

The Comet's Tale

Winter 2023

Sandy Creek Artists Collaborate During Monster Project Initiative

Sandy Creek School District Hosts Basketball Clinics



This winter, students in grades three through six were able to hone their basketball skills during clinics offered at Sandy Creek School District.

Starting in January and concluding in February, several clinics were offered to students who wanted to learn more about the game of basketball.

"I'm really glad we got to make this opportunity available to our kids," said Whitney Oak, an employee at Sandy Creek who helped coordinate the clinics. "Students were able to participate in various drills, play scrimmages and work together. Overall, we hope they had fun and learned more about the game of basketball! I'm also incredibly proud of our JV and varsity basketball players who volunteered to help coach these clinics."



Students across several grade levels at Sandy Creek Central School recently collaborated on art projects for an initiative called the Monster Project.

The Monster Project is the undertaking of a collection of artists who share a common goal of helping children recognize the power of their own imaginations and to encourage them to pursue their creative potential.

"We simply invited elementary students to draw monsters," said high school art teacher Brooke Morse. "Once their creations had taken shape, the older students brought them to life with their own artistic styles. Then, we delivered these new interpretations

back to the younger students, where we demonstrated new art techniques within their original creative context. This also shows the younger students how their work can spark creativity in others."

High school students were able to use any material that they felt comfortable with to re-create the younger students' monsters. This resulted in digital, 3D, and 2D works of art.

Best-Selling Author Visits Sandy Creek



Award-winning author Dusti Bowling recently visited the Sandy Creek School District to speak to students about her life and journey as a writer.

Bowling, best known for her book "Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus," delivered an inspiring presentation to students and signed their books during a meet-and-greet afterward.



"I use my own life experiences and surroundings as the creative basis for a lot of my books," said Bowling. "Many of the themes and ideas in my books come from things I have experienced or encountered in my own life."



In addition to her presentation, Bowling also held an extensive Q&A session with students, in which she answered questions about her favorite book she's written, the many aspects of the writing and publishing process, and how the Sonora Desert in Arizona inspires much of her writing.



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, 2022 to February 10, 2023:

Required Information	Information Details
Application Date	October 23, 2022 Rain Date – October 30, 2022
Application Location	Athletic Fields
Product to be Used	1) Roundup X
EPA Pesticide Regulation Number	1) 71995-47

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-hour 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 or 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

Sandy Creek Central School District Request for Pesticide Application Notification (Please Print)

_____ School Building

Name:	Address:	
Day Phone:	Evening Phone:	Email Address:



Sandy Creek Hosts Kids' Night Out Event



Students at Sandy Creek Elementary recently donned their best holiday pajamas for the fun-filled Kids' Night Out event.

With snacks, games, crafts and more, students poured into the cafeteria for an evening of holiday fun and festivities. For hours, the laughter of students could be heard throughout the

building as they played games such as bowling, cornhole and other favorites, all with a holiday twist.

The event was chaperoned by both staff and high school students, who ensured that their younger peers had a great time.

"We didn't expect this many kids to show up," said one high school student. "It's great to see such a large turnout, and I'm glad I'm able to help with an event like this!"

Sandy Creek Drama Department Announces Upcoming Production



The Sandy Creek Central School drama department recently announced that it will be putting on a production of "Little Women" this winter.

Originally written more than 150 years ago by Louisa May Alcott, this production is based on an adaptation by Scott Davidson.

"The drama department at Sandy Creek would like to recognize the seniors who are working on this production," said music teacher Jackie Hobbs. "This will be their final production and we're so thankful for the work and dedication they've shown throughout their years in the drama department."

The show dates are March 3 at 7 p.m. and March 4 at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens, and ages five and under are free.

Sandy Creek Central School Receives State Grant

The Sandy Creek Central School recently secured a \$500 grant to fund grief counseling and other grief management efforts throughout the district.

The grant funds are courtesy of the New York Life Grief-Sensitive School Initiative, which aims to better equip educators and other school personnel to support grieving students. Schools can receive grants, physical materials such as books, and more.

As part of this initiative, Sandy Creek elementary students and staff gathered recently to participate in the company's Read-Along event given by GSSI Ambassadors who are New York Life agents and employees. The books they read were from "Kai's Journey" and were created by the New York Life Foundation. "Kai's Journey" is a film and book series that is dedicated to children and families who have experienced the death of a loved one. The series strives to provide guidance and support as they embark on this lifelong journey of learning to better understand, process, and communicate their grief.

Nichole Wall, a GSSI Ambassador and New York Life Agent led the read aloud at Sandy Creek.

"New York Life is proud to reconnect with the Sandy Creek School District and host a Read-Along event to continue their efforts to create a grief sensitive environment. The event is a great way to help reduce the stigma about grief and raise awareness about the resources that are available," said Wall. "The students loved the 'Kai's Journey' books and we had a very engaging discussion afterward that we hope will help students and teachers be more comfortable when speaking about loss and grief."

Timothy Filiatrault, the principal at Sandy Creek Elementary, was also very thankful for the event.

"These kids have been through so much in the past few years," he said. "An event like this is so important because it shows them at a young age that it's OK to talk about loss and the feelings attached to it."

As a result of hosting the read aloud event, Sandy Creek Central School was given the "Kai's Journey" series and an additional \$500 grant from the New York Life Foundation, the company's charitable arm, to continue to offer support to any students experiencing grief.



Comet Pride is Community Wide

**Sandy Creek Central
School District**

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Sandy Creek, NY 13145

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US Postage Paid
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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

A Message From Sandy Creek:

Sandy Creek Community,

We are halfway through the 2022-23 school year, and it is great to have a sense of normalcy after the last several years. Though we are operating in a similar fashion than before we shut down in March of 2020, we are still working to improve upon the small details that need to be addressed. Please be reminded that it is a team effort to maintain and improve upon those elements. It is important to me that I thank the school community for working on those details and making Sandy Creek great!

Sandy Creek is currently in Phase III of the capital improvement project. Some of the work has started inside of the school building, but much of this phase will occur over the summer and outside. This summer, you will see a significant amount of work being done to the stair towers, parking lots and sidewalks. The work focuses on the safety of students and staff, and ensuring the longevity of the district.

Moving forward, we will continue to work collaboratively to support our students at Sandy Creek, both in the classroom and in extracurricular activities.

We encourage the students' participation in clubs, music and athletics, as these extracurricular activities support students in developing many skills and attributes that will serve them for years to come. As a team, we will continue to look at data and develop instructional goals to support our students and lead to successful outcomes.

As the Interim Superintendent at Sandy Creek, I look forward to working with the team to support our students and school community. It has been a privilege thus far to have the opportunity to continue my work here as I previously served as the MS/HS Principal.

We thank the community for their continued support as we operate together to meet the needs of our students and staff.

Thank you,

Kevin Seymour
Interim Superintendent



Sandy Creek Elementary Gives the Gift of Reading During Holiday Season

Many people have a favorite book or memory involving a book they've read. This holiday season, the Sandy Creek Elementary library wanted to help its students create reading-related memories by giving the gift of reading.

Made possible by Scholastic Book Fair fundraising, the library was able to give children the opportunity to choose a book to take home and keep.

"This is an initiative that I'm very proud of and very happy to offer," said librarian Rachel Allen. "It gives our students the opportunity to choose any brand new book that they want to read, and then keep it. I think reading is such an important gift, and being able to offer free books to our students makes me so happy."



Job Fair
Sandy Creek Central School District
Bus Garage

04/22/2023
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Open to the public

Hiring bus drivers and bus aides!

Come to this event to get information, check out our buses, and talk to others drivers and bus aides. Take a spin around in a bus. This is such a rewarding field of work, helping shape the kids of tomorrow.