

March

Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

March 5, 2020

From the Superintendent's Office:

Dear MTRSD/HRSD Families and Staff,

We understand you may have questions regarding the recent outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and how it could impact our community. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing daily updates and recommendations on their website which can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>.

The CDC and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health report the immediate risk to the general public remains low (<https://www.mass.gov/guides/information-on-the-outbreak-of-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>). As with seasonal flu and strep infections, there are general precautions we can take to remain as healthy as possible:

- Practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. You can also cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid sharing drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, dishes, towels, or other items. Wash these items thoroughly with soap and water after use.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick whenever possible.
- Practice other good health habits: Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

It is important to keep children home from school when they are ill. If your child has any of the following symptoms please keep them home from school: *temperature greater than 100.4, coughing, difficulty breathing, chills, sore throat, headache, muscle aches vomiting and diarrhea.*

We will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 as it evolves and update you as information is shared with us. We are in close communication with the local Board of Health, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health/School Health Unit, and monitoring the CDC updates. Additionally, we follow all recommended guidelines to ensure the safety of our students and staff and have a plan in place.

As always, we are committed to the safety of our students and staff and will keep you updated as we receive additional information. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 624-3076 or at smitchell@mtrsd.org.

Sincerely,

Leann Loomis - Interim Superintendent and Sue Mitchell - District Nurse Leader

Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, March 9: LEC Meeting at 4:30

Monday, March 9-13: Dr. Seuss Spirit Week

Tuesday, March 10: 6th grade to Boston Fine Arts Museum

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

Tuesday, March 24: 4th grade to Berkshire East

Wednesday March 25th : school inspection

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

Saturday, March 28: Snow Date for School Play

Dr. Seuss Spirit Week 9-13

Monday: Fox in Socks (wear funky socks or leggings)

Tuesday: Green Eggs and Ham (wear green)

Wednesday: Daisy Head Maisy (silly hair day)

Thursday: Oh, the Places You'll Go (dress for the career you want)

Friday: Dr. Seuss' Sleep Book (pajama day)

Preschool News from Mrs. Freeman: Monday was Dr. Seuss' birthday and to celebrate we are reading some of his books. We are enjoying his use of silly words and rhymes, and his creation of interesting characters and creatures.

Preschool News from Ms. Melanie: Shapes, shapes are everywhere! We are learning to identify many shapes including: circles, squares, triangles, rectangles, and ovals. One recent afternoon, we became "shape detectives". We took a clipboard and went out into the school looking for shapes. When we found a triangle, or circle, or square, we made a tally mark to keep track of how many we found. Surprisingly, we didn't find too many circles--but lots of rectangles and squares!

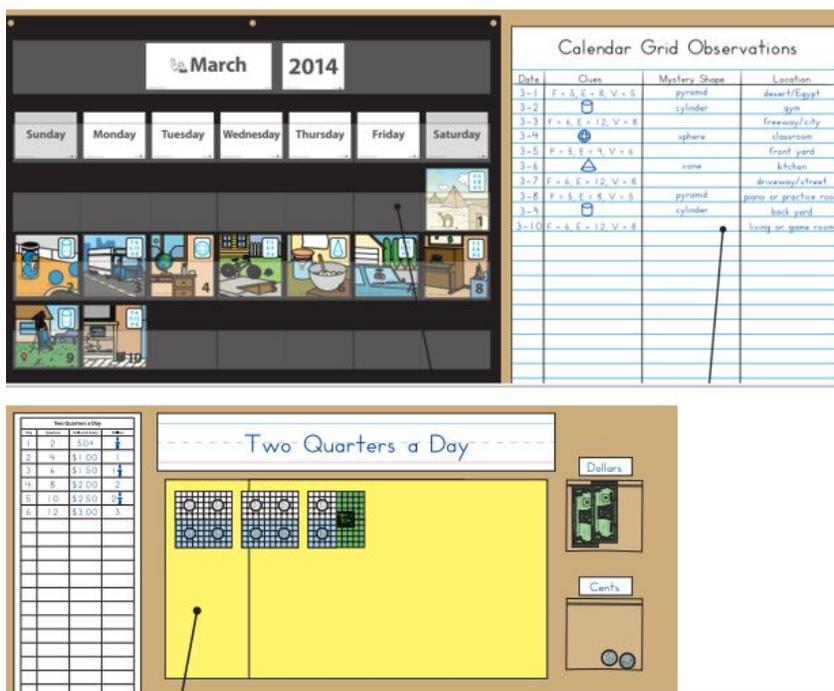
Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah: In writer's workshop, we have started a new unit writing procedural nonfiction--also known as "how-to books." We started by studying some mentor texts to see what they are like. We noticed how most "how-to" books tell right in their title what they are teaching how to do. We also studied how the illustrations are different from story books (more close-ups, less setting) and often include labels to help readers follow the how-to steps. We brainstormed things that we know how to do that we could teach others. And now students are trying out their own how-to pieces on a variety of topics--how to vacuum, brush your teeth, make a sandwich, and more!

First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen: First grade is using number lines in math for solving addition problems by counting on and subtraction problems by counting back. We introduced a new math work place called the Frog

Jump Game which reinforces this math skill. We were proud to display our paper sea star quilt at Mohawk this week. This was a project using multiples of 5. This week we are identifying characters, setting and main events in books we read.

Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson: This week finds us working with syllables, during both our Foundations time and our reading time. Our Foundations lessons find us focusing on strategies for reading and writing two syllable words, such as complex and disrupt, as well as exploring compound words, such as slingshot and catfish. During our reading block, we have integrated our work with syllables into our poetry unit as we explore the concept of rhythm by seeing how many beats (syllables) there are in each line of a poem. As a complement to our poetry unit, we have also been reading brief biographies on poets, such as Nikki Giovanni and Arnold Lobel.

A new month also brings us a new Number Corner set up (see below), where we will be exploring “mystery shapes” as a part of our daily calendar activities. Each day we are given a clue, such as $f=6$, $e=12$, and $v=8$ (f-faces, e-edges, v=vertices), to figure out what three-dimensional solid is being represented. Another March Number Corner focus is on money, where we are collecting “Two Quarters a Day” and keeping a running tally of the total amount of money we collect.



Second Grade News from Ms. Wyckoff: Second graders were very excited to begin learning about letter writing this week! Not only will we learn about the various parts of a letter, but we will have the opportunity to write for a real purpose...pen pals! Second graders are now pen pals with second graders in Easthampton and were ecstatic to receive their first letter! We are looking forward to this ongoing pen pal exchange and the possibility of some new friendships to form! Our new March number corner has us thinking about money! Each day we are at school we will be adding two quarters to our money mat and then exchanging the quarters for dollars at the end of each week. We are also withdrawing base ten pieces from our “base ten checking account” and depositing money from savings when those funds become depleted. In our problems and investigations math time we are learning about parcels and presents where a parcel stands for 10 presents. This is another way for students to think about adding numbers by chunking in groups of tens and ones. As we continue to prepare for all school each week, children are practicing

their very best “teacher voice” as well as making sure to use eye contact and waiting to make sure everyone is ready! We look forward to seeing you all the next 3 Fridays!

Third Grade News from Ms. Fisher: This week in math we are finishing up our unit on multi-digit addition and subtraction. The class has learned many various strategies for finding answers to these problems and checking their work. They have taken an interest in finding out which technique their classmates chose for any given problem and the reasoning for that choice. At the end of this unit, we tackled the traditional algorithm, with which most adults are most familiar. They discovered that sometimes the algorithm is a good technique, but not always. It is just one of the many tools in their toolbox for solving problems. For example, if we are adding $199 + 199$, is it more efficient to write out the algorithm, carry the ones and tens to the next columns, and add up the various columns, or is it more efficient to think of it as $200 + 200 - 2$ and solve it in your head? This sort of critical analysis of problems and selection of the best solution strategy has been the focus of this unit, and the class has made a lot of progress along these lines.

In an effort to continue developing typing fluency, this week third graders began typing reviews of books they have read. These reviews include recommendations to other classmates, and reasons for those recommendations. Feel free to check in with your third grader to learn which book he/she chose to review and to whom the book is recommended.

In other news, we helped our younger buddies in Ms. Melanie’s class roll some donated logs down to their outdoor classroom this week. It was hard work in the mud and snow, and the logs were heavy, but third graders were happy to help out our friends!



Fourth Grade News from Mrs. Lagoy: We have had a productive week of “wrapping up.” Students proudly displayed their published opinion pieces at the District Showcase of Student Learning last night. We enjoyed looking back at our pre-assessment and seeing how much our writing grew. Now, we turn our attention to informational writing. After completing Shiloh, students wrote a synthesis summary. These are hanging in our classroom and can be viewed from home by visiting your child’s Google Classroom. We will begin our next read aloud, The Castle in the Attic, tomorrow. I can’t wait to begin! In math, we have just finished our third unit of study. Students took the unit assessment yesterday and today. It is amazing how much we have covered in such a short time. Our next unit will begin by focusing on place value to 1,000,000 and multi-digit addition strategies.

Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson: Students continue to learn about the pioneers as they participate in simulated wagon trains, read and practice skills from our ELA anthology, and listen to the the read aloud *Hard Gold* by one of my favorite authors, Avi.

Library News from Mrs. Shippee: It's about the kids, not *just* about the books, for sure! During Library classes, we continually read books that **show** (not specifically **tell**) how a character looks at their world (a.k.a. perspective). We read and quickly discuss the situation and any "problems" the character may be up against. Student's are quick to notice how a character's thoughts about something affects how they decide what to do (a.k.a. attitude). Some books we've recently finished are: Owls in the Family. The students discussed how they felt both sad and happy with the resolution. On the other end of the age group is the compilation of George and Martha Stories. Now here's some short and sweet, smart storytelling! Friendship, mischief, mishaps, and sharing are all part of the fun. These stories lend themselves to a good "Cause and Effect" discussion. We all enjoy the book journey we take together each day here at school. Students have really learned how to respectfully be in our Library Space. This will help students in any Library they spend time in.

Math News from Mrs. Prew: If you visited the Title I table during the district showcase, you already know about a fun game called Salute. All you need are numeral cards- or sticky notes will do! The first player draws a card (or sticky note with a number on it) and holds it up against their forehead, in a salute, without looking at it. The other players then tell the "saluting" player how many more are needed to make 10 (for example, if the saluting player has card "7" the other players would say "3"). Saluting players who correctly guess their card may keep the cards and the player with the most cards wins! Kindergarten students can play to 5, 1st grade to 10, 2nd grade to 20, and 3rd-6th to 100. Have fun playing Salute!

Music News from Mrs. Shippee: Students in music class have been working on a variety of activities. Second grade is learning to rotate through mallet stations where they play Orff xylophones and drums. Third grade has begun to learn the recorder and fourth and fifth grade are putting their recorder skills to work with some fun selections with funky background music. We have introduced a new note, "E" and are working on improvising as well as playing melodies. Sixth grade finished up a study of a Mozart piano sonata while exploring playing the piano themselves, and now they are moving on to study some pop music.

Health Office News from Nurse Loranna: Happy March and spring is in the air!! Reminder that students should have an extra pair of clothes at school, it is wet and muddy out and it would be good to have spares here in case needed. We continue to wear boots, snow pants, gloves and hats when outside. I also wanted to address any concerns about COVID-19. We are tracking things with updates from the local Board of Health, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health/School Health Unit, and monitoring the CDC updates as mentioned above. Our amazing nurse leader is a great resource if anyone has particular questions- she can be reached at 624-3076, Sue Mitchell. At this time the risk is still quite low and we will continue to monitor. The best defense is handwashing and we will be reinforcing handwashing in classrooms at the beginning and end of day as well as the regular times we enforce it at school such as after using the bathroom, after blowing your nose, and before eating. Some have asked me about wearing masks- this is not recommended by W.H.O (World Health Organization) unless you are coughing and sneezing or caring for someone ill, **wearing a mask incorrectly can actually increase chances of getting sick** and really should only be used to prevent spread, not to decrease chances of getting ill, this information is from the World Health Organization's website:

“ If you are healthy, you only need to wear a mask if you are taking care of a person with suspected 2019-nCoV infection.

- Wear a mask if you are coughing or sneezing.
- Masks are effective only when used in combination with frequent hand-cleaning with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- If you wear a mask, then you must know how to use it and dispose of it properly.

So the big takeaway is to continue to wash hands frequently, get lots of rest and eat healthy foods. Drink lots of water and stay home when sick. Please feel free to reach out with any questions :)

MTRSD After Care: Hilltown Scout Camp

Do you need childcare during April vacation? Or do you want your child to learn about fish, butterflies and spend time outside? Join us at Mohawk for the **Hilltown Scout Camp** this April. This program is open to all students in the area grades k to 6. The hours are from 9am to 3pm and the cost is \$30 per student per day (2nd child is half price). Each day students will go outside, play in the gym, have craft time and experience other hands on learning activities. You don't need to commit to the full week or even a full day. To enroll your child or for more information contact Mrs. Woof at awoofenden@mtrsd.org or 413-625-9811 ext. 1170.

Ashfield Baseball: Baseball season is ALMOST here !! Register your kids now ! **Extended to March 8!**

HOW: Use the Link Below and fill out the form <https://forms.gle/DFg4bqwnQEXCj8MTA> or like us on Facebook at Ashfield Baseball and fill out the form there!

COST: \$15 per player Pay via: Check (Ashfield Baseball) or Venmo Tina-Miller-7

Things to know:

- Cost includes uniform (to be returned) and hat.
- Parents are responsible for glove and cleats or shoes of choice.
- Coaches will be in contact about practice and game dates and times.
- We need you!! Volunteer coaches needed !!