

# The Comet's Tale

Winter 2020

## 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

Sandy Creek Elementary recently celebrated its 100th day of school, symbolizing 100 days of growth and learning during the 2019-20 school year. Celebrations, activities centered around the number 100 and events took place in classrooms to mark the occasion. Pictured below, students from kindergarten teacher Tricia Santschi's class dressed as if they were 100 years old.



## Sandy Creek NJHS holds donation drive for animals in need

The National Junior Honor Society chapter from Sandy Creek recently ran a four-week donation drive to help animals in Oswego County.

The Sandy Creek NJHS chapter collected donations such as pet food, litter, toys and beds that were donated to Paws Across Oswego County where it will go to animals in need.

"They came up with a cause that was important to them and I'm really proud of how hard they worked to achieve their goal," said NJHS Advisor Susan Gafner.

During a group meeting discussing the results, members noted the project highlighted a number of the pillars of NJHS: service, leadership, citizenship and character.

"There are pets all around the county who are in need," said seventh-grade member Abigail Balcom. "We wanted to make sure they don't go without in the winter months."

Three other members – Scout Preston, Hannah White and Maddie Darling – will be continuing the effort as they build toys and other needed materials themselves out of donated fleece.

The trio are working on the toys as their project for the upcoming Inspiration Night at the middle school.



Pictured are members of the Sandy Creek National Junior Honor Society chapter with various items collected from a donation drive for Paws Across Oswego County.

## High school assemblies address finance decisions, internet safety

Two recent assemblies held for high school students addressed financial literacy and safety on the internet.

Held in the auditorium, students heard presentations from experts in their field on the subject and High School Principal Kevin Seymour said both offered strong, pertinent lessons to attendees.

"I felt both of the presentations were great for our students and hope they took away something that will help as they leave school in the coming years," said Seymour. "Safety on the internet and financial literacy are both incredibly important skills to hone and work on."

State Trooper Troy Pietroski offered tips, best practices and answered questions about internet

privacy and e-communications via mobile devices. The assembly stressed the importance of protecting your information and staying safe on the internet in an increasingly digital world.

The middle school also received a presentation on the dangers of social media and gaming from Trooper Pietroski.

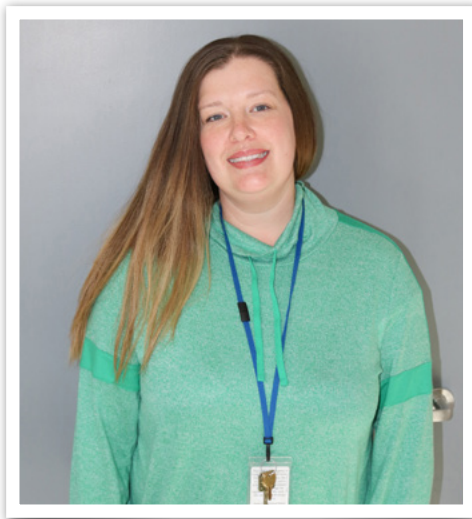
Entrepreneur, coach and professional speaker Arel Moodie spoke to Sandy Creek seniors, giving a presentation that was heavily focused on good practices for finances, working hard and taking calculated risks to achieve goals.

Seymour said seniors received a copy of Moodie's book, which is a 180-step checklist geared toward student success.





## Mrs. Keesey welcomed as new nurse



The Sandy Creek Central School District is proud to introduce our new Middle School/High School nurse, Samantha Keesey.

Keesey, a Registered Nurse and 2003 Sandy Creek alumna, began working in the nurse's office in early December and said she is very happy in her new role.

"It's been exciting to work here, everyone from the staff and administration to the students have been incredibly welcoming," said Keesey. "Having grown up here, it's nice to be back and helping those in need."

Keesey previously worked in the Sandy Creek School-Based Health Center, spending a few years there as a Licensed Practical Nurse in the early 2010s. She's also previously worked locally as an Operating Room Nurse at Crouse Hospital and most recently as the OR Nurse Manager at Samaritan Medical Center.

At home, Keesey has three boys and described her family as the outdoors type. Keesey said she enjoys camping, four-wheeling, reading and spending time with her family and dogs.

*Please join us in welcoming Keesey to the Sandy Creek CSD family!*

## Sandy Creek Elementary School Leadership Awards

Sandy Creek Elementary School held its second quarter Character Awards ceremony where it celebrated students who were honored for exhibiting character traits promoted by Leader in Me.

The students were recognized in two ceremonies, one for those in kindergarten to second grade and then grades 3-5, by Principal Tim Filiatrault and the student leadership team. Parents and family members were invited to witness the students' recognition.

**The following students were honored for Habit #1:** Be proactive – Kendall Jones, Kyle Coe, Ali Khan, John Wood, Jamaal Nemier, Addalynn Snyder, Noah Town, JazMarie McGrath, Kaitlyn Perkins, Emily Macri, Kaylie Parker, Paris Sprague, Riley Wisner, Blake Bort, Cooper Montalbano, Samuel Rudd and Alex Garvin.

**Habit #2:** Begin with the end in mind – Jasper Wart, Kinley Wielt, Rowan McCarthy, Emily Matter, Amelia Crast, Caroline Casler, Lana Burns, David Decker, Noelani Foster, Loki Trumble, Emalee Huckabone, Jaxon Wheeler, Chloe Shrock, Ripleigh Losert and Noah Gioia.

**Habit #3:** Put first things first – Zoey Wallace, Claire Willson, Rosalie Hayes, Jaxon Grinnell, Nathan Hartranft, Oliver Stanard, Zachary Baker, Erick Gamo, Haley Broadhurst, Abbie Snyder, Tucker Nevills, Bodhi Hammond, Madison Snow, Greyson Fahnestock, Eva McGrath and Dakota Balcom.

**Habit #4:** Think win-win – Fiona Prairie-Rocca, Eben Alley, Helen Harris, Barrett Harvey, Hannah Harris, Jake Berrios, Cole Zehr, Matthew Davis,

Allison Jones, Cordelia Crast, Jace Worden, Ella Willson, Jewel Steele, Tyson Albert and Brooklynn Orr.

**Habit #5:** Seek first to understand, then to be understood – Cameron Pool, Bronwyn McCarthy, Juliana Curry, Tyler Mascellino, Megan Burton, Dominick Moulton, Triston Martin and Brynn Perkins.

**Habit #6:** Synergize – Christopher Williamson, Hunter Dingman, Omae Khan, Seth Yerdon, Autumn Phillips, Olivia LaCelle, Colton Soluri, Abigail Jones, Deven Lando, Ian Ward and Nathaniel Curry.

**Habit #7:** Sharpen the saw – Brooke Ackerman and Kameron Basler.

A special leadership award given to fifth-graders was presented to two students who were nominated by their peers for showing leadership skills and the seven habits. Nominations were read by students that highlighted the traits of the students before revealing the winners as Maia Owen and Abigail Jones.



Fifth-grade leadership awards were presented to Maia Owen and Abigail Jones.





## Students treat MS faculty, staff to Valentine's Day breakfast

Sandy Creek Middle School teachers and staff felt the love on Valentine's Day.

About a dozen National Junior Honor Society students came into school early Feb. 14 to help set up and arrange a breakfast to show their appreciation.

A number of teachers and administrators, including Principal Amy Molloy, stopped in to select from a wide breakfast selection that included bagels, fruit, granola, yogurt, coffee and more.

Those who came to the breakfast gave their appreciation to the hard work and early efforts of the students to help make the day a little more special.



## Book Club Writing Contest

Earlier this year, the Book Club held a mystery short story contest with students and staff able to vote on the submissions. At the middle school level, Ryan Landphere took first place and Lola Tessier finished second. For high school, Emily Ward was awarded first place and Alayna Blount took second. All students received a gift card to the river's end bookstore in Oswego.



Pictured, from left, are Landphere, Ward and Terrier. Absent from the photo is Blount.

## Cinderella's Closet event set for March 28

Cinderella's Closet, the annual free formal dress giveaway, will be held Saturday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Make Sense Shop in Pulaski.

The program, coordinated by the Sandy Creek Central School District and the business, allows students in central and northern New York who have prom or semi-formal events to make their dress selection free of charge.

The selection will feature new and nearly new long and short prom and formal dresses.





## Sixteen students inducted into National Honor Society

The Sandy Creek Carpe Diem chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed 16 new members into its ranks during a special induction ceremony held recently at the high school.

New inductees pledged to uphold the four principles of character, scholarship, leadership and service when taking the official oath, led by chapter President Gavin Babcock.

The following students were inducted during the ceremony: Sarah Balcom, Sydney Burgy, Annie Chen, Allie Denny, Terry Eggleston, Elsa Graf, James Green, Deanna Hathway, Michaela Kastler, Emma McDougal, Hailey Miller, Madeleine Palmer, Olivia Pappa, Zachary Paternoster, Ashleigh Rosenbaum and Emily Yousey.

Sandy Creek Superintendent Kyle Faulkner opened the ceremony by congratulating the honorees and offering words of encouragement to continue leading by example through the pillars of the society.

Advisor Kelly Halko shared the chapter's history and the importance of National Honor Society before chapter President Babcock, Vice President Riley Dowlearn, Secretary/Reporter/Historian McKenzie Kwak and Treasurer Madison Brown gave detailed descriptions about each pillar. Other current society members include Madison Bauer, Sydney Cook, Alexis McNitt, Kayla Filiatrault, Sadie Lurcock and Marley Yerdon.

High school Principal Kevin Seymour gave closing remarks, noting that inductees should take a few moments to thank parents, friends and teachers for their continued support. In closing, Seymour congratulated the members and advised them to utilize all available resources at Sandy Creek before they graduate.



Pictured are the 16 students who were inducted into the Sandy Creek chapter of National Honor Society recently.

## Sandy Creek NJHS welcomes 16 new members

The Sandy Creek Central School Districts chapter of the National Junior Honor Society welcomed 16 new members into the prestigious organization during its induction ceremony.

The NJHS recognizes students who excel academically, but also who have strong leadership qualities, good character and strong service and citizenship for community and school.

After Superintendent Kyle Faulkner welcomed family and friends in attendance, NJHS advisor Susan Gafner spoke about the chapter's history and purpose. Current members and officers then led a candle lighting ceremony to highlight the pillars of the organization.

New members were presented with their pin and certificate by Middle School Principal Amy Molloy and Faulkner before taking the NJHS oath and singing the alma mater.

New members include: Abigail Balcom, Adrianna Brightwell, Manarah Brown, Madison Darling, John Darou, Mikayla Glazier, Sophie Harris, Elizabeth Hobbs, Charles Killiam, Seth Lacelle, Cyprus Liszewski, Brayden Metott, Allyson Mulpagano, Piper Phillips, Dayle Ridgeway and Destiny Urquhart.

They join current members: Natalie Bauer, Alexander Caufield, Skylar Clark, Mason Ennist, Marisa Filiatrault, Cameron Hathway, Julia Hollister, Daltyn Landas, Sophia Luce, Trevor McDougal, Rylee McNitt, Brodey Orr, Maddox Palmer, Zachary Pettit, Scout Preston, Lillian Ramus, Caitlin Wagar, Hannah White and Mary White.



Pictured are the students who were inducted into the Sandy Creek National Junior Honor Society.



# Pesticide notice from Sandy Creek schools

**Dear Parent, Guardian, and School Staff:**

New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The following pesticide applications took place in the Sandy Creek Central School from September 1, 2019 to March 2, 2020:

- ***There have been no pesticide applications during the above stated period.***

As a reminder, the Sandy Creek Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- A school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72-hours following an application;
- Anti-microbial products;
- Nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- Nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- Silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams, or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- Boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- The application of EPA designated biopesticides;
- The application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25;
- The use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list.

If you have not yet registered to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please complete the form below and return it to Shelley H. Fitzpatrick, Sandy Creek Central School District Business Administrator at:

PO Box 248  
Sandy Creek, NY 13145  
Phone: 315-387-3445 x1510  
Fax: 315-387-2196

Please feel free to contact Andy Ridgeway, the Sandy Creek Central School District pesticide representative at: PO Box 248, Sandy Creek, NY 13145, Phone: 315-387-3445 x1510, Fax: 315-387-2196 for further information on these requirements, including information on the products that have been applied in this school.

Sincerely,

Shelley H. Fitzpatrick  
Business Administrator  
SHF/vls

<b>Sandy Creek Central School District Request for Pesticide Application Notification (Please Print)</b>		
_____ School Building		
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Day Phone:</b>	<b>Evening Phone:</b>	<b>Email Address:</b>



# Holiday Concerts







## Sandy Creek students compete in district spelling bee, 4 advance to regional round



Sandy Creek finalists: Pictured are the four students who advanced from the Sandy Creek district level spelling bee onto the regional written test round. Pictured, from left are Sophie Harris, Marilyn Dewhirst, Chloe Gonyeau and Haidyn Soluri.

More than a dozen students competed recently in the Sandy Creek Central School District's annual spelling bee, an early round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

The top four students from the bee qualified for the next round, which was a written test held in January for The Post-Standard/Scripps National Spelling Bee.

"Every year I am so impressed by the courage these students have to go in front of their peers and try to spell these words," said

SCCSD teacher Brandie Norton, who judged the bee along with fellow teacher Kristen Dingman.

Seventh-grade student Sophie Harris won the bee, followed by runner-up Marilyn Dewhirst, a fifth-grader.

Seventh-grader Chloe Gonyeau and sixth-grader Haidyn Soluri rounded out the top four, qualifying for the written round along with Harris and Dewhirst.

A total of 13 students took the stage in the auditorium in front of classmates, teachers and family members to begin the bee. The entire field included fifth-graders Dewhirst, Allie Felio and Kaylie Parker; sixth-graders Brody Pecha, Simon Preston and Soluri; seventh-graders Abigail Balcom, John Darou, Gonyeau, Harris, Colton Killiam and Piper Phillips; and eighth-grader Makenna Brown.

After one round, there were no students eliminated, but the words became more difficult with each round until only Harris and Dewhirst remained. The two went back-and-forth until Harris spelled the winning word, department.

Norton, who thanked the administrative team for their support of the competition, noted that the top finishers received a cash prize. The prizes were sponsored by the Sandy Creek Teachers' Association, Elementary Climate Committee, Middle School Student Council and the family of Gavin Kiernan, a former Spelling Bee champion.

## Sandy Creek girls volleyball team wins Section III Class D championship

The Sandy Creek girls volleyball team won the Section III Class D championship in February.

The Comets pushed past top-seeded Morrisville-Eaton, topping the Warriors 3-1 at Jamesville-DeWitt High School, where the title game was held.

After dropping a tight first set 25-23, Sandy Creek stormed back to win the next three sets 25-13, 25-21 and 25-14 to head home with the Class D crown.

Third-seeded Sandy Creek opened the Class D tournament in the quarterfinals by sweeping No. 6 McGraw 3-0.

In the semifinal round, Sandy Creek upset No. 2 DeRuyter, 3-1, to advance to the title game. The Comets won the first set 25-11 before DeRuyter evened the match in set two, 25-22. After that, Sandy Creek closed the match by winning two consecutive sets, 25-17 and 25-12.

After winning the Class D title, a number of area news outlets wrote stories and produced videos about the Comets' triumph.

Links to those articles can be found on the Sandy Creek website, [sandycreekcsd.org](http://sandycreekcsd.org).



**Sandy Creek Central  
School District**  
P.O. Box 248  
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Sandy Creek, NY 13145

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**Fax:** 315-387-2196  
**District Office:** Ext. 1510  
**Business Office:** Ext. 1510  
**Elementary:** Ext. 1110  
**Middle School/High School:** Ext. 1910  
**Nurses' Offices:** Ext. 1501  
**Elementary -** Ext. 1503; **HS -** Ext. 1505  
**Transportation:** Ext. 3330

## Postal Patron

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*Elementary:* Timothy Filiatrault  
*Middle School:* Amy Molloy  
*High School:* Kevin Seymour



# MATH & MOVEMENT

## Family Fun Night



**Tuesday,  
March 31, 2020  
5:30-7 p.m.**

**Sandy Creek Elementary is hosting a Math & Movement Family Fun Night. We would love for you to attend!**

A Math & Movement Family Fun Night is a high energy math and reading event. Children use fun floor mats and wall charts to learn math and reading concepts through movement. At the Family Fun Night, you will move from station to station with your child while engaging in fun and educational kinesthetic activities.

The Family Fun Night:

- Boosts math and literacy skills.
- Fosters an "I CAN DO MATH!" attitude in students.
- Teaches parents fun ways to tutor children at home.

**Special Bonus!**

- Every participating family will receive two free e-books: *Multiply With Me*, *Learning to Multiply Can Be Fun* - Instructor Guide (e-book) and Student Workbook (e-book)

**Students, wear your "crazy socks" for even more fun!!**

Visit [www.mathandmovement.com](http://www.mathandmovement.com) for more information!

#### NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Sandy Creek Central School District offers employment and educational opportunities, including vocational educational opportunities, without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, marital status, age sexual orientation, disability and religion. Inquiries regarding this non-discrimination policy may be directed to:

Shelley Fitzpatrick, *Business Administrator/Title IX Officer*

Sandy Creek Central School District | P.O. Box 248, 124 Salisbury Street | Sandy Creek, NY 13145