



Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

September 19, 2019

From the Principal: It was wonderful to see so many families at our Open House! We are celebrating Peace Day this Friday, September 20 starting at 9:00. We invite everyone to join us! Tuesday, September 24th is Picture Day. All students will have their pictures taken even if a package is not being purchased.

Upcoming Events:

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

Tuesday, September 24: Picture Day

Wednesday, September 25: 1:50 Release

Thursday, September 26: Local Education Council and Education Subcommittee meeting at Buckland-Shelburne School at 5:00

Tuesday, October 1: PTO Meeting at 5:30

Wednesday, October 2: 1:50 Release

PTO News: Local Goods Catalog orders are *due October 11*.

Preschool news from Ms. Freeman: This week we created our Hopes and Dreams drawings. We started our discussion by talking about some of the things we like to do at school. Playing outside, reading, and drawing were the most popular answers! Next we thought about the things we hoped to do or dreamed of doing at preschool. Outside related activities or trips, reading, and animals were the preschoolers' responses. We look forward to planning and trying to achieve these goals!

This week we helped our school prepare for Peace Day. We decorated doves for the cafeteria and painted special rocks with Mrs. McMillan. Ms. Sue read, I AM PEACE, by Susan Verde, during Mindful Movement and helped us work together to create a peace symbol using our bodies.

Preschool News from Ms. Melanie: Apples are our theme during these first brisk days of fall-like weather. We are learning songs about apples, making "apple" art, reading apple-themed books, and we've made some yummy apple cake. We've noticed some bright, rosy apples hanging from the wild apple tree just off the path on our way to our outdoor classroom. We plan to "shake, shake the apple tree" (just like in one of our songs) and gather some apples to make apple dolls--a classroom tradition!

Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah: In our social skills program, we have been learning about how fair in our classroom means that we each get what we need, but this may not be the same for each person. To go along with this concept, we did a survey of movement tools that students can use during lessons. Kids picked what felt good their bodies and we compared the results to see that they were not the same for every person. Also in social skills, we have been reading books about responsibility and added “responsibility” as a keyword on our class values chart.

First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen: First grade made a wonderful bulletin board with Ms. Taylor called “Kindness is Sweet! How Can you Sprinkle It? The children wrote words of kindness on colorful sprinkles and voted to place them on a large chocolate donut! Some of the ideas included: take care of each other, forgive, share, be caring, respect, be gentle and cooperate. We also drew pictures of our families and have them on display. Children enjoyed coloring butterflies and these are on display for Open House. In math this week we worked with partners for 10 using our number racks and we introduced a new workplace called Flip and Write in order to practice number formation.

Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson: As we complete our second full week of school, we continue to model and practice our classroom expectations and routines. We have also discussed our beginning of the year hopes and goals and we are currently developing a list of rules for our classroom framed around the headings of respect for ourselves and our learning, respect for others and their learning, and respect for the classroom environment.

During our math time, we used our beetle glyphs and sorted them into different groups, such as those people whose favorite season is summer and those people whose favorite sport is swimming. Our sorting investigations have led us to ask the question: What if a beetle glyph belongs in both groups? The answer to this question led students to suggest the use of overlapping circles, or a Venn diagram, where objects that belong to both groups can be placed. We also made a picture graph with our beetles, focusing on our class’s two favorite sports of swimming and soccer.

During our reading and writing time, we have completed activities that involve several different concepts, such as reviewing sight words, word families, short vowels, and sentence structure. One activity was called Scrambled Sentences, where we needed to read short vowel words and sight words and then the words were arranged into a complete sentence.

Thank you for the wonderful turnout at Open House. It was great to see and visit with the second grade families. Thank you, too, for signing up for Parent-Teacher conferences in November. As conference time approaches, a reminder with your date and time will be sent home.

Second Grade News from Ms. Wyckoff: Second graders have been working on a variety of partner and group getting to know you activities. One activity called “Getting to know one another book worm” had children working in pairs learning more about one another. To figure out what question to answer they used a spinner board to guide them. When the projects were done children presented their book worm to the class and now they are on display for all to see! During our math block children have been working

with their beetle glyphs to learn about Venn diagrams, bar graphs and picture graphs. As a class we worked together to find similarities and differences and respectfully discussed why a beetle should or should not be included in each section on the Venn diagram. Children are eager to share this with families during open house. In groups of 3 or 4 children were each given one classroom rule to write and illustrate so that we are reminded of these classroom rules that were created by second graders each time we walk into our classroom. The final piece was making a pinky promise to follow these rules to make sure everyone feels safe and has fun while at school! We're off to a wonderful first month here in grade 2!

Third Grade News from Ms. Fisher: Third graders are happy to be underway with their typing instruction now. Information went home last week regarding how to access Typing Club online wherever one can get internet access. The program works well when it is done consistently, and even though we are only able to give it a once-a-week slot in our busy class schedule, please feel free to continue the practice at home. In math we have been reviewing the addition and subtraction facts that were covered in second grade and strengthening mental math by learning how to jump up and down the number line by using “friendly” numbers. This would mean, when adding, for example, $54 + 23$, we would start at 54, hop two tens up to 74, and then tack on the three ones to land on 77. This sort of comfort with number decomposition and manipulation is expected with our new Bridges math program, and it leads to a greater understanding of mathematical concepts than mere memorizing of procedures. Picture day is next Tuesday. Please send back those order forms by then.

Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson: Fifth grade has started a poetry unit. The poem style we are writing in is free-verse. Students are focusing on moments, people, pets, items, etc. that are important to them and are learning writing techniques to be able to make an impact on their readers and grow as writers. They are each going to bring two poems to final draft to be shared with a larger audience.

Sixth Grade from Ms. Schreiber: September 20th is International Peace Day! The sixth grade will be leading our peace day celebration at all-school outside (weather permitting). Everyone is welcome to join us by the Peace Pole in front of the school.

This week the sixth grade has been jumping into using our Chromebooks and Google Classroom. We have also started our math program with the book Prime Time and looking at characteristics of numbers such as which numbers are prime, etc. In Unit Study we have been finishing our STEM bridges and testing their strength as well as creating a picture dictionary of key geography vocabulary that we will use throughout the year.

Math News from Mrs. Prew: Classes are busy jumping into the new math curriculum! Students in many grades have already discovered the major components: (1) number corner, a calendar-based activity, (2) lessons, for whole-group learning, and (3) workplaces, for small-group, game-based learning. Students seem especially excited to try out the many math manipulatives in our program. Also, except for Monday mornings, room 18 is open for homework help starting at 8:30. Come on by for a quiet place to work or for some support in completing at-home assignments. It is great to see students already taking advantage of this opportunity!