



# Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

January 23, 2020

**From the Principal:** We are so excited to have our new friends from Mexico join us! Fifteen students arrived on Tuesday and will be here for two weeks. We have many fun activities planned for them including trips to Bassett Planetarium, Beneski Museum, Josh Simpson's Glassblowing Studio, Mo's Fudge Factory, Magic Wings, Yankee Candle and skiing/tubing at Berkshire East. Everyone is invited to the Aloha Beach Party on Saturday, February 1.

## **Upcoming Events:**

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

Monday, January 27: LEC Meeting at 4:30

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

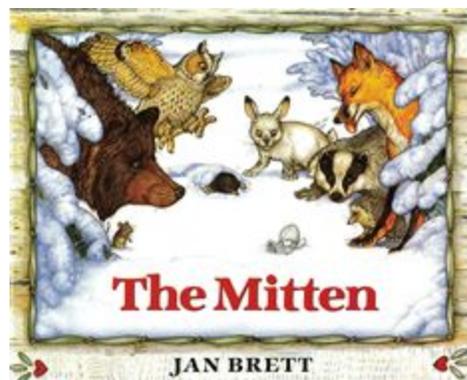
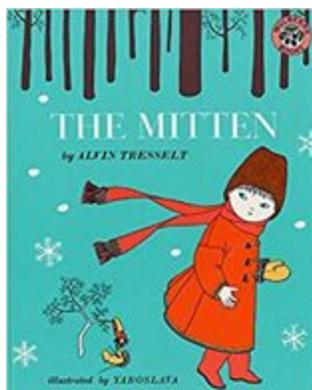
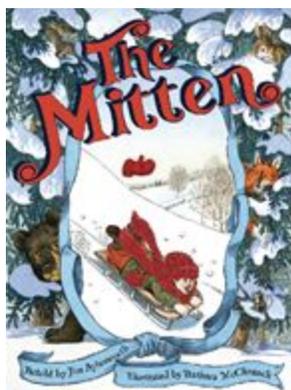
Wednesday, January 29: 1:50 Release

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

Thursday, January 30: Report Cards go home

Saturday, February 1: Aloha Dance at 6:00

**Preschool News from Mrs. Freeman:** This week we read different retellings and adaptations of *The Mitten*, a Ukrainian folktale. Preschoolers were most excited about the different animals seeking warmth from a mitten left in the snow. They noticed the animals kept getting bigger and bigger, except the very last one. We tried guessing which animals would be next, and used Jan's Brett's illustrations to help us with our predictions! Preschoolers did very well comparing and contrasting the three versions we read.



***Preschool News from Ms. Melanie:*** Our Animals in Winter theme is going strong and we are becoming familiar with the words: *migrate*, *adapt*, and *hibernate*. We have begun keeping a journal about animals we know and what they do when winter comes and we took turns placing pictures of animals under the words *migrate*, *adapt*, or *hibernate*. We had fun sharing as our SCA friends talked with us about foxes and we knew that they grew furry coats to *adapt* to our cold winters.

***Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah:*** This week, we learned about a new addition to our dry-erase marker “trace-and-try” center—our names! We are working on writing them with an upper-case “line leader” and the rest of the letters lower-case. Kids can practice with their own name, as well as the names of classmates. There are a variety of colors of markers to choose from. Other center options available in the writing play station include making greeting cards or booklets, writing lists or letters, labeling pictures, and various sight word games.

***First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen:*** Our Brook Trout hatched this week! We are just beginning to feed them. We are all very excited. First grade looks forward to Wednesdays. During our math work places we have 4th graders assisting us. We also spend time with our 5th grade buddy class. We are reading with them at this time. First graders read to their buddy and their buddy is reading an ongoing chapter book. We are very focused on learning our trick spelling words in order to improve our writing. Children will have a weekly home activity to help them grow in learning their spelling words.

***Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson:*** We began our week with tongue twisters...can you say “five fat frogs feasted on four furry frogs” five times fast or “six stinky skunks sadly sweep smelly shrimp” swiftly six times? Tongue twisters are serving as a springboard to our unit on poetry (Think alliteration: When words start with the same sound and the sounds are used repeatedly in a phrase or sentence.) and as a fun way for our class to host our first all-school meeting this Friday. Our class will share tongue twisters and then invite others to come up and share their favorites. As we practice getting ourselves ready for hosting the all-school meeting, our focus has been on using our public speaking skills effectively, such as using strong and clear voices and having a stage presence. We invite our second-grade families to join us on Friday morning for All-School. We hope to see you there!

***Second Grade News from Ms. Wyckoff:*** In math we wrapped up our second unit which focused on place value and measurement as well as adding and subtracting on an open number line. We also completed our 5th Foundations unit which focused on reading and spelling two-syllable words and focusing on open and closed syllables. Our new Foundations unit will review consonant - e syllables from grade one and continue some work with compound words. In ELA we used the mentor text *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson, the winner of a Coretta Scott King Honor and the Jane Addams Peace award! This mentor text will have second graders thinking about the question “how do characters respond to major events and challenges throughout a book?” Each day we talk about the kind acts we observe our peers do for one another, but this incredibly moving story has us thinking about the ripple effect that kindness has and how one small act of kindness can change someone's entire day!

***Third Grade News from Ms. Fisher:*** In math this week we have been learning how to create balanced equations, which look a little different from what third graders have seen in the past. A balanced equation, for example, can be  $5 \times 4 = 30 - 10$ . In language arts we did a writing sample for winter assessments, and we have been reading about Chinese New Year. China is also our point of interest this week since the new year is being celebrated this coming weekend. For science we have created a climate map which is hanging in the hallway. We are using color-coded flags for twenty-three different cities around the world. They are getting updated for weather information throughout the week, and the students are beginning to see climatic zones around the Earth. On Wednesday we had a visitor from the Montague Elks visit the class and hand out student dictionaries to each person. This generous donation was very enthusiastically received! We are looking forward to learning some Spanish from our guests from Mexico this Friday morning.

***Fourth Grade News from Mrs. Lagoy:*** What a busy and exciting week of learning! We spent time this week building fraction kits to help us explore equivalent fractions, mixed numbers and improper fractions. For the launch of the new unit I put the students into math groups and am teaching through MATH rotations. You should ask your child who they are grouped with and see if they can describe the rotations (M=math facts, A=at your seat, T=teacher table time, H=hands on). This model enables me to work with small groups of children when introducing new concepts. Ms. Prew checks for understanding as she monitors their seat work. During our Shiloh reading, I have been modeling and guiding students toward ways of thinking about possible themes emerging in the book. We have picked one theme to focus on as we read the third quadrant; this is called naming a line of thinking. A line of thinking is something the author is trying to teach the reader. We spent time this week reflecting on the first two quadrants of the book in order to consider what the author is trying to teach us. We finally agreed that the author's message is: protecting animals is right, but lying and keeping secrets is wrong.

***Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson:*** Fifth grade has started their culminating project for our government unit. They are making games that need to have content questions and written rules. Students are using what they learned during the unit to make questions, along with the numerous books we have in the classroom about our government.

***Sixth Grade from Ms. Schreiber:*** Sixth grade is welcoming the exchange students from Mexico this week. We are looking forward to getting to know each other. We are also looking at quotes and using our inferencing skills to making meaning of them. We have been looking at quotes that have been posted weekly in our classroom as well as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s quotes. During ELA time we are working on writing our written reports about the person we have been reading about in our biography book reports as we also prepare for our oral reports the first week of February.

***Math News from Mrs. Prew:*** Mark your calendars- Friday, February 14th is Winter Enrichment Day hosted by the SCA members. It will be a fun-filled day spent outside enjoying our wonderful school campus!

**Music news from Ms. Fitzgerald:** Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Tuesday, January 28 Mini Concert in the Sanderson gym at 2:00. The instrumentalists will share some of the songs they have been working on in lessons and during band rehearsals. We do hope you can join us!

**Health Office News from Nurse Loranna:** Wanted to send out a reminder that all students need to bring sneakers to school to change into for the day and especially on PE days. I do have some here for students to borrow but sometimes I do not have the correct size. If you are in need of help to get sneakers for your child please reach out to me as I can coordinate with Mary Lyons to get that squared away. Also a reminder that all children should come with a coat, snow pants, hat and gloves. We go out in all weather unless the "weather watch" chart shows it is not safe/recommended- this chart factors in temperature and wind chill. I do have some spares here for children who forget, everyone forgets sometimes that is not a problem at all. I am happy to help, please always feel free to reach out to me with any concerns!!

**Mindful Movement with Ms. Sue:** We have been all rising to the challenge of doing longer pose sequences and the other week it was the Sun salutation. As we called in the sun we have been so happy to see it shine! Now we have moved on to the Moon Salutation. Has anyone noticed how beautiful it has been lately? Everyone has been so focused on their breath, while working to do their best in the pose...some of poses can be challenging to some and not to others...we discuss that we are ALL UNIQUE and while some of us are more flexible, some of us have more concentration, WE all benefit from a few moments of quiet, some deep breaths and some stretching of our minds & bodies!

**Speech and Language News from Trish Aurigemma:**

**Incredible Flexible You:** The past two weeks, in Ms. Freeman's class, the children have practiced following the Group Plan by playing interactive games. Last week, they followed an obstacle course with a peer. The objective was for the children to be teamed in pairs and collect pretend milk (fluffy balls) while holding a basket together through the obstacle course. This week the children followed a different group plan. This time they all had to pass one plastic egg at a time around the circle as they listened to music. The group plan was to put the egg in the egg carton when the music stopped. Everyone had a turn to place one egg in the carton. After each game, the children had a chance to reflect on their experiences and feelings. Through this discovery, the children were in agreement that everyone feels happy and comfortable when we work together by following the Group Plan.

**We Thinkers:** In Ms. Sarah and Ms. Veronica's classroom, the children had a chance to understand the Hidden Rules in different settings. They were shown three different settings of a beach, classroom, and a park/playground. Then they were each given different images of characters dressed in a variety of outfits. Each child had to decide which setting the character belonged to based on the outfit the character wore. All the children had fun figuring out what was expected (following the Hidden Rules) and discovered that following expectations helps everyone feel comfortable.