

# SANDWICH CENTRAL SCHOOL

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## Family Newsletter

[www.interlakes.org/scs](http://www.interlakes.org/scs)

Celebrate Excellence



**Primary Multiage—First Day of school!**

### ***Letter from the Principal***

Dear Parents and Friends:

Welcome to our new families, and welcome back to our returning families. School opened last week with 80 students, a five year high in Sandwich!

Our Primary Multiage has 29 students – 15 morning friends and 14 afternoon friends. As you probably know, we split this large class and hired an additional Primary Multiage teacher. We welcome Colleen Costello, who most recently taught 1<sup>st</sup> grade in Manchester. She taught summer kindergarten for several years in Manchester, as well as second grade in Pennsylvania. She is a terrific addition to our Sandwich team!

Also new this year are security doors in the front hallway and security cameras to monitor each entrance to the school. Beginning in October, all access to the building will be restricted between 8:00 a.m. and 2:35 p.m. Parents are still welcome, but will need to be “buzzed in” after they sign in. The District Safety Committee recommended these new security measures for all District schools.

The school received thirty new computers, most of which were placed in the computer room. We exchanged the old laptops for 15 desktop stations and 10 laptops. We also installed LCD projectors in the Upper Multiage, Grade 6 and computer classrooms, which required some additional wiring. A projector will be installed in Middle Multiage later this fall.

We have begun a systematic removal of wall-to-wall carpeting at the school. This summer the carpet in Mrs. Pettitt’s and Ms. Littlefield’s classrooms was replaced with tile. Each room was provided with a large rug for their reading/morning meeting areas. Next summer, Mr. Chapman’s and Mrs. Chase’s rooms are scheduled to be tiled. We are returning to tile to address issues of cleanliness and allergies.

Teachers participated in a large number of professional development activities this summer. Different members of the Sandwich staff attended multiple day trainings in Differentiated Instruction, Every Day Math, Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments, and Individualized Education Plan development and implementation. Several staff members also taught school programs in and out of district.

Our PTO this year is being led by President Angie Morton. The other officers are Vice President Birgit Nedeau; Secretary

*Continued on p. 2*

Susan Shapiro; and Treasurer Lora Carney. Many thanks to Angie Morton and Mara Burns for painting the four-square and other lines on the playground on the hottest day of the summer! Thanks to Mocha Rizing and Nancy Papp for providing coffee and tea on the first day of school. The first PTO meeting will be on Friday, September 18 at 2:45 p.m. We are going to try to adjust the format of the meetings to include at least a half hour for presentations and discussion on topics directly related to the school. Some examples might include explanations and discussions of different parts of the curriculum, how the school and family can work together to enrich social interactions among the children, or how our MAP testing program helps students, parents and teachers.

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing will begin District-wide on Monday, September 14 and continue to September 28. We use this assessment to help guide our instruction and measure the academic growth of each student, much like you measure your child's physical growth. This assessment is administered in grades 2 through 9 in reading and math. Sandwich is piloting a K-1 MAP for Primary Grades assessment that would replace some of the time consuming individual assessing that is currently being done. Each MAP assessment takes about one hour or less. This unique computerized test adapts to each student as he/she takes the test. As students answer questions correctly, they are given more challenging problems; a wrong answer results in an easier question. This continues for the entire test, creating an individualized test for each student that is able to closely assess the student's current instructional level. More information about the MAP test is available online at [www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org).

We did not air President Obama's recent speech about the importance of education due to the controversy surrounding it. We felt it was better to wait for the furor to subside, the actual text of the speech to be widely available, and to be able to show the speech to those classes with which we believed it would resonate the most. We plan on airing some or all of this speech next week at different times and in different classes. President Obama's message included such statements as: "Take responsibility for your education. Go to class and listen. Don't let failures define you." The President further challenged students saying, "We need every single one of you to develop your talents, skills and intellect so you can help solve our most difficult problems. If you don't do that — if you quit on school — you're not just quitting on yourself, you're quitting on your country."

The President of the United States' remarks fit nicely with our advice to our Sandwich students to persevere. We spoke at our opening day assembly about the importance of this big word, perseverance. I told the students that they would be seeing this word around the school to remind them to stick with things even when they are difficult. School won't be easy or fun every day — it can be hard work. That hard work and perseverance will provide rewards in the days, weeks, months and years to come.

I hope to see you on Wednesday, September 16, 2009 between 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. for our annual Open House. This is a time for you to see your child's classroom and let your child show you around the school.

May we have a spectacular school year! See you soon!

Sincerely,



John Hansen  
Principal

**OPEN HOUSE**  
**Wednesday, September 16**  
**6:30—7:30 p.m.**



**Upper Multiage at the Cold River on Route 113 collecting and counting the macroinvertebrates that live in the river.**



### **SAVE FOR AMERICA SCHOOL BANKING**



**Tuesday mornings in the library  
before the start of the school day. If  
you are interested in volunteering  
please call the school.**

#### **Important Dates:**

**Sept. 14-28**—NWEA Map Assessment

**Sept. 16**—SCS Open House 6:30 p.m.

**Sept. 18**—PTO Meeting, 2:45 p.m. library. Child care will be provided

**Sept. 21**—Beginning Band First Lesson Night ILES.

Grades 4-6. Information went home today

**Sept. 28**—School Picture Day. Information will be sent home nearer the time

**Oct. 1-21**—Statewide NECAP Assessment