



# SANDPIPER NEWS



7 School Lane | Kittery Point, ME | Marcelle Durost, Principal

## Important Dates

### April

- 16-20 Spring Break
- 26 - PBL Parent Advisory Meeting
- 30 - May 5th - Arts Fair Week

### May

- 1 - School Committee meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 3 - Third Grade Chorus and Arts Fair Presentation
- 4 - Talent Show at Shapleigh
- 10 - Kindergarten Registration by Appointments, 8:30-2:30
- 15 - School Committee meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 16 - Early Release @ 2:00 pm
- 22 - Kindergarten Registration by Appointments, 8:30-2:30
- 24 - District PBL Parent Advisory Meeting, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 28 - No School- Memorial Day



## Reduce, reuse and recycle!

Mitchell School Green Team members had a very informative tour of our Resource Recovery and Recycling Center at the town's transfer station. David Evans, parent of member Madison Evans, was kind enough to show us the whole operation, both inside and out. Students learned how much a bale of aluminum cans weigh, how big a square yard is and how many square yards of plastic containers fill a 30 yard dumpster. We looked at the wall of compressed recycled materials ready to be picked up by a tractor trailer. Much of the material is trucked to ECO Maine in Portland, a waste to energy plant. We saw what materials become part of the transfer station landfill and the massive composting operation. Did you know you can buy compost right at the transfer station? Our tour ended with a gift from the center, a small duck with recycling symbols. Many thanks to David Evans and the staff at the transfer station for allowing us to see the important work you do!





## Helping the less fortunate in the Seacoast area

RWTA Lander's Advisory group is currently doing a service learning project to benefit the less fortunate citizens in the seacoast community. They are working with the organization Crossroads, which is located in Portsmouth, NH. They are collecting the following items: personal hygiene products, clothing, bedding and much more, especially socks! They will be collecting materials from April 4th - April 25th. If you would like to donate we will have a donation box in the lobby of the Mitchell Primary School. They also have a Go Fund me page at <https://www.gofundme.com/LandersAdvisory>.

## School success goes hand in hand with good attendance

The message that we tell our students is that school is their most important job. They're learning about more than math and reading. They're learning how to show up for school on time every day and how to be ready to learn. Please help us make every day count. Good attendance really matters to your child's school success which leads to later success in life. Attendance Works, a national initiative dedicated to reducing absenteeism, notes that:

- Your children can suffer academically if they miss 10 percent of school days or about 18 days. That can be just one day every two weeks, and that can happen before you know it.
  - It doesn't matter if these absences are excused or unexcused. They all represent lost time in the classroom and a lost opportunity to learn.
  - Attendance matters as early as kindergarten. Studies show many children who miss too many days in kindergarten and first grade can struggle academically in later years. They often have trouble mastering reading by the end of third grade.
  - Preschool is a great time to start building a habit of good attendance. Studies show that poor attendance in preschool can predict absenteeism in later grades.
  - By middle and high school, chronic absence is a leading warning sign that a student will drop out.
  - Too many absent students can affect the whole classroom, creating churn and slowing down instruction.
  - Families should avoid extended vacations that require your children to miss school. Try to line up vacations with the school's schedule. The same goes for doctor's appointments.
  - For younger children, you can set a regular bedtime and morning routine. Make sure they get 9 to 11 hours of sleep. You can lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
  - For older children, you can help set homework and bedtime routines that allow for 8 ½ to 9 ½ hours of sleep. Make sure that when the lights go out, so do the cell phones, video games and computers.
  - Above all, set an example for your child. Show him or her that attendance matters to you and that you won't allow an absence unless someone is truly sick. Don't ask older students to help with daycare and household errands.
  - You can turn to the school for help.
- Go to <http://www.attendanceworks.org/> for more information

## Share your books!

### *Kittery Rotary Book*

### *Swap..... Coming Soon!*

The Annual Kittery Rotary-, After Hours Group, will be gathering books for students in June. If you have books your children have out grown this is an opportunity to share these books with other students as well as select books for your child. So if you have books that would be appropriate for children from kindergarten to fourth grade we will be collecting books when children return from April break. What a great way to pair down all the books in your child's room, in the closets, under beds, in boxes, in the attic, or basement. Great way to get started on Spring Cleaning! More information and dates will be coming

## Classroom Placement

### 2018-19 School Year

Can you believe it is time to think about next year's placement? As we begin the process of placing students into classroom for next year we need accurate data about our enrollment. If you are planning on moving in the near future, would you please take the time to complete the form that is your child's Red Folder. We have also attached this form in our newsletter for your convenience.

## Math Practice for Math Facts

Students in 2nd and 3rd grade are working to master basic math facts. Second graders are practicing addition and subtraction facts from 0 to 10. Third graders should have already mastered the addition and subtraction facts and now working on multiplication and division facts. Being able to put these facts into long-term memory takes a lot of practice.

### How can you help your child? 10 minutes of practice a day!

Practice...practice....practice... helps put facts into our long-term memory like learning the alphabet as a kindergarten student. By seeing, saying, and writing new information, over and over using our different senses, helps children memorize facts. So by taking a few minutes each day practicing a few math fact in different ways will help your child master the math facts. Taking 10 minutes a day will make a HUGE difference. Playing math games using dice or playing cards children can play a game to add, subtract, or multiply. Making flash cards with children with index cards, with fact on the front and answer on the back, can be useful in the car or when you are making supper. Using a white board or paper to **write and say** a few facts 5 times each uses 3 senses at once by writing, seeing, and saying. Children can also hop on the computer and practice "Extra Math " on our website page. Using a variety of ways to practice at home or on the go will help your child develop mastery of math facts. Once mastery is achieved it helps free up your child's mind as they work on more complicated concepts from finding area, perimeter, division, and fractions to name a few examples. If you have would like support or suggestions on how to practice, your child's teacher or Mrs. Moulton, our math coach, would gladly share ideas with you.

## Parent Drop off in the Morning PRIOR to 8:15

The whistle blows at 8:15 for students to enter the building from the playground to start the day. We are asking parents to be here by 8:15 for students to be on time for school. If parents **are here after 8:15 you may come up the bus lane to drop of children.** We are noticing many parents coming at 8:15 or after so this is delaying Mrs. Torr, our cross walk monitor, from coming in with students to start her day as well as students arriving late to school. So please try to be here prior to 8:15. This will help you child be ready for the day with the other students



**Help Your Child Succeed in School:  
Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early**  
School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

**When Do Absences Become a Problem?**



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

For more on school readiness, visit [attendanceworks.org](http://attendanceworks.org) and [reachoutandread.org](http://reachoutandread.org)

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March 26, 2018

Dear Mitchell School Parents:

As we begin the process of placing the children into classrooms for the 2018- 2019 school year, it is very important that we have accurate data about our enrollment. If you are planning on moving in the near future, please take the time to fill in the form below and return it to our office. We appreciate your time with this matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Marcelle Durost*  
Marcelle Durost, Principal

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WE ARE PLANNING TO MOVE AWAY FROM KITTERY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

OUR PROJECTED DATE FOR LEAVING IS ON \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE LEVEL \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO OUR OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**