

**May/June 2009
Sandown Central
Douglas Rolph, Principal**

**A FEW WORDS FROM THE
PRINCIPAL**

Dear Parents,

This will be my last newsletter for the school year. In reflecting on this year, it has been a busy and exciting one!

We continue to function as a school family. Having a small school allows us the ability to know each other very well and make connections that truly enhance the learning for all.

We will be holding our Volunteer Luncheon on June 22. The volunteers will be recognized for the extraordinary number of hours they give to our school community. I would like to again thank all of our volunteers for their devotion and time to the children and staff at Sandown Central School. These devoted hours spent in our school have once again earned us the New Hampshire Blue Ribbon Award for Volunteerism! This will be our twentieth straight year winning this award at Sandown Central. Our school continues to be fortunate in having such dedicated students, parents and staff that give so much of themselves and their time to Sandown Central School.

I would especially like to thank Lorraine Beucler for her coordination of the Volunteer Program at Sandown Central.

We will be hosting the third graders from Sandown North on June 16th for move-up-day. The fifth graders from Central will be visiting the middle school on June 16th as well. We are eager to meet and greet our new fourth graders and we will miss our current fifth graders, but want to wish them well and much success as they move on to the middle school!!!

I would like to thank our wonderful PTA for their educational and financial support throughout the school year! The Sandown PTA funds many of our school activities by holding, a goods and service auction, a holiday gift shop, and bingo for books, to name a few. These activities continue to provide the monies to fund special programs for our children at Sandown Central.

The DARE program for our fifth grades students is but one of the many things that the PTA helps fund. We had 77 fifth grade students graduate from this program this year.

Important date! We will be holding a Welcome Back to School Night on August 27th from 6-7:30 PM to welcome in the new school year. You will have an opportunity to meet the classroom teachers and visit the school on this early open house evening. Hope to see you there!

In closing, I would like to thank you, the parents, for a great school year. We have much to look forward to in the coming school year! Best wishes for a happy and safe summer!

Reminder to our incoming students, the new school year, 2009-2010, starts on August 31st for students. We look forward to seeing you all back after a vacation.

**Sincerely,
Douglas E. Rolph
Principal, Sandown Central School
drolph@sandownschool.com,**

LIBRARY NEWS

The Book fair is coming! Our spring book fair is scheduled for next Thursday, June 11th and Friday, June 12th. In conjunction with our fair, Scholastic is inviting students to participate in a reading challenge, "Read for the World Record". Winning schools will have their records published in the *2010 Scholastic Book of World Records!* Go to

www.scholastic.com/summer for more information and to log your minutes.

The district elementary library media specialists are currently working on a summer reading list. It should be out in the next week. Look for it and make a plan to read with your



child every day. Studies have shown that students experience learning losses when they don't read over the summer. Recent studies have shown that some students lose as much as two months of achievement! You can help your child avoid that loss by encouraging them to read four or more books this summer. Make it a family event that everyone can look forward to during the busy days of summer.

Wishing you all a fun, safe summer! ~ Mrs. McLaughlin

Fourth Grade News

May has been a busy month and June has begun that way too. We had several end of the year assessments including the Gates Reading Test, district Writing Sample, district Explanation writing piece, and the state NECAP Science test.

Fourth grade completed their science unit on Erosion. During this unit students visited each fourth grade class to perform different experiments. We are looking forward to our field trip to the Museum of Science as a culminating activity for our science curriculum. Remember this is an extended day trip, so be sure to pick up or arrange pick up of your child (with a note) after the **Boston field trip at 4:00 on June 11th!**

All classes have begun their USA Region unit in Social Studies. We are researching different states throughout the different regions of the United States. Classes are busy making state posters, PowerPoint presentations, state quilts, state floats, and/or state brochures. To complete this unit we are planning our annual **USA Region Luncheon on Tuesday, June 23rd**. For the luncheon, students will bring in food that represents their state and/or region. There will be a huge buffet of regional foods for lunch that day to sample. The fourth grade team would like to thank in advance parents that are able to attend that day and /or send in items for this event. Your support is greatly appreciated for this event as well as all your support throughout the year.

Speaking of valuable support, the fourth grade team would like to extend a big thank you to the PTA for their continued support this year. This support has funded and supported many learning activities this year including the Science Guy who just visited us and our field trip to Boston. Thanks to the PTA for funding enriching activities to enhance our school's curriculum!

The fourth grade team would like to wish all our families a safe and fun summer! See you in the fall!

Fifth Grade News

June in fifth grade is filled with many exciting events between now and the end of our school year.

Students should be sure to dress appropriately for each event as the weather changes so often. Lots of water and a layer of sunscreen is always a good idea.

Our most exciting event is our trip to the Boston Freedom Trail. We will be going on June 15th. Our return is going to be delayed so parents please line your cars up from the Public Library side of the building in 2 rows all the way to our front office. We should be returning at about 4:30. Dressing in sneakers is a must as we will be doing a walking tour of the historic sites with a guide. Students can bring disposable lunches or buy a meal in Faneuil Hall. Retracing the steps our ancestors made as they marched toward freedom is the culminating event in our study of American History.

Information about lunch on Move Up Day should be coming soon. It will be on June 16th. This is an exciting day for the kids. They get to meet other fifth graders in the district and their teachers for next year.



Lip Sync this year is on June 23rd. It is always crowded and kids should be in their classroom between 6:15

6-PM dressed in their outfits. They need their outfits during the day as we do a dress rehearsal for the fourth graders.

Wacky Water Day has become a tradition in grade 5. This year it is on June 24th, with the rain date June 25th. It involves relay races with sponges and such. We do get wet so be prepared with towels. We will be providing a pizza luncheon that day.

Our last day together will be on June 26th. This is when we will hold

our fifth-grade breakfast. We will be serving juice and donuts and getting our yearbooks.

This has been a wonderful year and our team has enjoyed your children very much. We know that they will do well in the middle school.



To parents and students regarding next year's class placements.

A letter will go home the week of August 10th informing of class placements. We will not longer be posting class placements on the front doors.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 6/9/09 Science presentation in the gym
Mrs. Gilman's Poetry Night 6:30-7:30 PM
- 6/10 Field Day 9-11:15
PAC 5-7 PM start band/string trials
- 6/11 Book Fair 5th grades
Fourth grade field trip
- 6/12 Book Fair 5th grades
PAC 5-7 trials continue
- 6/15 Fifth grade field trip
- 6/16 Move-up Day for 5th grades
PAC 5-7 trials continue
- 6/22 PAC 4-5:50 or 6-7:30 instructional lessons
Volunteer Luncheon
- 6/23 Lip Sync 6:30 PM
USA luncheon for 4th grade
PAC instructional lessons continue
- 6/24 Wacky Water Day for 5th grade
PAC instructional lessons continue
- 6/26 Students last day 12:00, no lunch served

A Shocker

Mary Youngblood
Reading Consultant

It's shocking what happens over the summer when children don't read. This past year at Sandown Central School, we conducted our own study on summer reading loss with our current 5th grade students. At Central, we assess all students on their oral reading fluency utilizing the DIBELS oral reading fluency assessment three times per year, in the fall, winter, and spring respectively. During each assessment, students read three different grade level passages for one minute each. We chart the correct number of words each child reads on each piece. Then we record the median score. We compared the spring 2008 DIBELS median scores with the fall 2008 DIBELS median scores on seventy-five 5th graders. Appallingly, we witnessed the oral reading fluency scores drop on 47 out of 75 students in the fall compared to the spring scores. This was a 63% drop in the oral reading fluency rate. Although one can read about this summer reading loss in literacy periodicals and research documents, it really hits home when you witness the loss in your school. So what is the answer to this significant reading loss? You guessed it, **READING, READING, and more READING!!!!**

The following is a list of tips that will help parents and caretakers prevent this loss and enrich the quality of the summer vacation. These tips were outlined by Maurina Rome, a literacy coordinator and president of the Minnesota Reading Association.

Be your child's reading buddy. A lot of parents think they are doing their job when they say, 'OK, we're turning off the TV, now go to your room and read for 20 minutes.' Rome says. "They may take their book to their room, but they may not really be reading. Instead, parents should sit next to their child and read side by side."

Read aloud to your child (at least through the sixth grade). "Once our kids hit second grade, a lot of us think we don't need to read to them anymore," Rome says. "But children still

benefit from having conversations and discussions about books, to help develop their comprehension, and to hear higher-level vocabulary words. We provide parents with sentence starters, open-ended questions that kids have to answer, like, 'I was surprised when ...' "

Find a series. For kids who are reading well and ready for chapter books, one of Rome's favorite suggestions is "getting them hooked on so many series out there, whether it's 'Magic Tree House' or the James Patterson 'Maximum Ride' series for middle-school-age kids. If you get a kid going on a series, that's a start."

Move beyond fiction. Informational, non-fiction books are good bets for struggling readers, Rome says. "They like reading about real things and you can get them at all levels."

Make reading purposeful. If you're going to the zoo, check out a book beforehand on the type of animal you want to learn about. Or, pick up a brochure at the zoo and read it afterward. Or, log onto the zoo's Web site together and read about the attractions "so kids see the reasons why we read," Rome says.

Sneak in the writing. "We think we have to push reading, but the reading/writing connection is so huge," Rome says. "The writing reinforces the reading. So, get people to send them letters. What kid is not going to want to read a letter? Kids love to get mail. Or, with supervision, hook them up with their own e-mail account and have relatives send them an e-mail once in a while. It plays into the motivation factor — get the kids to understand why we read."

Creative writing assignments. Families can get prompts for short writing assignments at one of Rome's favorite sites for educators, Writingfix.com. Like this one: "Write a story about ... a rabbit ... a forest ... and a flower."

Use junk mail. "Have the kids read the junk mail and find 10 words they like," Rome says.

"They can cut those words out and glue them on a piece of paper."

Keep books everywhere. Rome likes what one mom of two children does: "She keeps books in the bathroom, in the car, in every single room in the house; she has books everywhere."

Books on the go. Speaking of books in cars, it's a good idea. "That makes it easier to use those itty-bitty minutes, making sure that whenever you go somewhere you might have to wait, like the post office, the bank or the grocery store, you'll have books to read and this is something we can do while we wait," Rome says. Or listen to books on tape in the vehicle. They quiet kids down as well as they try to hear the words.

Start a book club. A parent-child book club is good for any level reader, including gifted ones. "For parents of kids who are really readers, it's just as important to discuss a book — 'How are you like the character?' 'What was your favorite part and why?' 'Would you have changed the ending?' — to get them thinking deeply about what they've read," says Rome. A book club is a good way to start the conversation, because it's a natural thing, to talk over a book you've both read. That's what grown-ups do — we don't write a report about it, we talk about it.

In addition to the above recommendations, Barnes and Noble is sponsoring their summer reading program once again. If a child reads eight books and records their favorite part in a journal, then students will earn a free book from Barnes and Noble. Keep in mind that students are not required to read books that are purchased from Barnes and Noble. The books can be from any source. You can learn more about this program at www.barnesandnoble.com/summerreading.

Enjoy your summer and keep the literacy campfires ignited!!!



Is Your Child Interested in Band or String Instruments?

String opportunity for current 2nd, 3rd, or 4th graders

Band opportunity for current 3rd & 4th graders

Reminder: If your child wants to try playing a band or string instrument to see which one they would enjoy learning, they should go to the PAC either Wed. June 10 or Fri June 12 or Tues June 16 at 5pm. They can try at least 3 different instruments for free. After your child decides which instrument they would like, rental instruments will be available (if you don't already have one in good working condition.)

The kids will take their first 3 lessons at a reduced rate on Mon Tues & Weds June 22 June 23 and June 24. Session I will be held at the PAC from 4:00 – 5:30 and Session II will be held at the PAC from 5:30 – 7:00pm. (You choose which Session is best for you.)

If you have questions or know of anyone who cannot participate due to extreme financial hardship, please contact Mrs. Lincoln.

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