

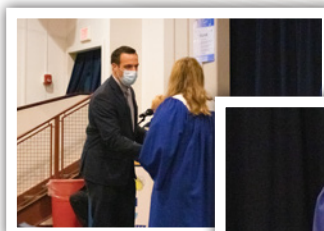
# The Comet's Tale

December 2021

## Elementary Halloween



## Sandy Creek Welcomes New National Honor Society Inductees



Sandy Creek High School recently inducted new members into the prestigious National Honor Society. The evening started with a dinner to celebrate the inductees and their families. The dinner was then followed by the induction ceremony, which saw all inductees dressed in their blue robes and holding their candles, which were to be lit as part of the ceremony.

Existing members of the National Honor Society gave a few brief speeches, which highlighted the honor, commitment and expectations of being a member of the National Honor Society.

The ceremony closed with new members lighting their candles, symbolizing the completion of their induction, and recognizing each one as a full member of the National Honor Society.

"I am really proud of these students and the commitment they have shown to themselves and their school," said High School Principal Kevin Seymour. "This ceremony is also really nice for the community, because it has been a while since we've been able to have folks gathered in the auditorium. It felt great to have families back here with us."

## Sandy Creek Elementary Celebrates Fire Safety Week



Sandy Creek Elementary students were recently treated to a presentation regarding fire safety and prevention.

Led by Chief Mike LaRock, of the Lacona Fire Department, the presentation taught students the importance of fire safety and prevention and gave them a look into a firefighter's job. LaRock also discussed the value of having working smoke detectors in the house.

Second Lieutenant Gage MacDuffie wore his firefighting gear and demonstrated to students what a firefighter would look like in an emergency situation. In addition to all the valuable information students were given, they were also allowed to tour a Lacona Fire Department firetruck.

The presentation closed with a question-and-answer session and each student received a water bottle, sticker and plastic fire helmet.

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## Sandy Creek Holds Character Assembly



Sandy Creek Central School recently held a high school assembly focused on character and empathy. The focus of the assembly was to encourage students to understand different perspectives and points of view.

The speakers guided student volunteers through several fun and informative activities that aimed to grow their understanding of differing viewpoints. With a focus on empathy, patience and acceptance, these activities also sought to involve students in interactive ways.

## Sandy Creek Gets Fired Up for Homecoming



Sandy Creek students took to the halls recently to show support for their fellow student-athletes during their homecoming celebration. Students of all ages lined up with homemade signs and cheered for their classmates as they made their way around the school.

"Homecoming is an opportunity for current staff and students, as well as past staff and students, to come together and show their Comet pride. It also represents a



positive gathering and outpouring of pride during a time when it is really important and needed," said High School Principal Kevin Seymour.

During the homecoming celebration, student-athletes paraded around the elementary, middle and high schools. Once that was over, there was a "pie in the face" event where students were able to hit one another with whipped cream pies as part of a fundraiser reward.

## Sandy Creek Elementary Students hold Student Council Elections

Student Council elections were held recently at Sandy Creek Elementary. Potential candidates recently stood in front of their peers and gave reasons as to why they would make good choices for available positions, such as treasurer and secretary.

Students were then allowed to vote for their preferred candidates. A tally of the votes followed, and the new Student Council members were announced. The President is Allison Jones, Vice President is Charlie

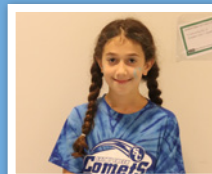
Marshall, Secretary is Caroline Casler, and Treasurer is Moxon Soluri.

"I'm so proud of our students for showing so much leadership and responsibility," said Buffy Peterson, the student council advisor. "I think the things they will learn during their time as a student council member will stay with them throughout their lives."

## Powderpuff Game Gallery



## SC Elementary Spirit Week







## Sandy Creek celebrates National School Lunch Week

To recognize the National School Lunch Program that serves nearly 30 million children every day, Sandy Creek Central School District emphasized the importance of eating healthy during National School Lunch Week from Oct. 11 to 15.

Sandy Creek's fun and creative campaign was themed WILD About School Lunch and helped highlight the importance of a healthy school lunch to student success both in and out of the classroom.

Recent research shows children are getting their healthiest meals at school, and National School Lunch Week highlighted the nutritious food available to Sandy Creek students. Menu items such as beef street tacos, Asian grain bowls and new burgerdillas brought focus to the goal of striving for five, a program focused on how the five food groups help create flourishing students.

"School lunches offer students fruits and vegetables, whole grains and milk, and meet federal nutrition standards limiting fat, calories and sodium," said Tracy Sullivan, the Sandy Creek cook manager. "Thanks to pandemic waivers, school meals are free for all students this year, so it's a great time to give school lunch a try. National School Lunch Week helps us educate parents and students about all the wonderful benefits of our lunch program."

Some activities for their WILD About School Lunch Week included five try days called Mega Dairy Monday, Fruit Filled Tuesday, Veggierific Wednesday, Grain Thursday and Protastic Friday, all of which featured that specific food group. Each student received a food group-themed prize for participating.

The federally-funded National School Lunch Program (NSLP) has been fueling students for success for 75 years.

The WILD About School Lunch campaign was made possible by the nonprofit School Nutrition Association and Kellogg's.

## Watch winter sports live on YouTube!



[tinyurl.com/SandyCreekComets](https://tinyurl.com/SandyCreekComets)

## Capital Project Update: Overall Construction Work is About 86% Completed



With Halloween now behind us and the holiday season in full swing, construction is progressing nicely. Despite supply chain issues affecting some areas of the construction, other areas have made very good progress.

The new bus garage is scheduled to be completed in December, with renovations to the old bus garage having an anticipated completion date of March 2022.

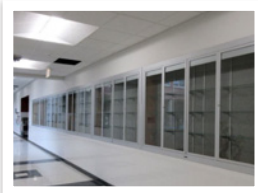
### TOTAL COMPLETED WORK IS AS FOLLOWS:

#### Main School Building:

- New boiler and piping installed with controls - the boiler has fired and is being tested
- Heating coils are installed in all locations
- Fire alarm system has been completely integrated
- Display cases in corridor are installed and electrified

#### New Maintenance Facility

- Bus wash completed, testing, commissioned
- Paving and striping of parking lots completed
- New safety walled oil storage tank installed
- Vehicular exhaust system tested and functioning
- Shop furniture installed
- Roof access ladder installed
- Site work - lawns and grounds, traffic signage completed



### PROJECTED WORK TO BE COMPLETED:

#### New Maintenance Facility

- Testing of building monitoring controls
- Installation of overhead doors and controls
- Correction of all punch list items by all trades

#### Existing Bus Storage

- New toilet room plumbing rough-in
- Removal of old lift and closing of opening
- Concrete poured for new floor in toilet room
- Continued installation of new roof and siding
- Beginning of piping for required circuits in bus storage area
- Installation of new insulation and vapor barrier

#### Main School Building

- Continued corrections of punch list items
- Balancing air and water units for best efficiency
- Continued work on minor items in boiler room

*As a friendly reminder, the Board of Education receives a monthly update regarding the capital project at its meetings, which are open to the public.*





## Sandy Creek Central School District

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**Middle School/High School:** Ext. 1910

**Transportation:** Ext. 3330

**Nurses' Office:** Ext. 1501

Elementary- Ext. 1503

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**Principals:**  
**Elementary:** Timothy Filiatrault  
**Middle School/High School:**  
Kevin Seymour



## Elementary secretary McKenzie retires after 25 years



After many years of being the face students, families and teachers alike first saw greeting them as they entered Sandy Creek Elementary School, longtime secretary Elizabeth McKenzie officially set off for retirement at the end of September.

McKenzie, who was honored with a surprise retirement sendoff the same week, worked a total of 25 years for Sandy Creek Central School District.

"She's been the face of the elementary. She greets you at the door, and is the first person new kids and families see," said Sandy Creek Elementary Principal Tim Filiatrault. "People know her, recognize her smile. She's warm, she's welcoming and overall a great person. We will all miss her so much, she has given Sandy Creek her all because that's the kind of person she is."

After growing up in the Boston area, McKenzie moved to Sandy Creek with her husband and 1-year-old daughter around 34 years ago. They had two more children, and McKenzie said she was happy to be able to work in the school as her kids grew up.

"I love working with the public and meeting the parents, getting to know the families," said McKenzie. "I'm now seeing children of children who were my children's age. I knew their parents when they were in kindergarten going all the way up."

When she began at Sandy Creek, McKenzie was a library and classroom volunteer before becoming an aide when she would help in the cafeteria and during recess as well.

The students of the school wished her well with crafts and projects made for McKenzie, with the kindergarteners even singing her a song. Staff and teachers also wished her well via a surprise video played during her retirement sendoff.

McKenzie thanked all the principals she's been honored to serve under, and all of the staff for being so friendly and helpful.

"It is a great place to work," McKenzie said. "Everybody is very friendly, and it's very rewarding to work with children to see everyone happy and I know I'll miss it greatly."

## Sandy Creek Elementary Holiday Spirit Week!



**12/20**  
**Elf Twinkle Toes Day**

*Wear your crazy holiday socks!*



**12/21**  
**Grinch Day**

*Dress in green, or your favorite Grinch Character*



**12/22**  
**Cozy Cocoa Day**

*Wear your favorite pajamas or flannel*



**12/23**  
**Festive Attire Day**

*Wear a Santa hat, elf hat, reindeer antlers or favorite holiday sweater*