



# Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

October 8, 2020

**From the Principal:** You should have received a [flyer](#) about our all school hike that is happening tomorrow from 11:30 - 12:30 or whenever you have a chance to get outside and enjoy autumn! Please submit videos and/or pictures that we will include in a slideshow. Include the location so we can do a guessing game!

**Math News from Mrs. Prew and Title I: YOU'RE INVITED!** Please join me at the next LEC meeting, October 19th at 2:00 p.m., to learn more about the Title I program at Sanderson Academy. I will provide an overview of Title I, describe what it looks like in the remote world, and offer ideas on how to support math learning at home. It is also a chance for you to ask questions and offer ideas on how we can improve the Title I Program. I hope to see you there! You can join the virtual meeting at: [meet.google.com/asd-ezww-njp](https://meet.google.com/asd-ezww-njp) or call in at telephone number: (919)-902-5900.

**Local Goods Fundraiser: LOCAL GOODS ORDERS ARE DUE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9!!!!**

*Local Goods for Local Kids* - Join us in Celebrating our 12th year! This fundraiser for Sanderson Academy is now open and accepting orders! [Catalogues](#) and [order forms](#) available at Neighbors and online in Sanderson Academy website under HELPFUL LINKS, and copies of the catalogue and order form at the school (outside front entrance in plastic bin).

Orders due Friday October 9, 2020

- PREFERRED—Mail-in orders: Sanderson Academy, C/O Local Goods, 808 Cape Street Ashfield, MA 01330
- Drop-off orders: Sanderson Academy, C/O Local Goods Sanderson Academy, 808 Cape Street, Ashfield, MA 01330

Questions? Contact Cara at [caraflys@gmail.com](mailto:caraflys@gmail.com) or Kylee at [kyleetatro@gmail.com](mailto:kyleetatro@gmail.com)

***Preschool News from Mrs. Freeman:*** This week we practiced using our mute and unmute buttons, as we took turns saying our names and sharing about our favorite colors and animals. Preschoolers did amazingly well listening, following directions, waiting for their turn, and using these buttons.

To connect our sharing to a story, we read, [Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?](#) It is written by Bill Martin Jr. and illustrated by Eric Carle. Many preschoolers recognized the colors and animals, as well as the repetition and pattern of the story. These book elements make it fun and easy for them to join in to help read!

***Preschool News from Ms. Melanie:*** We have been sharing sightings of insects and have discovered that the most popular and common insects we have seen are the butterfly and the wooly bear caterpillar! Perfect timing for our butterfly unit! We are learning about the life cycle of the butterfly. We know it goes from egg, to caterpillar, to chrysalis, to butterfly, to egg. We learned that a cycle is something that goes around and around and, in thinking of a butterfly, the cycle begins with an egg and goes around to an egg again! We also learned how to tell if a monarch butterfly is a boy or a girl and we have become good spotters of those two black spots!

We are looking forward to a flurry of seasonal activities to share, including a cherished preschool tradition--our lovely apple dolls! We will be sending home everything needed for our preschoolers to make apple dolls with their families and, this year, they will be dressed as ghostly apple dolls for Halloween--we can't wait to see them!

***Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah:*** We have started to introduce our Foundations phonics program. This program combines the letter name, sound, and lowercase formation all together so that children can see, hear, and do all at the same time (which is how our brains learn best). We have writing lines with picture icons labeling each line to help us learn to form the letters (ex. "Start on the skyline, go down to the grass line...") The first letter we are focusing on is the letter T. We are also playing games to practice with the letter t and listen for it at the beginning of words (tiger, tooth, top).

***First Grade News from Mrs. Pedersen:*** First graders are enjoying their daily story time using Epic Books. We all appreciate the virtual tools we are using from the Fun Hub to teach the Foundations program. First graders engage in daily writing prompts utilizing our virtual writing grid as we model. We had a successful Parent Information night on Monday. We were able to communicate our expectations for first grade remote learning and help parents learn to upload their children's work on our google classroom. We also answered their questions and provided an opportunity to express concerns and positive aspects of the program. We encourage parents to continue filling in our survey so that we can provide the best possible program. I appreciate the team teaching effort we have

with Ms. Taylor and Mrs. Prew. We are utilizing the virtual tools available for the Bridges Math program.

***Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson:*** This week found the second grade thinking about ways we can best support each other in our online community as we brainstormed classroom rules centering on expectations for learning, showing kindness, and being safe. Ideas such as “use the chat box for things we are learning, not for being silly or fooling around” and “use kind words when you speak to others so you do not hurt anyone’s feelings” will allow us to support each other in positive ways so our remote classroom is a friendly and safe place where each of us can do our best learning.

This week we also read the first story in our reading anthologies called Shopping from the book Dragon Gets By. Prior to reading this story, we explored two parts of the reading anthology, the table of contents and the glossary. We also discussed healthy versus unhealthy foods and talked about foods that would make a balanced meal, as the main character in this story is a dragon who has an unbalanced diet. We have also started our Foundations lessons, a continuation of the phonics and spelling program used in first grade. Currently we are reviewing the short vowel sounds and digraphs (sh, th, wh, ch, and ck) and practicing how to segment and blend the different sounds in words.

October is the perfect month to learn more about leaves, as the fall season has truly arrived. As part of our daily Number Corner routine, where the calendar markers are leaves, we are learning to identify leaves by looking at their veins. If a leaf has several main veins branching from its base, it is called a palmate leaf. A palmate leaf looks a little bit like a hand. If a leaf has veins that all branch off from one central vein, it is known as a pinnate leaf. A pinnate leaf looks a little like a feather. If you are able to get out and hike on Friday or over the weekend, the second grade encourages you to be on the look out for palmate leaves and pinnate leaves. Happy Leaf Hunting!

***Third Grade News from Mrs. Wyckoff:*** This week in language arts we listened to a read aloud of the story *Our Class is a Family* by Shannon Olsen. We brainstormed ways our classroom is similar to our family. Third graders had some wonderful ideas, such as: “Just like our classroom is a community, our family is a community too” and “We treat each other with kindness and respect just like we are kind to our family” After brainstorming, third graders wrote about ways a respectful and inclusive classroom looks, feels and sounds. To do this “writing” third graders had their very first try with typing on a PDF in our google classroom. Although it was a bit tricky at first, every third grader stuck with it and felt very proud of themselves once they were in the document typing! The final

activity that went along with this book was to create a "Family" acrostic poem. It was great to hear so many wonderful poems about each family!

During our Second step class times, we continue to engage in a variety of activities to help us get to know each other better and create a more wonderful classroom community! Our most recent activity had children asking one another questions based on the crayon color they were holding in their hand. Some of the questions asked were : "Who is your hero and why?", "Where is your favorite place to visit?" and "What is your favorite song to sing" Third graders found so many new things they all had in common that they hadn't realized prior to this activity! Everyone was respectful, stayed focused and of course had fun!

***Third Grade News from Ms. Carole:*** Third grade Math is moving right along! For October we have begun doing our daily Number Corner routines. This month this includes knowing the attributes of various two-dimensional polygons as well as learning about milliliters and liters. In other parts of math we are learning that multiplication means "groups of," or bringing together equal groups. This knowledge is being applied to both word problems and picture problems. In Science we are continuing to focus on climatic regions around the Earth through our Mystery Science mapping activity. During our SEL times, each third grader created a slide show called "Five Things About Me (That You Can't Tell By Looking At Me)." These came out beautifully, and we had fun sharing them with friends and classmates this week. Many skills, both social and digital, were learned and practiced doing this activity.

***Fourth Grade News from Mrs. Lagoy:*** Fourth graders have been busy at work settling into our new learning routine. During reading, students have been considering different characters' views of right and wrong as they form their own opinions about the choices our main character, Marty, is making. As we read the second quadrant, we will continue to gather evidence and consider what the author is trying to say about right and wrong. In math, we have been exploring prime and composite numbers. Students had fun building rectangles to demonstrate factor pairs using Pear Deck earlier this week. Our opinion pieces are well underway and we should be able to begin revising next week. Students are learning all about the Northeast Region with Mrs. Upright. Students have been sharing some of their learning with me by email. They seem really wowed by the Appalachian Mountain Range. Many students shared that it stretched from Maine to Georgia with many exclamation points. We will be launching our first STEM project VERY soon.

***Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson:*** We have started to explore the water cycle in fifth grade. We have made models of it to make observations and start working on vocabulary. One lab we did as a class through Google Meet. For that one, we made a water cycle in a bowl using hot water and ice cubes along with bowls, stones, and plastic wrap. For another activity, the students were able to each make a model at home. It was to create a water cycle in a bag. They labeled the parts of the cycle on a ziplock, filled a quarter of the bag with colored water, and hung it in a window. We'll make observations over the next week.

***Sixth Grade News from Mrs. Schreiber:*** Sixth grade has been looking at the internal and external characteristics of those in stories, learning how to infer a character's thoughts and feelings based on how they act, speak and react to others, as well as how others react to them. In math we have been reviewing prime and composite numbers as well as factors and multiples. In unit study we have begun our study of the phases of the moon with a moon journal and reading about some folklore regarding gardening based on the moon phases.

On another note, the sixth grade is raising money for our field trip to the ropes course at the end of the year (hopefully) as well as other end of year events. We are selling Lyman Orchards Pie and Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough. If you are interested in ordering any (with a delivery of November 4th, in time for Thanksgiving), please contact any of the sixth graders.

***Health Office News from Nurse Loranna:*** Cold and flu season is around the corner and the weather is getting cooler so I wanted to focus on some health tips that can help keep us all healthy. With our new covid reality coupled with the cold and flu season we need to continue to remain vigilant in these months ahead. Remember the three W's: wear a mask, wash your hands, watch your distance. Choose a mask that fits snugly over your nose and mouth, try to avoid gaps on the side and wash your mask daily. Wash your hands before you put it on and after you take it off and avoid touching the inside of your mask. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water- this is such an important step that can help keep us healthy all winter. Be especially sure to wash your hands upon returning home when you are out, before eating or preparing food and teach your children to wash for at least 20 seconds. Watch your distance, try to stay 6 feet apart when with others outside of your household. Avoid handshakes and hugs (this one is so hard!) and avoid crowded indoor spaces. Remember these tips in the coming months and help keep our community healthy and safe. Stay home when you are sick and don't forget the 3 W's! ~Nurse Loranna

***Music Room News from Ms. Fitzgerald:*** Music classes sound a little different in the virtual classroom, but we are still learning about singing, rhyming, steady beats, rhythms

and more in our music classes. Most classes are learning about new technologies that help practice or explore these elements of music. Students can find assignments in their Sanderson Music classroom. They can also find a link to my office hours for Sanderson school. I am available for live visits on Thursday afternoons from 1:30-2:30 to help answer any questions you or your child may have, or just to stop by and say hello. I am also available via email at: [jfitzgerald@mtrsd.org](mailto:jfitzgerald@mtrsd.org) I hope everyone is able to get outside for our all school hike to enjoy the beautiful music nature provides!