



# Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

November 21, 2019

**From the Principal:** The bus company has asked us to remind parents/guardians to be at bus stops at scheduled times. If a guardian or designee is not at the stop, students are brought back to Sanderson. Students are supervised in the after care program until the student is picked up. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns.

We will be holding our Annual Turkey Trot on Tuesday, November 26th at 2:00. Feel free to join us! Since we will not publish a newsletter next week, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving break!

### **Upcoming Events:**

Tuesday November 26: Turkey Trot at 2:00

Wednesday, November 27: 12:30 Dismissal

Thursday/Friday, November 28 & 29: No School

Tuesday, December 3: PTO Meeting at 5:30

Friday, December 6: Third Grade to Norman Rockwell Museum

Wednesday, December 11: School Committee at 6:30

Sunday, December 15: Community Holiday Party 4:00 - 6:00

Monday, December 16: Local Education Council Meeting at 4:30

Tuesday, December 17: Skating at UMASS Mullins Center

Wednesday/Thursday, December 18/19: Holiday Boutique

Friday, December 20: 12:30 Dismissal

December 23 - January 1: School Vacation

Thursday, January 2: School Resumes

**Preschool News from Mrs. Freeman:** This week we tried making an easy pumpkin playdough. We mixed a can of pumpkin puree and cornstarch until we formed a dough. It smelled wonderful and was a soft dough to play with. If you would like to try this recipe, we used approximately 2 cups of cornstarch for 1 can of pumpkin puree. You may need to add more cornstarch depending on the pumpkin puree you use. We will also be making Mrs. Wycoff's pumpkin playdough. She shared this recipe with us last year.

Mrs. Wycoff's Pumpkin Pie Scented Play Dough Recipe

- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 tbsp cream of tartar
- 1/2 cup pumpkin puree
- 2 tsp. cinnamon spice blend/pumpkin pie spice
- 1 1/2 cups boiling water
- 8-10 drops red food coloring
- 5-7 drops yellow food coloring

Directions:

Mix flour, salt, cream of tartar, oil, pumpkin pie spice and pumpkin puree together.

Add boiling water (you can add in batches) and mix with a spoon until everything is combined.

After mixture has cooled, take it out of the bowl and knead on the counter until it is not sticky anymore. You will need to add flour as you go, but just use your judgement with that.

This week we also enjoyed a few surprises. Tuesday's snow was perfect for us to try our sleds, roll giant snowballs, and test our driving skills on tricycles. Wednesday was moose day! Mr. Matt came to let us know our Buddies saw 2 moose outside their window. We quickly walked down to see a cow moose and her calf. While outside, we looked for and followed their tracks in the snow to figure out where they went. Along the way, we also noticed turkey tracks, dog tracks, and people tracks!

**Preschool News from Ms. Melanie:** The first snowfall transformed our outdoor classroom into a winter wonderland and inspired lots of new ideas for play. We tossed snowballs into a tire to see how many we could fit there, made lots of snow angels, found things buried in the snow, and just sat and listened to the melting snow dripping from the trees. With this first snowfall, and the winter season on its way, we would like to remind families that we go outside in all weather and warm winter gear is essential to fully enjoying our lovely outdoor classroom. Please send in snowpants, snow boots, a warm jacket, a hat that covers the ears, and cozy mittens that can get a little wet. Layers (sweaters etc) are a good choice and mittens tend to work better than gloves for warm preschool hands. A dedicated bag is a big help for carrying and storing winter gear. Also, please take a moment to check for spare clothes in your child's cubby--especially socks--and replace as needed. Thank you! Winter, here we come!

**Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah:** Our poem of the week was a rhyming poem: (tune=If You're Happy and You Know It). This corresponded with our sight word of the week: **see**.

*Did you ever see a fox in a box? Did you ever see a fox in a box? No, I never, never, never, No I never, never, never, No I never saw a fox in a box!*

Students then came up with their own silly verses for the poem. You can sing this song with your child at home and see what silly rhyming words you can come up with.

**First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen:** This week in math we focused on addition and subtraction strategies, particularly doubling numbers, counting on and counting back to solve combinations within 12. We continued reading books by Leo Lionni and focused on problems and how problems are solved in the

story. Our conversations and sharing increase our reading comprehension skills. We are enjoying our collection of Thanksgiving books in our class library. Most children have finished writing their stories and are illustrating book covers.

***Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson:*** This week the well-known folktale Jack and the Beanstalk served as a springboard for our next math unit place on value and measurement. We started off this unit with a counting project where we made estimates of a large quantity of beans and then began counting the beans by putting them into groups of tens and ones. We then had the opportunity to revise our estimates before we finished grouping them. Next we looked at the groups of tens and ones and regrouped the tens into hundreds and the ones into tens. We finished the activity by counting the hundreds, tens, and ones to find the total number of beans and then compared the total to our revised estimates.

Our reading block finds us reading a new story in our reading anthologies entitled Mrs. Brown Went to Town. Before we read the story, we used the glossary at the back of the book to look up and discuss vocabulary words. We also shared our knowledge of life on a farm, such as what animals and equipment we would find on a farm. This sharing provided us with a realistic view of life on a farm, but life on Mrs. Brown's farm is fantasy-based.

This week we also began a new lesson from the Second Steps curriculum. This week's lesson builds upon the previous lesson, as we are learning about how focusing our attention and actively listening helps us to be better and respectful learners. We also continue to read aloud stories about the Pilgrims, with our current focus being a book called Three Young Pilgrims by Cheryl Harness. This fictional story shares the account of Mary, Remember, and Bartholomew Allerton as young Pilgrims settling at Plymouth at the early 1620s. (The Allerton family was one of the original Pilgrim families who settled at Plymouth, with Mary Allerton being the last surviving passenger of the Mayflower when she died in 1699.) We learned reasons why the Pilgrims left England to come to America and about the challenges they faced during their first winter in the New World. Since there will not be a newsletter next week, we take a moment now to wish all our families a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

***Second Grade News from Ms. Wyckoff:*** Á This week we started our new math unit, and it's all about the beans! First we estimated how many beans we thought were in the sack. Then, in groups of 3 or 4, second graders began counting their bowl of beans. There were a variety of different strategies used to go about counting the beans. Some friends decided that putting beans in piles of 10 was a good way to count the beans whereas another group chose to take groups of ten and then compile them into groups of 50 beans. After every group completed their counting we took turns placing our groups of beans onto a counting mat of 1s, 10, and 100s giving children a good visual for place value. One group very quickly noticed that every time we had 10 groups of 10 beans we then moved those over to the 100s side. As we counted the beans we referred back to our estimation board to begin crossing off estimates that were too low or too high.

Our second step lesson this week had us focusing on "different feelings" as well as being assertive to get what you want or need. We discussed that to get something you want or need you first need to *respectfully* ask a peer or teacher so they are ready to listen to your words. This means using a calm and quiet voice. We then played a brain builder game called "Foreman says..." which had second graders practicing different

feelings we all can have at different times. Second graders did a nice job really thinking about what their face may look like or the reaction their body may have, such as scrunched up shoulders and a racing heart.

We are so incredibly lucky to have this beautiful campus all around us full of trails to walk on and woods to play in. Last Friday second graders earned their lucky 7 token reward and decided as a class that they wanted some outdoor classroom time, so out to the woods we went! Children spent time reading books in trees, building forts and making lists of food items to bake and then deliver to others. Other friends worked together in teams to promote a new tree cutting company while another group of friends noticed a fallen tree came down on a smaller living tree and worked diligently to try to move it. So much creativity, movement and fresh air! Å

***Third Grade News from Ms. Fisher:*** We could not have asked for a better day at the Quabbin last Friday. We started at the Visitor's Center with a presentation by a park ranger about the history of the reservoir. He also shared with us information that has earned it the nickname of "Accidental Wilderness," due to the array of wild animals that have claimed the protected watershed as their home. From there we walked or ran across the top of the half-mile long Winsor Dam, and then walked back along the base of it, enjoying the views, sunshine, and fresh air along the way. Then we got back into cars and drove to the Quabbin Tower and had lunch at the picnic tables there. Lastly, we went over to Hank's Meadow and walked down to the water line where there were many rocks to be thrown into the reservoir and a few treasures to be put into pockets. We are very grateful to the many parent chaperones who drove us to the Quabbin for this trip as we continue to learn about our amazing commonwealth. This week we have begun to explore the artwork of Norman Rockwell and are gearing up for our next field trip to his museum in Stockbridge on December sixth.



***Fourth Grade News from Mrs. Rida:*** Fourth Grade has been working on defining and identifying prime and composite numbers. It can be very challenging figuring out if a number has only one and itself as a factor (this is what would make it prime). The class is also working on completing final drafts of their invasive species narratives. This is definitely a creative class!

***Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson:*** Fifth grade has been learning about the dramatic events that lead to the Boston Tea Party. They have also been learning about the American Revolution from King George III's

point of view. Students are also learning about Paul Revere. They are reading *And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?* by Jean Fritz.

**Sixth Grade from Ms. Schreiber:** Sixth grade has been busy learning about Alfred Wegener and his theory of plate tectonics. One piece of evidence that he used to know that the continents moved were fossils. Last Friday the sixth grade made our own fossils to study. In ELA we have also been working hard on writing character essay based on our books that we recently finished reading.



**Math News from Mrs. Prew:** Many card games and board games involve mathematical thinking. Our new math curriculum uses dominoes just for that reason! Try out these dominoes games at home!

"Make 10": All dominoes are dots down. Each player draws one domino per turn. The player needs to match ends that make a total, or sum of 10. Players can alternatively choose to place a domino horizontally if the three sections combine for a total, or sum, of 10.

"Factors Pairs": Players cooperatively choose a target number. All dominoes are dots down. Each player draws one domino per turn. A player may choose one section of the domino, or the combined total. If the player can identify the factor pair, they may keep the domino. For example, if the target number is 36 and a player draws a domino with 2 dots per side, the player could identify 18 as the pair of 2, or 9 as the pair of 4, to keep the domino.

Have fun trying out these domino games!

### **Library News from Mrs. Shippee:**

A Very Big **Thank You** goes out to Our Sanderson Academy PTO, Students, Our Families, and Our Staff! There was excitement in the air as so many of you came in to purchase books and gifts. Family Groups shopped together both during school *and* after school. The After-Care Group came in and browsed! Parent-Teacher Conferences were happening at the same time as Our BookFair, which made it convenient for parents. It was really a record-breaking year. Our PTO has managed Our Library's funds for the last 35 or so years. The PTO makes it so that we can purchase specific Library books that are unique to our school, books that are requested by students and teachers. Our Library will also be able to refresh some "Old Friend" books. Many folks commented that when the display was up, Our Library looked so dressed up and festive! Whether you helped to set up, supported us by shopping with your Families for winter and holiday reading, ran the register, helped younger children shop, helped with break-down and pack up, your efforts did not go unnoticed! You Did This! Thank You Everyone, for Supporting Your Children's School Library and for Raising Children Who Love to Read!

