

Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

September 12, 2019

From the Principal: We are looking forward to Open House next week! Open House is taking place on Wednesday, September 18 from 6:00 - 7:00. Students will have a chance to share their classrooms and school with family members. There is no formal presentation, so families are welcome to visit different parts of the school at their own pace. *We ask that parents and students stay together as they travel throughout the building.*

From the front office: Please return all paperwork if you haven't done so already. Thank You to all that have. Your child needs to bring a note to school if they are riding a different bus.

Upcoming Events:

All School Meetings are held every Friday at 9:00 in the gymnasium. All are welcome!

Wednesday, September 18: 1:50 Release

Wednesday, September 18: Open House - 6:00 - 7:00

Tuesday, September 24: Picture Day

Wednesday, September 25: 1:50 Release

PTO News: The Local Goods catalog is out, and it is a great way to get a jump-start on your holiday shopping. Our distribution day for the ordered items will be November 16th, which gives you lots of time to prepare your purchases for gift giving. From Cranston's Christmas trees to second grade ornaments to PreK's gingerbread house kits, and so many possibilities for gift certificates, yummy food and wild adventure, we are certain you could cross a lot of shopping off of your list today just by looking in your Local Goods catalog. If you need another catalog, or would like to hand one to a friend, colleague, or neighbor, you are welcome to the ones that are in the school lobby. All orders are due back to the school by October 11th.

Preschool news from Ms. Freeman: Preschoolers have been observing four monarch caterpillars in our Science Center. One has formed a chrysalis, and the remaining three continue to eat and grow. During our observations, we talked about the colors on the caterpillars. Preschoolers noticed yellow, black, and white. We used this information to illustrate our own monarch caterpillars with finger paint. Look for them next week at our Open House!



Our preschoolers all enjoy being outside together. We rode tricycles, climbed the structure, played in the sand, and explored the woods. Here we are observing the vernal pool. Preschoolers from last year noticed how much it has changed since we last visited. There is hardly any water left! One friend remembered the vernal pool full of life, catching tadpoles, salamanders, and frogs. They wondered, “Where did all the creatures go?”. We talked a little about this, and will learn more as we study and observe the vernal pool throughout the school year.

Preschool News from Ms. Melanie: Four of our classroom caterpillars have made their chrysalises and only one caterpillar is left. We discovered that it is in the shape of a “J”, so it won’t be long until we have one more chrysalis hanging in our butterfly house. Soon, we will begin releasing the new butterflies into our garden and we’ll wish them well on their long journey to Mexico. We’ve been noticing some subtle changes in our outdoor classroom that tell us that autumn is approaching. A few leaves have begun to turn, and there is a heavy dew on the grass as we walk across the soccer field on our way to the woods. The birds have been very vocal, and although we can’t always see them high in the treetops, we sing back to them and they answer us. The crickets, too, have been chattering away. Sometimes, we stop and just listen to all the sounds of nature. It is a magical time.

Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah: We have monarch caterpillars in our science station and eight of them have turned into chrysalises. We examined the skin left behind when the caterpillar turns into a chrysalis. Tomorrow, we will watch a short time-lapse video that shows the transformation up close, as well as make a butterfly art project. We learned this song to help us remember how a caterpillar grows and changes (to the tune of “Up on the Rooftop Reindeer Fly”):

First comes the butterfly and lays an egg; out comes the caterpillar with many legs; oh see the caterpillar spin and spin, a little chrysalis to sleep in; oh, oh, oh, look and see; oh, oh, oh, look and see; out of the chrysalis, my oh my, out comes a pretty butterfly!

First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen: First graders have enjoyed learning about their classroom routines, materials, teachers and making new friends. We have enjoyed snack outdoors at the picnic table and then time to play on the structure as a class. This week we are learning tools for our Foundations program and started writing lowercase letters. Our number corner is filled with math ideas that include calendar, days in school activities, number lines, and a bar graph to record pennies and nickels we are collecting. Our number corner grows and changes each day. This week we had a popsicle math investigation and learned to skip count by 2's. We celebrated our first math investigation with popsicles! Our math also includes workplaces. We are learning to handle a variety of math material hands on. We enjoyed a nature walk in the woods and learning about our garden space. We look forward to families visiting our classroom on Open House, September 18.

Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson: This week in second grade the focus has been on dragons. During our snack/read-aloud times, we have enjoyed reading stories about dragons, such as How Droofus the Dragon Lost His Head and Dragons Love Tacos. At the end of the day we are also reading aloud a Magic Tree House chapter book called Night of the Ninth Dragon as we wait to be called for dismissal. These stories are serving as the basis for our first piece of writing, giving us ideas for creating our own dragons. We have discussed ideas about what our dragons look like with a partner and are now drawing pictures of them. Next we will write about our illustrations, focusing on details such as what our dragons looks like, what they eat, and what they like to do for fun. During our math time, we created beetle glyphs (picture symbols) to use during our math lessons. These beetle glyphs helped us get to know each other a bit better by studying the information given on the beetle. For example, if a beetle had an orange body with three dots and 4 stripes, we learned that the person who made this beetle has 4 siblings, a March birthday, and likes fall. These beetles are currently being used in sorting activities we are doing during our math period.

Second Grade News from Ms. Wyckoff: Second graders are enjoying their first full week of school! We've been very busy learning routines for daily classroom procedures as well as our various learning blocks. Second graders finished up their "All about me" posters which are now proudly on display in our beautiful classroom. This week our focus has been on creating our hopes and dreams for our year together in second grade. Common themes are: to learn more math, create more art and venture out to our outdoor learning space! These hopes and dreams have served as the foundation for creating our classroom rules. We are learning the importance of respecting everyone, including yourself! Our classroom is a place where we treat others with kindness, as one child said "like we're family!"

Third Grade News from Ms. Fisher:

We were able to get out to our gardens this week, and we harvested our garlic and a few ears of multi-colored corn. We will be using the garlic, once it cures, for pesto and garlic bread. The corn is hanging in our classroom to dry out, and then we will grind it up to make cornbread. The students are very excited to be harvesting and making cooking plans. In other news, we have begun to see how multiplication is about bringing together groups and repeated addition through our Number Corner

activities. We have also begun working on a special project which we will share with families at next week's Open House.

Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson: Fifth grade has been working from the new math program that the district is implementing in the elementary schools. Students have been looking for patterns in money and clocks and writing decimal and fraction equations for them. They have been building rectangular prisms and finding volume. In writing, we have started a free-verse poetry unit and in reading we have started a theme entitled Nature's Fury.

Sixth Grade from Ms. Schreiber: We have been very busy in sixth grade exploring math ideas and math practices as we practice persevering when we feel challenged and talking about our thinking. We have also been learning about metacognition (thinking about our thinking) while we read. This week has also brought STEM projects and learning about problem-solving processes as we engineer towers.

Art News from Mrs. McMillan:

Art classes have been going exceptionally well! Students have been learning the rules and routines for the year. This week, we will be working on a collaborative piece across the entire school. In the following weeks students will all be working on self portraits. Some grades will be using a picture of themselves, others will be using a mirror and the older students will be learning about the grid method.

Music News from Ms. Shippee: Music classes are off to a great start this year. We have been joyfully singing lots of songs from our new song book. We have also been doing some movement activities and beginning to play some of the instruments in the classroom such as the drums and shakers. Looking ahead, soon there will be demonstrations of three string instruments - violin, cello and bass - and students will be made aware that they can choose to take lessons on these instruments if they are interested.

Speech and Language News from Trish Aurigemma: Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had a summer with fun and relaxing adventures. We are all ready to invite your children to a school year filled with exciting experiences that encourages learning wonderful new things.

My role as the Speech Language Pathologist is to provide support to teachers and students concerning speech and language skills in the classroom and offer one to one speech and language therapy, and small group instruction as needed for students. Once a week, in Mrs. Freeman's Pre K class I will teach the Social Thinking Curriculum called **Incredible Flexible You**, and in Ms. Forbes Kindergarten class I will teach **We Thinkers**. Children will learn how to manage and understand their own and others feelings, learn to work with peers, and solve social problems. The programs are interactive and entertaining for all children.

All family members are welcome to visit me or email me with any questions they may have concerning child development. All meetings are confidential. My email address is: paurigemma@mtrsd.org

Health office news from Nurse Loranna:

At school we are talking about our hopes and dreams for the year as well as class rules/school rules. My hopes and dreams as the school nurse is to continue to build relationships and trust with the students and families with a focus on health education. I'm also hoping to incorporate mindfulness/deep breathing as tools for our children to foster independence and strength.

My health office rules will be: **Be kind**- you never know what someone else is going through and kindness goes a long way. **Be respectful**- respect the office space and other student's privacy.

Be honest-honesty helps us to take care of each other and our community.

Library News from Mrs. Shippee:

Library classes began to meet this week. We are off to a great start for Our Sanderson 2019-2020 School Year! We are discussing in each class, the meaningfulness of a Library. We are also discussing the similarities and the differences of both the School type Library and Public type Libraries. As in the beginning of each school year, we must review the expectations for Our Library behavior. We always expect respect for each other *and* for books. Books may be borrowed for a week or two before needing to be returned or renewed. Reminder notices will go home from time to time if a book is away from Our Library for too long (especially if the particular book has a waiting list for it). Grades 1 through 6 will be able to have books go home. Sanderson Library Books stay in the Pre-K and K Classrooms to be enjoyed from each student's reading box. Lost books will require parents to replace the book. (Using Amazon to buy a replacement is a budget friendly choice!) This year, we will enjoy each other's company, stories with our classmates, and we will be learning Library Skills. Thank You for sending us your wonderful children to spend another school year with! Thanks very much for modeling the enjoyment of reading with your children.

Violin Class with Miss Julie: Miss Julie's violin class will be starting next Thursday (September 19th). Class will be held every Thursday from 2:30-3:00 in the music room and is open to students in grades three through six. Sign-up sheets for Miss Julie's class will be in this week's Thursday folders. Please return sign-up sheets to Miss Julie as soon as possible. Questions? Please see Miss Julie (in preschool).

An important note—Mrs. Shippee will also be offering violin classes for beginning students. More information on that is to come.