



# Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

January 9, 2020

***From the Principal:*** Our all school trip to Mullins Center to go ice skating will be Tuesday, January 14th.

## ***Upcoming Events:***

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

Tuesday, January 14: Ice Skating at Mullins Center

Monday, January 20: No School

Wednesday, January 22: Mexican Exchange Students Arrive

Monday, January 27: LEC Meeting at 4:30

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:*** Everyone is doing very well transitioning back from the holiday break. Preschoolers are remembering our rules and routines. They are cleaning up after play, placing their lunch bags and personal items in proper locations, enjoying the company of friends, and helping each other.

This week our new SCA friends, Biz and Patrick, taught us about habitats. We learned that a habitat is a place where an animal can find food, water, and shelter. To help us remember this information, Biz wrote a song for us and Patrick helped with movements. They also showed us models of specific animal habitats where we talked about the food, water, and shelter in each.

***Preschool News from Ms. Melanie:*** Happy New Year to all! Now that the winter season is fully here, we have been learning about animals in winter. We shared ideas about which animals migrate, which ones hibernate, and which ones adapt to our cold winter season. Our bird feeder has been a popular place for our winter birds that stay with us throughout the winter season. Our SCA friends shared a song with us about animal habitats and took us on a search of the woods to find (stuffed) animals in their habitats. As each animal was discovered, we learned about what that particular animal ate, where it lived, and how it survived the winter. It was a fun activity!

***Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah:*** We are starting a social studies unit on Economics. This week's focus was about wants versus needs when making purchases. To put needs in perspective, we compared human needs to those of our pets. We read a book about a boy who wanted "cooler" sneakers and discussed if this was a want or a need. Then we did a sorting activity to compare wants and needs.

***First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen:*** Our brook trout eggs have hatched! We are making observations and keeping a journal of the changes. We will begin feeding them in a few weeks. We raised the water temperature to 52F. First grade SCA teachers led us in making sundials. We look forward to trying them out on a warm, sunny day. SCA is providing enrichment science lessons that relate to our earth, sun moon science unit. In math we started a new unit with number fact families, story problems and even and odd numbers.

***Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson:*** The start of the new year finds us finishing up themes from last year and beginning new ones. Our "Silly Stories" theme is drawing to a close, as we read two stories about hippopotamuses. One story is fantasy based and the other story is a nonfiction selection. We look forward to starting a new unit on poetry during the next week or two. Another unit that is nearing completion is our study of maps. This week we are focusing on a map of Massachusetts, where we are identifying local towns, the state capital, and the states that border it. Our theme time also finds us continuing our lessons from the Second Steps curriculum, where we are learning about using self-talk as a strategy to help us ignore distractions while we are focused on our learning.

A new Foundations unit finds us learning about base words, suffixes, and parts of speech. We are focusing on the endings -s, -es, -ed, -ing, -er, and -est and discussing when to use them. For example, the endings -s and -es are used when we want to make words plural, such as hills and benches. We are also learning about parts of speech by identifying base words as nouns, verbs, or adjectives, dependent upon how the words are used in sentences. And with our January Number Corner we are building upon the graphing activities we started in December, as we learn more about picture graphs and bar graphs. We are also exploring fractions and probability as we do a daily data collection activity with tiles. When we did this tile activity on January 7<sup>th</sup>, we pulled 7 tiles (for the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the month) out of a bag that contains 15 blue tiles and 15 red tiles. We then discussed how two out of the seven tiles were red ( $2/7$ ) and five out of the seven tiles were blue ( $5/7$ ). We also discussed whether less than half of the tiles were red, exactly half the tiles were red, or more than half of the tiles were red, and concluded the activity by recording the data on a graph.

***Second Grade News from Ms. Wyckoff:*** Happy new year to all the wonderful Sanderson families! We hope you enjoyed a lovely vacation and holiday season! Second graders returned to school excited to share stories of their time spent with family and friends. Upon our return to school we've been reviewing our classroom rules and routines and repeated our "pinky promise" pledge to follow all classroom rules and expectations created way back in September. Second graders are setting goals for themselves related to school as well as for activities they hope to take part in this year. We've also been focusing on the term "perseverance" which means "continuing to work hard and try your best even when it's difficult" After

reading *Brave Irene* and *The Most Magnificent Thing*, second graders created a “perseverance strategies spinner” that they can refer to when they get “stuck.” This spinner includes 9 different strategies to try that can be helpful when working through both academics and social situations.

***Third Grade News from Ms. Fisher:*** Third graders are excited to be underway on our science unit regarding climatic regions around the world. Using a hands-on Mystery Science lesson, the class has learned the various climatic regions on the map. Now each third grader (and teacher) has been assigned one city somewhere in the world to track the weather. Using the Weather Underground website on our chromebooks, we are graphing the temperatures and weather patterns and sharing our findings with each other. It will be fun to see how the temperatures change over the next few months as we cycle from winter to spring in the northern hemisphere and from summer to fall in the southern hemisphere. The SCA volunteers will also be helping us with this unit, introducing the class to animal adaptations that make it possible to survive in each of the climatic regions.

***Fourth Grade News from Mrs. Lagoy:*** We have finished the first quadrant of our class novel, Shiloh. In the first quadrant, we paid attention to the characters, setting, problems, and important events. At the end of our reading, students wrote a retell summary of the most important events from the quadrant. Students worked hard and their writing is on display in the classroom. We will begin our small group reading books soon. Be sure to ask your child which book they are reading. The three selections are Because of Winn Dixie, Shoeshine Girl, and How to Steal a Dog. In writing, students are finishing a rough draft of their opinion piece. Next week, I will begin targeted mini-lessons designed to help students revise their writing to make their opinion statements stronger, and help them convey their reasons clearly and effectively. We should have finished products in a couple of weeks. During math, we are moving toward using more efficient strategies for multiplying larger numbers. We are also working on money and fractions during our number corner time. In geography, we are turning our attention to the products and natural resources in the Northeast Region. Students did a fun activity with SCA on Wednesday that helped them understand ways in which wind, water and activity affect the land. I wonder if they could tell you about the materials they used in this lesson. Looking for ways to stay in touch? We can use the Remind Application. 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. Here is an example of how I would use this technology: As you can see above, the skating trip has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2020. In addition to this appearing in the newsletter, I would also send out a Remind Message. Another example is, sometimes we have questions about how a child is getting home from school. Remind would be a fast and easy way to touch base during the day.

***Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson:*** Fifth grade has been learning about our government. They have been learning about the three branches of government, the history of why we have two houses in congress, and checks and balances. They have been learning about the events that lead to the writing of the Constitution to replace the Articles of Confederation.

***Sixth Grade from Ms. Schreiber:*** In sixth grade we are finishing up our unit on Continental drift with a look at the different plate boundaries. (Hint: Oreos are yummy and educational). In writing we have completed an argument essay regarding the practice of changing clocks for daylight savings time. During our ELA block we will be starting to read a book, "Secrets of the Andes," that takes place in Peru as we learn about the ancient Inca.

***Math News from Mrs. Prew:*** Mike Flynn, Director of the Mathematics Leadership Program at Mount Holyoke College, recently facilitated a local information session for parents and teachers entitled *What Happened to Math Class?* Here is a link to the recorded session as well as incredible websites, articles, games, and other resources to check out. These resources support us all in guiding children as they navigate shifts in mathematics culture. Enjoy! <http://mathleadership.org/what-happened-to-math-class/>

***Music news from Ms. Shippee:*** In the start of this new year, second grade will be doing lots of creative movement to music and song games. Third grade will be introduced to playing the recorders, and fourth and fifth grade will continue to learn more about the recorders. Sixth grade will be doing a unit on listening to music and mapping songs. Violin and cello students will begin to read notated music.

***Art News from Mrs. McMillan:*** Happy New Year everyone! All students will be starting their ceramics unit for the month of January. Every class talked about different terms when working with clay such as, score and slip, leather hard, bisque, kiln, raw clay, glaze, slab, and coil. I was so impressed with how quickly everyone was able to learn about these new words. We also spent some time experimenting with the clay and getting a feel for how it works in comparison to air dry clay. Each grade, starting from 2nd and up, will be making something that they can use on a daily basis in their homes. 2nd will be making coasters, 3rd will be creating dessert plates, 4th will be making dinner sized plates, 5th will be creating bowls and 6th will be constructing a mug. Kindergarten is in the process of designing their beads for their necklaces, and 1st grade will be creating woodland creatures. It is a messy time in art, so I highly suggest that students avoid wearing their nicest shirts/sweatshirts/dresses on days they have art class.

***News From Special Education:*** The Special Education Parent Advisory Council, in collaboration with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will be hosting a parent orientation to learn about the upcoming Special Education and Civil Rights review in our district. The parent orientation will be held at Mohawk trail Regional at 9:00 am on January 14th, 2020.

Please join us!

You may contact Leanne Loomis at 413-625-0192 X 1025 or [lloomis@mtrsd.org](mailto:lloomis@mtrsd.org) with questions about the parent orientation or the review. You may also find this information on our district website.

Thank You.

***Health Office News from Nurse Loranna:*** Hope everyone had a healthy and restful break! Welcoming in the new year is often a natural time to reflect on the past year and make goals for the year ahead.