

SANFORD SPOTLIGHT

Winter Concerts at the SPAC



Sanford High School Chorus and Band Ensembles had their Spirit of the Season Holiday Concert at the Performing Arts Center on Thursday, December 14th.

SHS chorus, chamber singers, and chorale took the stage first. The chorus performed “Bonse Aba” and “That’s Christmas to Me.”

The chamber singers followed with renditions of “Keep Your Lamps,” and “The Water is Wide.” “Where Are You Christmas” was followed ...

[Read more here](#)

Sanford Middle School celebrated the spirit of the season with its Winter Concert held at the Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, December 13th.

The event showcased the talent and hard work of the school's band and chorus members in front of a packed audience.

The 6th grade band was the first on stage as they performed their own renditions of "The Maya Kingdom" by Victor Lopez and "Dance Celebration" by Robert W. Smith.

[Read more here](#)

Peer Helpers Hold Holiday Party With Lunch Buddies



The holiday season is a time for spreading joy and kindness, and the Peer Helpers at Sanford High School took it upon themselves to make a difference on Wednesday.

Each student in Peer Helpers has their own Lunch Buddy to share meals and connect with. On Wednesday, the Peer Helpers gave back to their buddies by putting on a Holiday Party as part of their "17 Acts of Kindness Campaign."

The group enjoyed snacks, made cookies, and created holiday decorations. The Peer Helpers have taken up the challenge of performing 17 acts of kindness before the winter break. These acts aim to uplift spirits, spread positivity, and make a positive impact on the lives of others.

Read more [here](#)

SMS Students Selected For Publication in Anthology



Six Sanford Middle School students from Mrs. Daniels' 5th ELA class were recently selected for publication in the Young Writers' Spooky Saga Anthology.

This was a nationwide competition that required students to create a spooky story using only 100 words.

Read more [here](#)

Sights Around Our Schools

Margaret Chase Smith



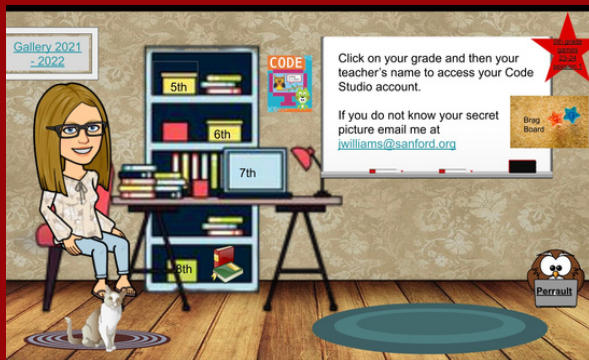
Margaret Chase Smith 1st grade students got crafty during their club time with Mrs. Arnold and Mrs. Deschambault. Winter projects are the best when with friends! Click [here](#) for the school's newsletter.

Carl J. Lamb



It was an exciting day for Carl J. Lamb's Pre-K classes on Tuesday, December 12th. The Animal Welfare Society paid them a visit, bringing along some friends for an fun learning experience. Click [here](#) for the school's newsletter.

Sanford Middle School



Four classes of 5th graders have been taking Coding as one of their Allied Arts classes since September. The goal was to learn enough block coding to create a playable game. Click [here](#) for the school's newsletter.

Sanford Pride



Sanford Pride Elementary had their Snapshots With Santa event on Tuesday, December 5th. Families brought their cameras to take pictures with Santa. There were also crafts, snacks and more! Click [here](#) for the school's newsletter.

SRTC Landscaping & Horticulture Plant Sale



Students in SRTC's Landscaping and Horticulture program held a plant sale before Thanksgiving.

Students, staff, and community members were able to browse the many house plants and succulent gardens that were grown in-house as well as hand-select flowers for on-the-spot bouquet and table arrangement creations.

This is always a hit within the school and community. The students of both classes also visited Thurston and Peters Sugar House in Newfield to harvest boughs for the holiday wreath sale.

MCS 3rd Graders Work on Pollination Simulation



3rd graders at Margaret Chase Smith were visited by “guest teachers,” Mrs. Buzzbee and Mrs. Marigold, and had a chance to participate in a hands-on pollination simulation.

Students built flowers and labeled the parts that are vital for plant reproduction. Students then “buzzed” from plant-to-plant searching for nectar, collecting and spreading pollen to other plants’ stick stigma.

They were able to notice the pollen from multiple plants left behind, meaning those flowers could produce seeds.

Sanford Water Department Visits SMS



Representatives from the Sanford Water Department came to the middle school to talk to 5th graders.

Students learned where water comes from in Sanford, how it gets to their homes, and what steps are being taken to preserve it.

It was a great connection to the middle school's Water Planet unit from their science curriculum.

SHS Winter Sports Preview



The Sanford High School winter sports season has just started. For a complete list of game and practice schedules, click [here](#) (game dates are subject to change).

Most of our basketball home games are also live-streamed on WSSRTV's YouTube page if you can't attend. Click [here](#) to check out their page.

Girls Basketball

Click [here](#) for the 2023-2024 schedule

From Head Coach Rossie Kearson:

"The goal for our team is to get to Portland. Take one game at a time and see what happens. My expectations are for my team to give 100% effort every time they step on the floor.

Read more [here](#)

SHS Hosts Sportsmanship Summit



“The Obstacle is the Way” was the theme of this year’s Southwestern Maine Athletics Association (SMAA) Sportsmanship Summit at Sanford High School on Tuesday, December 5th.

This was the fourth consecutive year SHS has hosted the summit, which brought in all 17 schools from the SMAA.

The event allowed student-athletes to come together, learn, and promote sportsmanship values.

Read more [here](#)

The Spartan Times

The Spartan Times is the high school's online newspaper. The writing staff is composed of reporters in grades 9-12 who are enrolled in or have completed the CCP Journalism Elective course or the School Newspaper Enrichment class. Below is an article on SHS junior Tatum Milley competing for the USA equestrian team.



Tatum Milley, a senior at SHS, is traveling to South Africa from on Dec. 8 through Dec. 19 to compete with the USA equestrian team.

Milley has been riding horses her whole life and has competed all across the country.

She annually travels to Oklahoma to compete in the National and World championships, winning five world titles and nine national titles.

Read more [here](#)

Employee Spotlight

The Sanford School Department is spotlighting employees at all of our schools. If you know an employee who you feel should be highlighted, please email Sam Bonsey at sbonsey@sanford.org. This spotlight is on Sanford Pride Library Ed Tech Jennifer Caswell.



How long have you worked in the Sanford School Department?

This is my first year in Sanford. Prior to this I taught secondary English and Social Studies in New Hampshire.

What's your favorite part about working in Sanford?

I really enjoy the kids--this is my first time working with little ones--and my new colleagues. They are so warm and friendly.

Read more [here](#)

Winter Break and Weather Reminder



The final school day before winter break is **Friday, December 22nd**. Students return to school on **Tuesday, January 2nd**. With winter arriving, it's time to remind everyone of our protocols to keep students and staff safe when inclement weather arrives.

Our last day of school is presently scheduled for Wednesday, June 5th if we use no snow days; for every day that school is cancelled due to weather, we will add a make-up day starting with June 6th. If we have to use storm days that move our last day of school beyond June 14th, we will consider remote school days.

Read more [here](#)

Attendance Matters



Thank you for your commitment to your child's regular school attendance as the holidays approach. Consistent routines are so important for learning and well-being.

We appreciate your effort to get your child to school ready to learn.

Please maintain your child's attendance throughout the holiday season. Coming to school helps your child build relationships, learn, and feel stable.

Click [here](#) for the school calendar

Free Meals



Have you heard all school meals are free in Maine? This includes breakfast. Don't have time to prepare breakfast in the morning? Let us do the work. We'd be happy to provide your son or daughter with a delicious, nutritional balanced breakfast every day, free of charge.

Breakfast Service Times by School:

CJL: breakfast is from 8:00 to 8:30

MCS: breakfast is from 8:00 to 8:20

SPE: breakfast is 8:00 – 8:20

SMS: breakfast is 7:10 - 7:40

SHS: breakfast is 6:45-8:15

Announcements



The Sanford School Department is hiring! Scan the QR code on the left to check out all of our openings.




Click this [link](#) for a list of announcements in the Sanford Community.

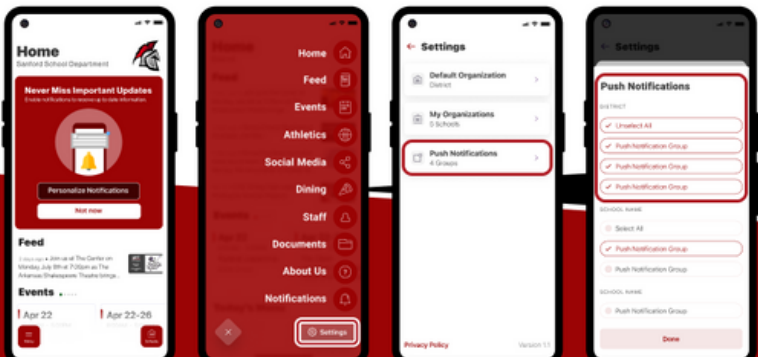


Do you have a story idea that you think should be in a future newsletter? We want to hear from you! Contact Communications Coordinator Sam Bonsey at sbonsey@sanford.org.

Download the Sanford Spartan App!

Don't miss any updates from Sanford! 

1. Search **Sanford School Department, ME** in your phone's app store and download the app
2. Select **'Personalize Notifications'** when prompted on initial download to ensure you receive notifications
3. Open the app and navigate to the bottom menu then tap **'SETTINGS'**
4. Access Push Notifications to select preferred group(s)



Main Street Memo



Holiday events and preparations, City Council highlights, a message from the Department of Public Works and much more is covered in the latest Main Street Memo! Click [here](#) to read it.

Additional links to stay up to date with the Sanford Community

- [City of Sanford](#)
- [WSSR-TV](#)
- [Sanford Athletics Instagram](#)
- [Spartan Times Online Newspaper](#)
- [Sanford Springvale News](#)