



Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

October 31, 2019

From the Principal: Happy Halloween everyone! As a reminder, there is no school tomorrow. Staff will be participating in professional development. Our topics include mathematics and social-emotional learning.

Upcoming Events:

Friday, November 1: No School

Tuesday, November 5: PTO Meeting at 5:30

Tuesday, November 5: Mexican Exchange Program Meeting at 6:30

Thursday, November 7: 12:30 Dismissal Parent/Teacher Conferences

Friday, November 8: 12:30 Dismissal Parent/Teacher Conferences

Friday, November 8: Movie Night at 6:30

Monday, November 11: No School

Wednesday, November 13: School Committee Meeting at 6:30

Friday, November 15: 3rd grade to Quabbin Reservoir

Monday, November 18: Local Education Council Meeting at 4:30

Wednesday, November 27: 12:30 Dismissal

Thursday/Friday, November 28 & 29: No School

Preschool News from Mrs. Freeman: This week you can feel the Halloween excitement in preschool. Preschoolers are talking about carving jack-o-lanterns at home and the costumes they will wear. They are even using the classroom calendar to count down the remaining days! Many of our projects and activities kept with this theme. We colored wooden Halloween shapes with our Buddies, sang songs about witches and ghosts in music class, tried some ghost bowling during P.E., and decorated pumpkins in our classroom! Thank you to the Porter family for donating pumpkins for this project.



Preschool News from Ms. Melanie: Our apple dolls are all dressed in their Halloween costumes and on display in the lobby. It's hard to believe that, just weeks ago, these very same apples were hanging from the wild apple tree out behind our school. Now, they are princesses, fairies, cowboys, a ghost, a pumpkin, a shark, a witch, and a scarecrow! Making apple dolls has become a classroom tradition and many of our preschool alumni have stopped by to see the display and shared a memory of making their own apple doll way back when they were in preschool. With care, an apple doll will last for a very long time--maybe even forever. A few of our (now) first, second and third graders have told us that they still have their preschool apple dolls--a thought that truly warms our hearts. We hope you will take a moment to stop by and see this year's creations--they will be on display for the next week or so.

Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah: In writer's workshop, we have started by making illustrations to tell our stories. We have studied where authors get their topic ideas and have built our writing stamina up to 15 minutes of quiet working time! Next we did some illustration study to add more details to the setting and characters in our pictures. Now we are moving on to adding writing to our illustrations in the form of beginning sound labels (such as C for "cat"). To help us with writing labels, we added name chart and ABC chart tools to our writing folders this week.

First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen: Ms. Taylor led a fun writing project using a playful monster theme about a little boy who becomes best friends with an imaginary monster. Children created their own monster out of colored construction paper and attached googly eyes. The children used descriptive writing to describe the characteristics of their monster. We used color, shape and number words. We are continuing our study of consonant digraphs and learning new spelling words to apply our writing.

Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson: This week finds us completing some units and beginning others. During our Foundations time we are finishing our current unit by learning about closed syllable words, such as blend and clap, where the words have one vowel and the vowel is “closed in” or followed by at least one consonant. If we can identify a syllable as closed, then we know that the vowel says its short sound, which helps us when we are sounding out unknown words. We have also started a social studies unit on maps. We have been working with world maps, focusing on learning the seven continents and the four oceans. (We have also discussed that some world maps show a fifth ocean, named the Southern Ocean, which comprises the ocean waters that surround Antarctica.) We will next focus on directions and how to use a compass rose. And as October draws to a close, we have enjoyed finding repeating patterns on the October calendar we created during Number Corner, such as the 3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 1 pattern of 3 right side up leaves and 1 upside down leaf and the 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1 pattern of 2 colored leaves and 1 black and white leaf. Throughout the month we kept looking for a color pattern that repeated itself, such as 2 oranges leaves, 1 brown leaf, 1 red leaf, but with all the calendar markers now turned over, we concluded the colors did not make a pattern this month. As we turn the pages of the calendar to a new month, we are eager to see what the November Number Corner will bring!

Second Grade News from Ms. Wyckoff: What a wonderful sugar rush 5k last Friday! Second graders showed really great sportsmanship as they cheered each other on from the sidelines or in passing one another during the race. They encouraged and supported one another when the running became very challenging. Everyone persevered and felt an incredible sense of pride as they ran across the finish line. Second graders you should all be so proud of your accomplishment!

This week we are revisiting classroom rules and expectations to make sure everyone feels safe and has fun at school. During a recent Second step conversation many children shared that it’s respectful and kind to “offer to help someone when they get hurt and offer to bring them to the nurse” or that being respectful is not just about the words you choose to use, but it’s how you speak to someone too. You body and words need to both be respectful, safe and kind. Second graders also came up with steps to help remind themselves what to do when something they don’t like is happening, such as a peer is bothering them, using unkind words or making them feel uncomfortable. First, they respectfully ask that person to stop whatever it is they are doing, and then if that doesn’t work then they go right to a teacher who can further help them solve this problem.

Third Grade News from Ms. Fisher: In math this week we began to think about repeated addition as a way of figuring out how multiplication works. We have been looking at a scene from a coral reef and, using the 4-inch length of one clown fish, we have been figuring out how

long other items in the picture are. For example, by adding together two clown fish, we can see that the brain coral is eight inches long. In other news, we cut open and roasted a sugar pumpkin this week, and we used the roasted pumpkin to make cookies for our costume party. We also spent time in the gardens, planting the seed garlic and preparing the gardens for winter.

Fourth Grade News from Mrs. Rida: Last week fourth grade began studying invasive species and are learning a lot about the impact they can have. One invasive species we are focusing on is the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. This invasive species is destroying hemlock trees throughout the northeast. In conjunction with Harvard Forest we are collecting data from some of the hemlock trees in the woods behind the school to determine if they are being impacted by the woolly adelgid. Additionally, students are reading about other species and creating their own invasive species. They will bring their species to life by creating it with clay and through a narrative they will write.

Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson: The students just researched many aspects of the formation of the colonies. Each pair had a colony to research and take notes on. They also created a visual to go along with what they learned. Today and tomorrow, the groups are giving an oral presentation to share their new knowledge, as well as take notes on what they learn from other groups.

Sixth Grade from Ms. Schreiber: The sixth grade has been learning about the layers of the earth as we prepare for learning about Continental Drift. Through this process we are practicing our note-taking skills and making models. In math we are learning about writing numbers as prime factorizations.

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Sanderson Academy Sugar Rush 5K. All of your help and support made this great even possible!

Math News from Mrs. Prew: Although math learning involves lots of numbers and symbols, it is also really focused on language! Problem solving is much easier to tackle when we think about a problem as a story. What is the story about? What are the key details in the story? What is the problem and how can we solve it? One way to enhance our story-solving skills is through vocabulary practice. Check out this link to a free app from the Math Learning Center with vocabulary organized by grade level and subject area: <https://apps.mathlearningcenter.org/math-vocabulary-cards/>. Another reminder that all students are welcomed to join the Homework Club at 8:30 on Tuesday through Friday mornings for support with assignments!

Music News From Mrs. Shippee:

Library News from Mrs. Shippee:

Health Office News From Nurse Loranna:

Speech and Language News from Trish Aurigemma: