our previous unit of narrative nonfiction). We have been reading a lot of mentor texts to study this genre and have noticed that many familiar fairy tales are fantasy fiction. We also noticed that many fantasy stories tell about characters trying to find a solution to a problem. This week, we introduced a graphic organizer for planning our own fantasy pieces. We decided on the characters and setting for our pieces, as well as the problem and solution they will have in our stories. Students are working on free writing pieces while we are learning more about fantasy writing. Some students are trying out fantasy pieces during free writing time, while others are writing narrative nonfiction pieces.

First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen: First grade learned about compass directions as part of their science lesson with SCA. We discovered north, east, south and west in our classroom and used our new skills to find directions on a world map. This week we are learning about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In math we are continuing our workplaces learning strategies with doubles plus one and minus one. We are also continuing to read and write story problems. In our social skills program we are learning about feelings and identifying other people's feelings. We hope to improve our relationships. We are just beginning a new writing unit on opinion writing. This week we are writing book reviews.

Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson: Next Monday the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is celebrated. To familiarize ourselves with the reasons why Dr. King is honored, the class had short biographies about Dr. King read aloud to them during read aloud time. We learned that Dr. King had a dream

of freedom/equality for everyone. To build upon what we learned about Dr. King from our read alouds and discussions, second grade families can discuss with their child what dreams he/she might have to make the world a better place.

This week we read a big book entitled Droo. Prior to reading this story, we each imagined what a creature called a droo would look like and then drew a picture of it. We also filled out a planning sheet with information about our droo creature, such as our droo's favorite color and its favorite activity. This preplanning is the first step in the writing process as we begin a new piece of narrative writing.

Please note: The second grade (Ms. Robertson's Class) will be running the All-School meetings on the following Fridays: January 24th, January 31st, February 7th, and February 14th. We invite our families to join us for the All-School meetings.

Second Grade News from Ms. Wyckoff: This week in math we are focusing on open number lines. Open number lines allow students to create their own number line based on numbers presented in a word problem or equation. For example if an equation said $38+20$ we would write 38 on the number line and then take 2 jumps up to 40, which is a "friendly" number to work with. We would then take two jumps of 10 bringing us to the answer of 60! In ELA we are exploring the idea of transition words such as first, next, then, after that and finally. These words help readers see the various steps one must take to complete a task, or what someone did during a specific activity, such as a trip to the Mullins Center to ice skate! Children practiced this writing skill by writing the steps needed to make s'mores, brush your teeth or make a pb & jelly sandwich. In science this week we are turning our focus to landforms we can see here in our local community. Our SCA friends Biz and Patrick planned a fabulous activity for us where we took a nature walk around our beautiful campus to explore and write about each landform we came to. We all had so much fun ice skating at UMass this past Tuesday! It was so neat to watch each second grader grow in their confidence as ice skaters! This connected well to our recent focus on perseverance!



Third Grade News from Ms. Fisher:

Order forms went home this week to order our class book, which will be based on our learning about the regions of Massachusetts. Please send those back in by next Thursday, January 23rd. Third grade began to

tackle fractions this week, looking at fractions on a number line as well as unit fractions of shapes. If you happen to buy a pizza this week, feel free to incorporate fractions into the dinnertime conversation! We enjoyed an icy buddy walk on Monday morning helping our preschool friends identify their five senses, and Tuesday's skating trip was a lot of fun. . Our Point of Interest this week was Martin Luther King's birthplace, Georgia. Did you know the largest swamp in North America and the largest sculpture in the world are both in Georgia? We learned about the life and legacy of Martin Luther King while watching the movie "Our Friend Martin." I hope everyone gets to enjoy the long weekend!



Fourth Grade News from Mrs. Lagoy: We are finishing up our second math unit just in time for report cards. Our third unit will cover fractions and decimals, which we have already seen during our Number Corner time. On Wednesday, we got to make glaciers with our Americorp volunteers. We are continuing to revise our opinion writing pieces. Students have been making their reasons clear and considering their audience. During geography, we read about the climate of the Northeast Region. We begin by studying the Northeast Region because it is familiar to most students. This allows them to learn about the procedures we will follow during geography (read the passage, underline the most important information, create 2-column notes, use 2-column notes to create a scrapbook). We are well into the second quadrant of Shiloh and have been focusing on using the characters' actions, words, and feelings to infer character traits and motivation for doing something. On Wednesday, we were finally able to start our book clubs! Make sure you ask your child which book they are reading and what they discovered about the characters, setting, and problems when they read the blurb. If you didn't get a chance to sign up for the Remind Application, it's not too late. If you would like to "join" my class, please go to <https://www.remind.com/join/jlagoy>. Remind is a free, safe messaging app that helps teachers and families stay connected. Personal contact information stays private. Phone numbers aren't exchanged between teachers, students, or parents. A few parents have signed up and we have already been in communication with each other using this technology.

Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson: Fifth grade is continuing with its government studies. They have been learning about the branches of government, checks and balances, and have summarized the articles of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Fifth grade also continues to learn and practice cursive writing, and are now also using Type to Learn to learn and practice their typing skills.

Sixth Grade from Ms. Schreiber: Sixth grade is finishing our unit of Continental Drift learning how to make study guides for our assessment. We are getting excited about the exchange students arriving next week and we are also continuing our study of the Inca empire through our reading of the book “Secrets of the Andes.”

Math News from Mrs. Prew: When children are exposed to diverse literature, they are provided with opportunities to develop a deep understanding of concepts. While we often focus on reading for fluency and understanding with children, it is also important to share literature that focuses on mathematical thinking such as counting or shape books, which teach math concepts explicitly, or stories that have embedded math ideas, such as Goldilocks and The Three Bears (size, order, sequence). When we read with (not just to) children, we can learn about how they may interpret ideas, and use questions or a discussion to nurture their thinking. Be sure to check out *Finding the Math in Storybooks for Young Children* to help guide these discussions here: <http://tinyurl.com/jo8ulkr>.

Library News from Mrs. Shippee:

Books! What a wonderful topic for children of all ages! Since winter and snow and ice are outside, why not curl up with a good book, or a few good books, for the winter!

Here is a quote from GoodReads.com:

“Reading aloud is one of the most important things parents and teachers can do with children. Reading aloud builds many important foundational skills, introduces vocabulary, provides a model of fluent, expressive reading, and helps children recognize what reading for pleasure is all about.”

Gifting your child/ren with reading-time spent *together* is priceless! Part of the fun is your choice of reading materials, and you can have a lively discussion about what kind of book interests each person in your family! It’s also fun to take turns reading to one another, too, and listen to the different voice inflections the reader associates with the various characters! Whether you choose an adventure or a series or a quiet book to retreat from the busy day-to-day hurriedness, enjoy a break at the end of the day. Some days will be five minutes, and some days you might have a block of time to spend together. These “reading moments” will be the memories *you* have made with *your family*! Students often come in to Our Library and enthusiastically share stories they love to read at home! **Thanks** Sanderson Community, for raising children who love to read!

Music news from Ms. Fitzgerald: Our annual Mini Concert is on the calendar and we hope you will be able to join us in celebrating our young musicians. We will perform in the gym on Tuesday January 28 @ 2:00. The band, instrumental lesson groups, string students and the Sanderson chorus will all be sharing their progress with the school in a special assembly. We hope you can be there.

Health Office News from Nurse Loranna: Illnesses are quite common this time of year in the community, here are some helpful and simple tips for our best health. First and foremost-hand washing, washing our hands is the best way to stay healthy and not spread germs to others. Healthy diet and enough rest- these are some preventative ways to manage our health (year round!) and especially helpful during these winter months when germs are prevalent. And lastly-hydration! I give out lots of water here in the nurse's office and encourage children to have a water bottle when at school.

Mindful Movement with Ms. Sue: The past couple weeks we have talked about healthy habits and setting intentions for the new year! And having our ability to use our tools of breathwork and yoga stretches to help us achieve them. This week we have been learning the Sun Salutation, an abbreviated 12 pose sequence...we would do two rounds together and then with some music in the background they would go thru the sequence by themselves, taking the time to do 2-3 inhales/exhales per pose. Many of the children noticed how focused they were, how calm this made them, how fun it was to challenge themselves, how quiet everyone was and it felt good doing the same poses 3x in a row!! So AMAZING to watch these aha moments!

Social Emotional Curriculum At Sanderson: Through our social emotional curriculum at Sanderson we are learning about same and different feelings as well as showing compassion. We all want to have friends here at school. But people can have similar or different feelings about the same situation. For example, I might feel scared to climb up high, and my friend might feel excited. Learning to respect other people's feelings can help make and keep friends! While you are at home and at school we encourage students to notice other people's feelings and whether they're the same or different from their own. At Sanderson we also want to put our empathy into action. This is called showing compassion. When we are able to understand how someone else is feeling and do something to show we understand, we are showing that person compassion. Listening, saying kind words, and helping are three ways to show compassion. We encourage students to think about how they can show compassion to someone at school each day as well as at home.