

NORTH ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dr. Paula Manchester
Principal

November 8, 2019

Dear Parents and Families,

Happy November!! The leaves are nearly done falling, it's getting chilly, and our staff and students are taking advantage of this exciting season. Many teachers and students have been engaged in inquiry and STEM lessons, using pumpkins and seasonal topics.

Please make sure students are wearing outdoor attire to accommodate for the cold weather. Morning recess can be a little chilly. We will be going out unless the temperature or wind chill is below 22 degrees fahrenheit.

Thank you to the PTO for putting on a great Spooktacular Dance! I am looking forward to seeing our families at the Fall Festival, Saturday, November 16, from 10-2. You can get your holiday shopping started with local artisans and vendors. There will be food trucks, a bouncy house, a chili cook-off, an apple pie contest, and our infamous scarecrow stroll.

We have two important days in November; Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. The North community would like to say thank you to all our service men and women in the Somerset Community. Your service is appreciated. We would like to acknowledge our very own parents who are veterans. I apologize if I missed anyone, there may be more that I don't know of. I was impressed and humbled as I received emails over the past week, learning about the service our North families have given us.

Our North Veteran Heros Thank you for your service!

Heidi Pontes (Our very own School Adjustment Counselor)

Nichole Karcz (Parent of Brady Karcz in 4th grade) - US Army from 1998-2001. Motor transport operator and a US paratrooper.

Jordan Niles (Parent of Troy (5th), Wes (2), Levi (PreK)- US Marine Corps 2007-2015. Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Defense Specialist.

Keith Oliver (Parent of Cameron Oliver grade 1) - US Army-8 yrs. Heavy equipment operator.

Paula Doucette (Parent of Sarah Doucette grade 3) - US Army- 1997-2005 Paralegal in JAG CORPS.

Brendan Hanna (Parent of Caitlyn (1st) and Cole (K) - US Marine Corps veteran. 2002-2008

Joshua Pacheco (Parent of Nora Pacheco PreK) US Army , 2004-2016- UH-60 black hawk helicopter pilot

Bryan Howard (Parent of Kamryn Howard 1st grade) 2008-2012 US Marine Corp Infantry purple heart

Charles Peters (Parent of Charles Peters Jr. PreK) 2001-2004 US Army Civil Affairs.

Brian Marquis (Parent of Gabriella Marquis grade 4) US Coast Guard 5 years Search and Rescue maritime law enforcement

Glen Gonsalves (Parent of Olivia Gonsalves 3rd) 90-93 Army Light Infantry Head Cook

Jessie Correia (Parent of Myles Correira 1st grade) Air Force



Chris Ouellette (Parent of Chase Ouellette's grade 3) 29 yrs. US Army FireFighter.

Jordan Silva (brother of Aubree Amaral grade 4) Army

Karl Thompsen (Aubree Amaral grade 4) Air Force

Robert Johnston (Parent of Cameron Johnston grade 3)
1995-2001 Marine veteran.

Steven Coon (Connor McLeod grade 5) US Marine Corp

Joseph O'Brien (Connor Mcleod grade 5) US Army

Michael Stubbs (Jaxon Cook Kindergarten)

Jessica Kadillac (Urijah Parente grade 4)

Raymond Almedia (Parent of Raymond Almeida Jr
Grade 4) US Army

Jake Vaught (Parent of Chase Vaught Grade 4) US Navy

Jason Estabrooks (Parent of Piper Estabrook grade 4) US Army



In celebration of Thanksgiving, we can reflect and give thanks for all of our blessings here at North Elementary. We have nearly 500 reasons to be thankful here at north in grades PreK-5. Our North children are smart, precious, special, and kind.

Please take the time to enjoy this month of Thanksgiving. Happy Thanksgiving!!



DATES TO REMEMBER

November 11th	Veterans Day Observance- No School
November 15th	Polished Dental
November 16th	Fall Family Festival 10:00-2:00
November 27th	Early Release: 11:30 (Grades K-5); 11:00 (PreK). No lunch served.
November 28/29	No School. Happy Thanksgiving!!!
December 3rd	Screenages: The Next Chapter at SBRHS PAC 6:00PM
December 9th	Parent/Teacher Conferences by appointment (12:30-7:00)
December 10-12	Book Fair
December 16-20	Holiday Spirit Week
December 17th	5th Grade Strings Performance at Taunton Galleria Mall 7:00
December 18th	4th and 5th grade strings performance 11:30
Dec 23-Jan 1	School Vacation No School

Parent Conferences (Scheduled appointments)

If you haven't done so already, please sign up for your parent and teacher conference. Here's the link for the P/T Conference Digital Sign-Up: <https://signup.com/group/56474919002>

Parent conference dates are **December 9th from 12:30-7:00**. Some teachers who specialized do have additional days that week.

NORTH ELEMENTARY GIVES BACK

Student Council

Our fifth grade teachers Ms. Ahern, Ms. Silvia, and Mrs. French have been meeting with our 5th grade student council members during lunch to talk about their goals and activities for the upcoming month. Their current project is working with "Boxes of Love". They have been collecting toiletries, gloves, mittens, and school supplies for local children.



This past week, student council members collected Veteran Day cards for our very own veterans. Additional handmade cards will be shared with our veteran office here in Somerset.

From Our School Nurse

Greetings Families!!

Cold and flu season is upon us! Less time out doors means more time spent in close quarters, and we start to see cold/flu symptoms on the rise. Here at school, any child with a temperature greater than 100F will be asked to be dismissed and remain at home until they are less than 100F for 24 consecutive hours, unmedicated. We are blessed to have a diverse population of students at this school. Keeping sick and contagious children at home will help keep our most vulnerable populations healthy, and create a healthier school overall!

Just a reminder: Due to district regulations I am not authorized to dispense any medications that are not ordered by your child's physician. This includes OTC medication such as Tylenol, Motrin, cough drops, and even Vaseline or Aquaphor for chapped lips. If your child is prone to chapped lips, please try to send them with a stick of lip balm in their backpack, as I cannot administer that here in the Health Office.



If your child is prone to chronic conditions such as migraine headaches, GI difficulties, allergies, or even mouth discomfort from frequent dental work (braces, etc.) it may be a good idea to arrange for your child to receive this "as needed" medication at school. It eliminates the need for a parent/guardian to leave work to administer the medicine to their child at school. It also cuts down on the amount of time your student is out of the classroom setting.

As we have expanded our population to include students in the PreK setting, we are now caring for children ages 3-4 as well. Bathroom accidents are VERY common as are spills, messes, nosebleeds, etc. We do keep extra clothes here in the Health Office for the kids, but we are running low on size 3-5 pants for both boys and girls. I will gladly accept all donations for used clothing that your children have maybe grown out of.

If you have any concerns or questions about the practices here at the Health Office or wish to relay information in regards to your child, I am available during

the school day at 508-324-3170, and on weekends/holidays/after hours at stephanie.roy@somersetschools.com Stay Healthy!

Lunch

Please keep lunch accounts updated. If you haven't already done so, please create an account on www.myschoolbucks.com. When you log into the system, you are able to see what your child is spending and make deposits when the account runs low.

DISMISSALS:

A friendly reminder to send in a note if you are picking up your child and do not want them to take the bus. Phone calls for requests for dismissal changes should only be used for emergencies.

If you are sending in a note for dismissal, please make sure your child's full name and classroom are indicated.

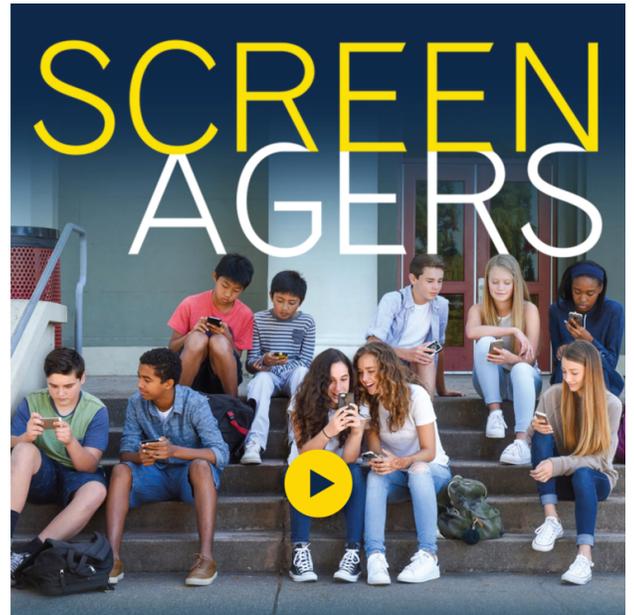


Communication

Please feel free to contact your child's teacher, Mrs. Brown or myself whenever you have questions. Your child's teacher, however, should be your first contact to address any specific questions or concerns you may have as they may have the information you need. If they are not able to answer your question, feel free to contact me. Our goal is to ensure good communication between school and home.

You can contact any of the staff here at North Elementary by using their first name and their last name separated by a dot followed by @somersetschools.org. For example, my email is paula.manchester@somersetschools.org

Please consider going to see this documentary. This is relevant for all parents who have or will have children with digital devices. Digital devices allow children to venture out into the social media world that can be challenging. Elementary students might not have phones yet, but it is important to inform ourselves as educators and parents to prepare to support our children through the tween and teenage years.



Screenagers: The Next Chapter Uncovering Skills For Stress Resilience

From Ann Nassiff, School Adjustment Counselor at SBRHS

Tuesday December 3, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center is the date for showing of the documentary Screenagers: The Next Chapter.

Here is a caption that gives an overview.

"High stress, anxiety and depression are experienced by millions of young people. We follow physicians and filmmaker Delaney Ruston, as she discovers solutions for improved adolescent well-being in the digital age."

This documentary which features some of our middle and high school students (Reagan Killoran, Abbie O'Brien, Janey Silivia, Vanessa Rapoza, Guy Parenteau, Maddie Johnson to name a few) who are involved in the ABC, Anti-Bullying Coalition. The film shows our Somerset and Somerset Berkley students collaborating on ways to support one another when dealing with the pitfalls of social media and conflict.

The film provides some amazing insight as to what parents can do to help support their children particularly during stressful situations involving screen time. I have

personally watched the film and can attest to the poignant take-aways for talking to my own children.

Not only am I SO EXCITED to have our students play a role in this national documentary but also proud to offer such a powerful tool for families to help support their children.

Elementary Literacy Leaders

Four of our teachers attended a two week course at Lesley University Center for Reading Recovery and Literacy Collaborative. Lynn Sylvia, Susan Silvia, Cara Marum, and Dorene Mello have been learning more about Responsive Literacy. These literacy leader teachers will be working with our district to improve literacy across the elementary schools. We are excited about the work will be doing over the next few years.



Classroom and Grade Level Happenings

From Insights

We would like to welcome Mr. Keith DeBlois who is the new teacher in our Insights classroom.

Over the next month, our Insights classroom will be focusing on pumpkins, clothing, and Thanksgiving. They will also utilize their new pumpkin patch dramatic play center!



From our Interventionists

Math Spotlight

Do you remember how excited your children were about math when they were young? How they were excited by patterns in nature? How they rearranged a set of objects and found, with delight, that they had the same number? Before children

start school they often talk about math with curiosity and wonder, but soon after they start school many children decide that math is confusing and scary and they are not a "math person". Help your child turn around their thinking and develop a "Math Mindset". A Math Mindset is the belief that anyone can learn math and grow their math thinking. Try some of the following tips at home:

1. Encourage children to **play math puzzles and games**. Award winning mathematician, Sarah Flannery reported that her math achievement and enthusiasm came not from school but from the puzzles she was given to solve at home. Puzzles and games - anything with a dice really - will help kids enjoy math, and develop number sense, which is critically important.
2. **Always be encouraging** and never tell kids they are wrong when they are working on math problems. Instead find the logic in their thinking - there is always some logic to what they say. For example if your child multiplies 3 by 4 and gets 7, say - Oh I see what you are thinking, you are using what you know about addition to add 3 and 4, when we multiply we have 4 groups of 3...
3. **Encourage number sense**. What separates high and low achievers is number sense - having an idea of the size of numbers and being able to separate and combine numbers flexibly. For example, when working out $29 + 56$, if you take one from the 56 and make it $30 + 55$, it is much easier to work out. The flexibility to work with numbers in this way is what is called number sense and it is very important.
4. **Never associate math with speed**. It is not important to work quickly, and we now know that forcing kids to work quickly on math is the best way to start math anxiety for children, especially girls. Having some automaticity with math facts will certainly make problem solving easier but try not to create an environment that stresses speed. When using flashcards allow children to use other strategies besides memorization.
5. Never share with your children the idea that you were bad at math at school or you dislike it - especially if you are a mother. Researchers found that as



soon as mothers shared that idea with their daughters, their daughter's achievement went down.

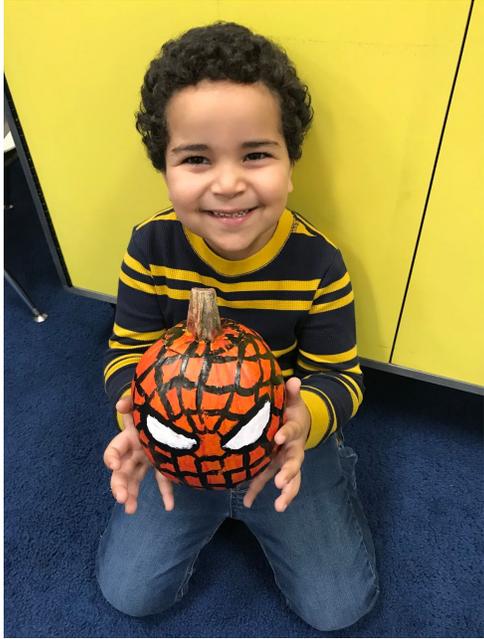
6. Perhaps most important of all - **encourage a "growth mindset"** let students know that they have unlimited math potential and that being good at math is all about working hard. Mistakes are OK and they help us learn. When children have a growth mindset, they do well with challenges and do better in school overall.

From our PreK

The Month of October has flown by in Preschool. We have been busy doing a lot of pumpkin and apple activities. The preschoolers tasted and graphed their favorite kind of apples then made applesauce. We began our Tree Unit, the preschoolers are enjoying learning all about trees through exploration and investigation. They have learned new songs and movements, explored the outdoors(all the changes happening with the trees), listened to new stories and enjoyed art activities to go along with trees.

We have begun to use Lively Letters to introduce letters and letter sounds through songs and lively characters. We look forward to more fall activities in the month of November.





From our Kindergarten

We are very pleased with all the hard work the students have been doing over the past few months. The kindergartners have been busy learning letter sound automaticity. In math we will continue learning about representing and counting objects to 10. In science we continue to explore weather with hands on activities. We can't wait to create a vortex in a bottle. Veterans Day and Thanksgiving is a time of reflection. We will be discussing why we celebrate and identify what we are thankful for. WIN (What I Need) time has started and the students enjoy working in groups that focus on specific academic needs. The children did an excellent job sharing their "Pumpkin Pals"!



From Grade 1

Wow! November is here. The children have settled very well into our first grade expectations. We are beginning chapter 3 in math, in this chapter we are learning about



addition strategies such as counting on, adding doubles, and adding in any order. Be sure to look for the parent letter for chapter 3 it will give you some ideas for home activities, important vocabulary, and some literature to help strengthen the strategies of the chapter. The focus in reading will be author's word choice along with story elements, and the central message of the text.. In writing will focus on opinion and the children will be asked to give reasons and evidence from the book to support their opinion. For Veteran's Day there will be an at home activity for the children to complete and return to school and share with the class. November is a time for giving thanks and to discuss what we are thankful for. With this in mind we will be starting a unit on The Pilgrims, Wampanoags and Thanksgiving. We hope to see you all at our Fall Festival on November 16th. Come and see our grade one scarecrows at the stroll, you will love them!

From Grade 2

November brings us into full swing with second grade routines. Our second grades are showing responsibility with their nightly reading logs. Please continue to support homework expectations.

Reading brings us into exploring non-fiction texts. We'll be taking a closer look at how these books are set up and how to read them a little differently than fiction. Finding the text evidence to answer a



question completely will be a focus.

Writing skills are expanding and students should be meeting the expectation of adding details to extend their stories. Using capitals, proper punctuation, and spelling are being reinforced through daily practice.

Strategies for solving addition and subtraction facts is the next unit. This is the building blocks for our future units on multi-digit addition and subtraction!

Be sure to check out our scarecrows at the FALL Festival!!



From Grade 3

Hello from Third Grade,

This month in our classrooms we have been so busy. In writing students are creating personal narratives. We have been reading narratives that all share the themes of problem solving, determination, and perseverance. In social studies we will be wrapping up our geography unit. In science, students will explore force and magnetism. In math, students will continue to add and subtract while practicing different strategies to reach a sum or a difference. Soon we will be moving into our next unit of multiplication. They have also begun using more of the technology components in Go Math, going online for homework and for assessments.



From Grade 4

Students in fourth grade are working to improve their reading and writing skills. Small group instruction using a variety of interesting books on many topics are keeping the children motivated. Please encourage your child to read nightly and color their reading calendar square for that date.

In Math, fourth graders are working on the order of operations, or PEMDAS (parentheses, exponents, multiplication and division, addition and subtraction), in order to solve problems which have more than one operation.

In science the students are learning about how energy is transferred through waves.

In social studies the children are learning about the geography and economy of the US regions. Included in this subject are the state's, capitals, major landforms, and natural resources. Please help your child study their states and capitals.



From Grade 5

Grade 5 students are taking on more leadership roles in the school through involvement in student council and helping with the younger grades during their transitions. It is thrilling to see them become empowered and to see what kind and enthusiastic leaders they are. The grade 5 students are also continuing their work at leading their learning through goal setting, reflection, and goal achievement which they plan to share with families during their student led conferences. If you have not already signed up for a conference, please do as soon as possible.

In Math, the students have completed a unit on place value of whole numbers and multiplication. They are currently working on division and addition and subtraction of decimals both of which can be solved through the standard algorithm and

drawing models. The students are using various tools, such as chromebooks, white boards, manipulatives, and pencil with paper, to practice their math. If your student has not yet mastered their math facts, please encourage them to practice. All students have a Reflex Math account which can be accessed at home and is a great tool to help them learn their facts. In Science, we are just finishing up learning that matter is everywhere and will soon begin studying the states of matter. We have completed some scientific investigations to prove that matter is everywhere, even if we cannot see it. Please ask your super scientists to explain, better yet ask them to demonstrate!

In ELA, we continue to read a variety of literature and grow our enjoyment of reading. After and during a read, we analyze the literature to support comprehension and to look at the author's craft. Studying the author's craft by looking at sentence variety, mood, and sensory language, as well as many other literary elements and techniques, is proving to be a great support for students in their own writing. Thus far, the students have written in response to literature, as well as a creative narrative, and informational writing. They are proud of their work and love to share their writing with their classmates. As always, we continue to encourage all students to read at least 20 minutes nightly.

In history we are wrapping up our unit on learning about how the environment affects the way people live and move among the land. We have learned about the early civilizations and the different tools and architectural pieces that contribute to the many different civilizations that contributed to the early Americas. We look forward to beginning our next unit in the next coming weeks!



From Music

Mr. Schaefer's Music Classes

Mrs. Whalen's Kindergarten class has been singing songs related to Fall and Halloween. We have talking about songs that share the same melody - between "Days Of The Week" and "The Addams Family Theme" as well as "Twinkle, Twinkle", "The ABC Song" and "Five Little Pumpkins". Our listenings have included "Danse Macabre" by Camille Saint-Saëns with a demonstration on the violin. We danced to "Monster Mash" and our big singing song was "Witches Brew". The weather cooperated so we were able to go outside for part of a class!



The Grade 3 Music classes continue to work on Americana songs but much of our time has been working on songs related to Halloween. I took videos of both classes singing "Ghost Of John" and playing an ostinato on the bells. (Ask your child what that is!). I would happy to show those at December conferences. Our listenings have included "Hungarian Dance #5" "Danse Macabre" by Camille Saint-Saëns with a demonstration on the violin.

Grade 5 Strings have begun working on new techniques including dotted half notes, slurs and ties. During lunch recess Orchestra times, we have been preparing for the December performances. For planning purposes, 5th grade Strings will performing with the 6th grade Strings at 7:00 on Tuesday, December 17 at the Silver City Galleria Mall in Taunton. (This is still to be confirmed). They will also tour the 3 Somerset Elementary Schools on Wednesday, December 18, during the school day. More specific information will be sent home in November.

Extra help is available before school (setting up ahead of time is always a good idea) and on B and J days during lunch recess. Students need to sign up on the board outside my room by 9:00 am that day.

Almost all materials sent home will be posted in the Google Classroom so please have your student check there if they are missing something or are absent.

Grade 4 Strings are doing a great job for only being a month in! They have learned how to pizzicato (pluck), hold their instruments with correct posture and have learned to put down fingers and read the notes on the D string. The beginning is difficult but really important work to help correctly set the foundation for the rest of their playing career! We will not be using the bow until December, possibly January so we can be sure that everything is correctly set up. Students should be trying to practice 5 times a week for 5 - 10 minutes at a time. Students should be saying the names of the notes and rests out loud as the practice. Parents need to sign their practice charts each time they practice...they receive stickers for this! Extra charts are usually available in the Google Classroom as are the calendars that I made for them. I know the 10 day schedule can be very overwhelming so I will continue to hand out calendars with 2 months at a time. I have been telling students to circle the days they have both Lunch Recess classes and their Music time classes.



Almost all materials sent home will be posted in the Google Classroom so please have your student check there if they are missing something or are absent.

For planning purposes, the 4th grade String students will do short performance on Wednesday, December 18 along with the 5th grade String students. More specific information will go home in November.

Extra help is available before school (setting up ahead of time is always a good idea) and on B and J days during lunch recess. Students need to sign up on the board outside my room by 9:00am that day.

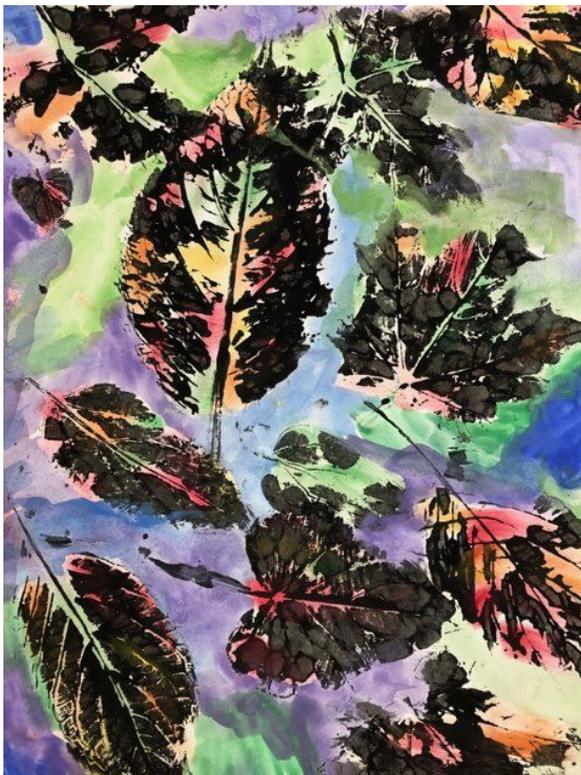
From ART

Our North Artists have been looking at nature and the change in seasons as inspiration for much of their artwork this



month. Students have been using a variety of media and materials including painting, printing, sculpture and collage. Students will continue to be introduced to new words on our Art Word Wall as we grow our art vocabulary. If you haven't already, please send in an old t shirt with your child (with name on it) to be used as an art shirt.

Thank you!



From TECHNOLOGY

Throughout the month of November, grades 3, 4, and 5 will wrap up our Digital Citizenship unit by creating their own video game concept and designing the game packaging. Their project will contain three pages: the video game cover, directions on how to play the game, and rules to keep their game fun and friendly. Students will utilize editing and drawing tools in the Book Creator App, and will later record themselves reading the contents. At the end of November/early December, students will create their own digital citizenship superhero comic book strip that shows ways to be upstander using the Storyboard, That! software. They will publish both projects on their Seesaw page, which parents will be able to access to view their work!

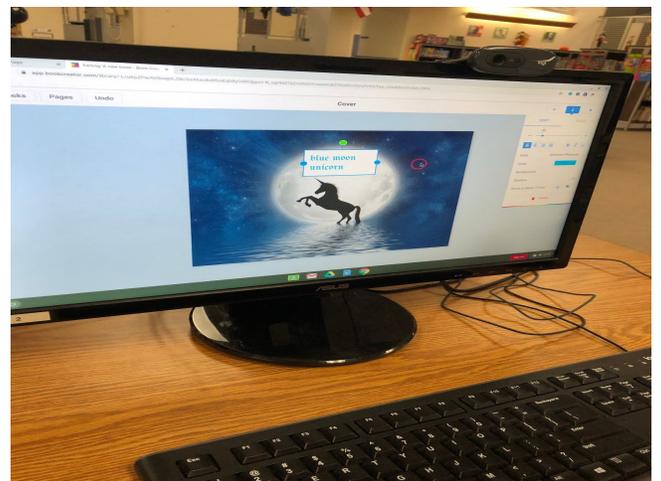


Students in the younger grades are working on their word processing and typing skills. In 2nd grade, to prepare for a research project later this year, they are learning how to open and name a new Google document, type sentences, change the format of their text, and input images. Grade K and 1 are focused on letter and key recognition, as well as mouse work. PreK students are using iPad apps that help to strengthen their letter formation skills.

Happy November!
Ms. Cabral



Photos of students in 3F using the Book Creator App to design the cover of the video game they created.



Clever Home Support

Assuming the student's account is functioning properly at school, I recommend the following:

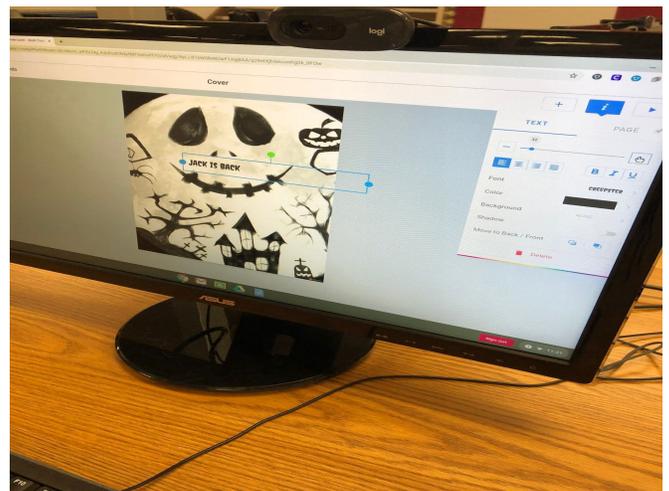
1. Use either a Chromebook or laptop/PC to access Clever (we cannot support the use of tablets at this time)
2. Ensure that you are using the Somerset/Somerset Berkley Clever login page (found here <http://north.somersetschools.org/Students/Online-Applications/index.html>)
3. When typing the Google account information, be sure to include @somersetschools.org. Otherwise, Google will default to @gmail.com (which is not a user account identified in our Clever single sign-on portal)
4. Be sure to include the student's Year of Graduation in the email address (new this year)
Example: **28**first.last@somersetschools.org
5. Use the Google Chrome web browser
6. Make sure the Clever extension is downloaded to the browser (download the extension here: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/clever/nopfnnpnopgmcnkjchnlpomggcdjfeop>)

Once students are logged into Clever, icons for the district programs will appear on their dashboard. To log into these programs, such as Lexia and Reflex, students will click the program's icon, and Clever will log them in automatically.

If you have any issues, please contact me at alexa.cabral@somersetschools.org.

Best,

Alexa Cabral
Technology Specialist
North Elementary School



Parent Teacher Organization

Please support our PTO by attending meetings, volunteering for events, or providing some time and ideas. When you support them, you support our school!!

Questions? Ask us at northpto1@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook at North PTO. **All meetings are held in the library.**

Our Next PTO meeting: November 19th at 6:00

Please spread the word about our Fall Festival on November 16th.