

# SCS News

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Volume 5, Issue 6

February 2019

## Principal's Corner

As February comes to a close and March is upon us, it's time to once again begin thinking about statewide testing. This assessment, which is for grades 3-8, was formerly known as Smarter Balanced. New Hampshire's "new" system, currently in its second year, is called "NH Statewide Assessment System" otherwise known as "NH SAS." There are three portions to the assessment: Reading, Writing, and Math. Also new to this assessment system is a Science test for students in grades 5 and 8. The Science portion will replace the former NECAP Science test students took in grades 4 and 8.

In preparation, SCS staff is working hard to create a positive testing atmosphere. It's a well-known fact that not everybody is a fan of standardized testing, but it is part of our culture and it is our duty to help our students be confident and feel successful as they attempt the test. We are working toward this in many ways. First of all, as I already mentioned, we are keeping the atmosphere **positive** and **supportive**. Words of encouragement benefit everybody! Teachers are reviewing test-taking strategies with students weekly. These strategies will help our students feel confident as they take the test. Finally, teachers are reviewing the practice tests with the students so they feel confident in using the available tools and in navigating the assessment.

Be on the lookout—a letter with more information is coming your way. There will also be a form that you can submit with words of encouragement for your child on the day of his or her test! ☺



Mrs. Mathieu

## January Students of the Month

*Lexus Maurais, Connor McKay, Alexis McKay,  
Bryson Fogg, Tavonne LeBlanc, Vaughn Shaw-  
Boire, Kade Cameron, Ava Sylvester*



## Calendar of Events

**MARCH 1, 2019**

No School

**MARCH 4, 2019**

4:15 PM- School Board Meeting

**MARCH 6, 2019**

2:50 PM- Student of the Month

**MARCH 11, 2019**

6 PM- Annual School Meeting

**MARCH 14, 2019**

5:30 PM- Family Night

**MARCH 15, 2019**

TIGER program @ CES

**MARCH 21, 2019**

12:00 Early Release

**MARCH 22, 2019**

No School – Administrative Day

**APRIL 1, 2019**

4:15 PM- School Board Meeting

## News from Pre-K / K

February has been a short month full of learning and fun. We celebrated our 100th day of school on the 7th, Valentine's Day on the 14th, and Winter Carnival is on the 22nd. Kindergarten has finished learning how to read and write all capital and lowercase letters. We've read about Groundhog's day and Presidents Day. We did an experiment about teeth. We have practiced telling joining stories and writing addition sentences. After vacation, we will switch from addition to subtraction. We will continue learning more sight words and cvc (consonant-vowel-consonant) words. The whole school will celebrate *Read Across America* week and Dr. Seuss' birthday.

Mrs. Hemon

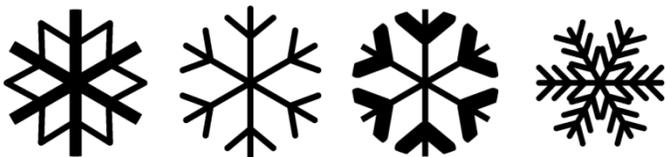
## News from Grades 1 & 2

February has been a month of celebrations! We started off celebrating Groundhog's Day and later that week celebrated the 100th Day of School! For the 100th day we made a snack of 100 pieces, stacked 100 cups, solved 100-piece puzzles, did 100 exercises, and read 100th day books. The next week we celebrated Valentine's Day by passing out Valentine's in the morning and having a Valentine's snack and activities in the afternoon.

In between all our celebrations we have started learning about people from the past, which was tied into President's Day. We learned about the history of schools, transportation, and homes and how they have changed over the years. Students enjoyed taking a walk around the room to look at different artifacts from schools of the past and were eager to try and figure out what they were. In Math, first graders have continued to learn about double digits to 100, while second grade has continued to explore 3 digit numbers to 1000.

We are all looking forward to the winter break and being able to have some much needed downtime. I hope you all have an enjoyable break and that when we return so does some warmer weather!

Mrs. Ricker



## News from Grades 3 & 4

This month has been full of projects! First, students completed their second book reports with great success. Next, in science, they worked in partners to make beautiful posters illustrating one aspect of a volcano, and last, each student made a model showing how a natural disaster of their choice works. In progress also by some students are "Who Would Win" books based on facts about various natural disasters that have been discovered in the course of researching the topics. Social studies has focused on ideas around budgets and money management, placed in the context of how communities use their resources and meet their needs. We have had many interesting discussions about these science and social studies topics!

Both grades continue to work on multiplication and division, developing fundamental understanding of number relationships that will help in the process of mastering multiplication at third and fourth grade levels. More formally, math class is focusing on learning about fractions. Please keep working with your child to help him/ her become a math master. As always, I look forward to your questions and comments about mastering math facts!

Have a wonderful February Vacation!

Mrs. Hodge

## News from Grade 5

February has been short, but sweet, in fifth grade. It's been a month dedicated to tying up loose ends. We finished up our work with dividing decimals. We also finished the historical fiction novel Riding Freedom. Everyone enjoyed the book and were amazed by how different life was for women of the 1800s compared to now. Many were surprised to find out the main character was a real person who led the life described in the book. Our unit on the American Revolution culminated with some wonderful projects about a wide variety of topics of the time. Students made foods, built models of objects from the time period, and did skits. It was AWESOME! We then read some reader's theater and performed an Escape Room about the Constitution. Finally, in science, we explored the basic building blocks of all matter--elements--and then looked at what makes an atom. As a fun activity, we made

"edible atoms" out of M&Ms showing the protons, neutrons, and electrons as they would look under a powerful microscope.

What's next? You'll have to wait and see. Enjoy every bit of vacation and be sure to rest up for this next stretch of the year.

Ms. Wonkka

### *News from JH Science*

Sixth grade students continue their studies about genetics. They recently created their names using a DNA code. Izzy and Kalie were tied for the longest chain. Students have also been creating Punnett square games using definitions of important terms as their focus. Students enjoyed going through the school to find Drew's clues for the Scavenger Hunt he created. Izzy and Joseph showcased their talents with their own Quizizz's games. Jacob, Moriah, Janessa, and Kalie showed off their talent through their own version of a traditional Memory game.

In seventh grade, ocean life has turned from animals to learning about the ocean floor. Students created their own drawing of the ocean floor, labeling parts such as the continental shelf, continental slope, and abyssal plain. They recently did a lab showing the salinity of ocean water by trying to float a potato. This past week they did a lab to determine how much water is on Earth, breaking it down into ocean water and the percentage of water found on other parts of Earth that is not part of the ocean.

Eighth grade students have finished their study of simple machines. The newest topic is a review of the importance of insulators and conductors with heat transfer. The students showed understanding of conduction, radiation and convection. What have they done for labs? Virtual labs are the answer. Students completed a lab about animals and their work effort. Recently students also completed a virtual lab on choosing insulators and analyzing how they affect the temperature in a house.

Mr. Kennedy

### *News from JH ELA & Social Studies*

Hello, from Junior High students.

We have had a very busy month since our last newsletter. Students have been researching and creating projects and maps during our Social Studies classes. The eighth graders are just beginning to study the events

leading up to the Civil War and will start a project based on the Civil War soon. The sixth-grade class finished creating a class book about Ancient Egypt. All of the students in that class contributed at least two pages to their class book. Students in grade seven finished their maps of Latin America and are now researching one South American country. We have all learned a lot and these classes have been very productive.

Language Arts classes have been writing using story starters to create fiction stories. Students have worked on their stories for 20 minutes a day, for an entire week. The results have included more details, and even dialogue, as our writing skills improve. All classes are reading novels that we started at the end of last month. "The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe", is the grades six and seven selection. "Bud, not Buddy" is the eighth-grade selection.

Have a wonderful winter break!

Mrs. Stebbins

### *News from the Media Center*

Fingers are flying over the keys in keyboard classes for grades 3 through 5. They are using a Mavis Beacon Typing program which has on screen passages, as well as dictation and transcription lessons for the advanced students. Students are making amazing progress!!

Mrs. Placey

### *News from JH Math*

In our sixth grade math class we are finishing up our work with dividing fractions with decimals and moving on to our unit on integers. Students will be introduced to absolute value, inverse, and operations with integers. As a project students will be creating their own timelines that show their knowledge of plotting integers and events on a number line.

In our seventh grade math class students have spent some time review operations with fractions. Moving forward we will be working with ratios and solving for unit rates. For a project associated with this concept students will be compare different brand items and solving which is the better option by solving for the unit rate.

In our eighth grade class students have been working hard on their budget projects. Everyone has

completed their expenses portion and are now working on savings. This week students will be given their “life cards” and will have to go back and change what is necessary for their cards. This unit has really emphasized how relevant math is to the real world by reviewing tax, simple interest, compound interest, commission, gratuity, and percent increase/decrease.

Ms. Saari

### *Title 1 News from Mrs. Stebbins*

February has been such an exciting month for the “Walk to Read” writing groups! They have been researching animals (different types of penguins), famous African Americans, and natural disasters. With this research, each student has been responsible for writing a certain number of paragraphs full of facts and details surrounding the topic. Overall, the students are excited about their research writings and are enjoying learning about new things. I am proud of the amount of effort that is being put into these research projects (both mini and full-length).

In other news, the Kindergarteners have been enjoying identifying letters and writing down the sounds they hear in CVC words. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students that I work with have been working on increasing their reading fluency and comprehension through timed reading passages. The 1<sup>st</sup> grade students that I work with have enjoyed having extra reading time with me and sight work practice. I am very impressed at the students’ level of efforts and their continued dedication to mastering important skills

### *Title 1 News from Mr. Kennedy*

I continue to go into classrooms, assisting students with their learning, whether it’s helping upper grades with math and language, or younger grades with their learning in a variety of subjects. For example, first graders are receiving supplemental help with math lessons, while 7<sup>th</sup> graders receive assistance as they learn about converting fractions.

### *News from the Resource Room*

Wow! Where did January and February go? Wasn’t it just Christmas Break?

During February, all of us in the Resource Room battled the cold and/or flu. My students from Grade 1 have been working on the word family –at in words, sentences, and stories, as well as worksheets and games. While reading the stories, they have been also increasing their sight word vocabulary. In Math, they have been identifying and writing the teen numbers through oral counting, number sequencing sheets & pictures, and practice.

My students in Grades 3 and 4 have been increasing their Trick Word and Words of the Day vocabulary, as well as the /z/ and /s/ sounds of the suffix –s in words, such as bugs and cats. They will be reading and writing more words and mastering more skills through practice, stories, worksheets, and tests. They are doing great!

In the classroom, my two fifth graders have just finished reading “Riding Freedom”, a historical fiction which started in New Hampshire. What a great book! I also helped them with their opinion writing. In Math, I assisted them with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of decimals, as well as Order of Operations. My students loved working on Order of Operation and PEMDAS. Ask them! I am impressed with their stamina and perseverance. Keep it up!

In Grades 6-8, my students in ELA have finished their writing assignment and started new chapter books, “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe” and “Bud, Not Buddy”. They continue to learn new Spelling words through workbook pages, weekly tests, and other related activities. In Math 6/7, my students worked on the skills of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions, as well as GCF and LCM. Even with assistance and resources, the students had much difficulty on these skill areas.

All of the students, especially in Grades 5-8, at SCS have the opportunity to receive extra help on homework or review for quizzes/tests every morning from 7:30-8:00 at my Homework Club in my room. Hope more students will take advantage of this small group assistance.

Have a great, relaxing February vacation. It’s a good time to get some fresh air and become healthier!

Ms. Miller