Sand Lake School's December Newsletter

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From the principal's desk…

The holiday season is a great time to reflect on the past year and recognize important people whom shape our lives in considerable ways. The Sand Lake staff would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped make lasting impressions on our students' educational experiences. We would like to extend a special *thank you* to Sand Lake's Parent/Teacher Group (PTG) for their ongoing involvement and dedication to our school's success. Our staff would also like to recognize the many wonderful volunteers, who continually share in the joy of learning. In addition, we are appreciative of all the community members, who support students and staff. Finally, our staff is grateful to all Sand Lake families for collaborating with us regarding our most important resource – the children.

Teacher Requests

I want to update families about a change to a policy. As of June 30, 2019 Administrative Rule 433.1 was discontinued. This means that we will no longer accept teacher/house requests. Rest assured, we will continue to create class configurations that take into account the needs of all learners. The School District of Holmen ensures a guaranteed and viable curriculum through highly trained and professional staff that are committed to meeting the District's mission and expectations.

If you have any questions about our new school report card or anything else at Sand Lake, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a Happy, Meaningful Holiday Season! Best Wishes for the New Year!

Sincerely,

Natalie Morgan

Art Room News from Mrs. Staige

The Elementary Art Show at the Pump House Regional Art Center will be November 20th, 2019 – January 4th, 2020. The show will feature student artwork from Sand Lake, Viking, Evergreen, and Prairie View. The artist reception will be on Wednesday, December 11th from 3:30-6:00 p.m. Congratulations to all of the artists that were selected for the art show!

Fifth Grade: Logan DeNault, Alexis Schauf, Jaycie Burtenshaw and Callan Wuensch
Fourth Grade: Quinn Klapwijk, Wrigley Erlandson, Brayden Dolan, Macie Harris, Zac Brady and Nadia Hurtz
Third Grade: Garrett Dow, Hudson Herman, Brady Needham, Colten Bjergum, Jack George and Emily Stevenson
Second Grade: Ari Schuldt, Eve Heerts, Tori Mathwig, Izzy Schauf, Shayla Sheard, Porter Strelow, Giana Balsamo, Kailee Yang and Abe Yildirim
First Grade: Harper Schulze and Hallie Nestingen
Kindergarten: Hunter Kelly and Jaesen Yang

Mrs. Staige

Counselor Connection – Mrs. Kobs

My goal is to help your child have an academically, socially, and emotionally fulfilling experience this year. I am here to help your child develop skills that will last a lifetime. It is especially critical during these formative years that our children understand and appreciate how much their character counts. At Sand Lake Elementary School, classroom guidance lessons during the month of December will focus on respect, caring, and responsibility. Teaching about good character helps students to choose to do the right thing, set a good example, be a role model, and ultimately make our world a better place to live.

Early Release Reminder

As a friendly reminder, there will be an early release day on Wednesday, December 11th in order to provide professional development opportunities for staff. School will be dismissed at 1:40 p.m. Surround Care will be available.

Educational Assistants EXTRA

Each month our Educational Assistants will be sharing useful information and tips.

- The earliest drop off time in the morning is 8:10 a.m., unless you are enrolled in the Surround Care program through the YMCA.
- In the drop off lane - please have students exit your car on the curbside, if that is not possible, please escort them to the curb.
- We ask that you do not leave your car running unattended, especially if you are coming into the building.
- Your child(ren) should be dressed appropriately for the weather.
- Parents-please make sure Kindergarten and 1st Grade students are prepared to dress themselves. This includes zipping and tying articles of clothing.

Farm2School

The La Crosse County Farm2School program is a collaboration between public school districts in La Crosse County and the La Crosse County Health Department. The Farm2School program provides student opportunities for health and nutrition education. Each month, one locally-grown produce item is selected as the Farm2School "Harvest of the Month" and is featured in taste tests, as part of nutrition education in the classroom, at special events, and of course, in the cafeteria. December's "Harvest of the Month" is winter squash. Check out the Farm2School link on our website.

Health Office News

Nurse: Emily Hanes RN, BSN
Health Aide: Annette Hundt

When to Keep Your Child Home:

1. Any temperature of 100 degrees or higher requires exclusion from school. If your child is requiring Tylenol or Ibuprofen to keep the fever down, they should stay home. They should be fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of medication to maintain a normal temperature.
2. Cold symptoms serious enough to interfere with the child's ability to learn.
3. If your child has diarrhea and/or vomiting, keep them home until their bodies have had time to recover. Sometimes, children return too early and end up having a relapse or infecting more students.
4. Coughing that causes difficulty breathing, moderate to severe chest pain and/or vomiting.
5. Headache severe enough to interfere with learning.
6. Abdominal pain accompanied by elevated temperature, vomiting, or diarrhea.
7. Sore throat serious enough to interfere with swallowing or accompanied by a fever or rash.
8. Pink eye-if fever is present, behavior changes or unable to avoid touching the eyes.
9. Certain bacterial conditions which are prescribed an antibiotic, such as strep throat and impetigo, require a student to be on the antibiotic for 24 hours prior to returning to school.
10. Unknown rash.

Hearing and Vision Screenings: Almost all the hearing and vision screenings have been completed. The Lion's club was here for kindergarten and 1st grade vision screenings the end of October. If there were any concerns with the screenings, a letter was sent home to notify. Feel free to contact the health office if you have any questions about your child's vision and/or hearing.

Musical Notes from Mrs. Heerts

Music Class in December!

Happy holidays from Mrs. Heerts' Music Class. This December will be an exciting month in music! At every music level we will be learning about the many holidays of December: Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas and New Years through seasonal books, songs and games.

Kindergarten will also focus on demonstrating the steady beat and different tempos through the use of bean bags, scarves and instruments.

First grade will focus on steady beat but will also practice creating and reading rhythm patterns using various manipulatives. First grade will also learn about the Nutcracker story and ballet.

Second grade will complete their holiday concert. Then they will practice finding steady beat and responding through movement to music. Second grade will also begin to work on music terminology for dynamics and rhythm.

Third grade will continue their work on reading notes and rhythms on the treble clef and will also discuss opera through the unit study of Amahl and the Night Visitors.

Fourth grade will complete their concert on December 6th and following that event, they will focus on beginning the ukulele. This unit will teach them how to care for and play a string instrument and will focus on chord reading.

Fifth grade will continue their study of the ukulele with beginning accompaniment of some seasonal songs. Recorder will begin in January for Fifth grade, so now is the time to find their book and recorder!

Upcoming concert dates:

December 12th	**2nd Grade 6:00 P.M.**
	4th Grade 7:00 P.M.
March 19th	**1st Grade 6:00 P.M.**
	3rd Grade 7:00 P.M.
April 30th	**5th Grade 6:30 P.M.**
May 7th	**Kindergarten 6:30 P.M**

Thank you for supporting music education.
Happy Holidays!
~Mrs. Heerts

No School December 23rd – January 1st

School will not be in session from Monday, December 23rd through Wednesday, January 1st. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 2nd. Enjoy the winter break!

NUMATS

Northwestern University

Center for Talent Development
Northwestern University
School of Education & Social Policy

Northwestern University offers a program, the Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS), in which top students in grades 3 through 9 have the opportunity to take standardized exams designed for older students. Why have students taken tests designed for older students? Students who score in the 97th percentile or higher on grade-level standardized tests often have hit the ceiling on those tests. These students are earning top scores, but the tests are unable to measure the full extent of their ability. Above-grade-level tests are more challenging and are better able to assess the knowledge, skills, and understandings of high-ability students.

- Third through sixth-grade students are able to take the PSAT 8/9, designed for eighth and ninth graders. **Please note that NUMATS is offering the PSAT 8/9 at Holmen Middle School on the three PSAT 8/9 dates which take place in January and February 2020. The registration deadline for the January test date is December 11 and the deadline for the February dates is January 3.**
- Sixth through ninth-grade students are able to take the ACT or SAT, college entrance exams taken by high school juniors. Dates for these tests are monthly through July 2020.

The Talented and Gifted Program is in the process of identifying 3rd through 9th-grade students who scored in the 97th percentile and above on any of the STAR assessments or Wisconsin Forward last year and will be sending information about the NUMATS program to the families of those students. *NUMATS also is available to those students who scored in the 90th percentile or above on any of those assessments.* If you feel your student meets NUMATS' 90th percentile requirement and you would like more information about the program, please contact the TAG teacher at your school. You also can find more information at www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats.

Parent Teacher Group (PTG) News

The fall fundraiser has come to a successful close once again. Almost $9,000.00 was raised this year! Thank you for all the support. The top seller this year was Ty Ericksmoen. Congratulations and thank you for your hard work!! The money raised will provide many wonderful opportunities for Sand Lake students and staff. Thank you to those who volunteered during merchandise pick up!

Please stop in the office and buy your gift cards by using our Scrip Program. They are a quick and easy present; perfect for teachers, neighbors, friends and family. A complete list of participating retailers is available in the office. In order to ensure holiday delivery; **please turn order forms in by Dec 11th. Payment is due at the time of placing the order. Only cash or checks will be accepted.** ***Don't forget you can place orders for physical cards and automatically receive eGift cards online.***

There will be no PTG meeting in December, but our Family Fun Fest committee will have an initial planning meeting. Please email Priscilla Coe if you are interested in helping to plan and organize this event at cillacoe@gmail.com. Our next meeting will be held on January 9th. All are welcome to attend, especially those that have not been able to in the past. Spring is a very busy time for the PTG and we would love to have more people involved! Our meetings are a great source of information for upcoming events and a way to get the latest school news from Mrs. Morgan. Your participation helps make Sand Lake successful!

*** Find us on Facebook - Sand Lake Elementary PTG ***

Physical Education: Sneaker News from Mrs. Abraham

Wow! What energy in the gym for the Harvest of Rhythms. Thank you for supporting your child! Students enjoyed performing, clapping, snapping and toe tapping dances for you. Dance is a great way to exercise, express yourself and have fun. My favorite part of the program is the family dance! I love seeing the students' faces light up when family and friends dance.
Through your generosity 172 food items, 252 gently used books and 10 personal hygiene items were collected and given to Holmen Food Pantries and New Horizon for those families in need. Again, thank you!

Kindergarten and First grade students were able to express themselves in dance movements. Second and Third grade students incorporated movements to a parachute in an ABA movement pattern. While Third grade were introduced to one of the oldest ways to move to music, square dance. Fourth and Fifth grade students were introduced to the components of dance by learning and performing short dances.

Enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving with family and friend

TAG! You're It – Mrs. Lazarcik

This Fall the 5th grade TAG Math students had the opportunity to participate in a new MVGTN Event, a Robothon. Students spent the day participating in a variety of coding challenges while using the Sphero robots. Brock Needham, Julia McBride, Avery Schmitt, Brennan Schloegel, Logan DeNault, and Dean Teale represented Sand Lake Elementary and the Holmen School District fabulously!! They worked hard, collaborated, showed respect, and enjoyed themselves while participating in the activities that featured the Sphero robots. Congratulations!!!!

Fifth grade TAG students also had the opportunity to participate in a tri-state quiz bowl competition. The team answered 100 questions from all types of categories. There were 74 teams that participated throughout Wisconsin, Minnesota, and MIchigan. Sand Lake's team, consisting of Kateley Dittman, Levi Coe, Logan DeNault, Julia McBride, Brock Needham, Brennan Schloegel, Avery Schmitt, Dean Teale, and Claire Stevenson, placed 5th in this competition! Way to go 5th graders!! What a fabulous accomplishment!!

Leslie Lazarcik TAG Teacher Viking and Sand Lake Elementary lazles@holmen.k12.wi.us

Winter Weather

Now that the winter weather is not too far away, the staff would like to remind you that students will be going outside when temperatures/conditions permit (see winter recess guidelines listed below). Please make certain your children are dressed appropriately for the weather (i.e. scarves, hats, mittens, snow pants, and boots). If they are not to go outside because of medical reasons, please send a note to their teachers.

*Parents sending notes may be requested to send a physician's statement after one day of indoor recess.

Winter Recess Guidelines (in effect every day)

- Students will go outside when the temperature is 1 degrees or above.
- Students will stay indoors when the temperature is below 0 degrees or when the wind chill is 0 degrees or below.

We would like to extend a special *thank you* to Sara Schmitt and Joan Chodur for decorating our beautiful holiday tree!

from all of us at Sand Lake Elementary! Thank you for making 2019 a great year! We look forward to working with you throughout 2020. Enjoy the Holidays!