

The Comet's Tale



SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sandy Creek Senior Receives Commendation for National Merit Scholarship



Trevor McDougal, a senior at Sandy Creek Central School, was recently named a commended student in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. He was recognized for his exceptional academic promise based

on his 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test scores.

Sandy Creek High School Principal Steven Newcombe offered his congratulations to Trevor and stated that, "his work ethic and abilities as a student are a testament to the good parenting and caring teachers that have molded him into a very nice, hardworking and successful young man."

According to a spokesperson for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, commended students demonstrate outstanding potential for continued academic success.

"These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation," the spokesperson said. "We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."



The Sandy Creek Central School administration team would like to wish our families a safe and happy holiday season! The 2023-2024 school year has started out strong, and we are excited to keep that momentum going into the new year and beyond. We encourage the SCCS community to play an active role in our children's education and growth. Your support makes a difference! Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

The admin team from left to right: Amy Howard-McCormack (Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Data), Steven Newcombe (HS Principal), Kevin Seymour (District Superintendent), Cora Harvey (Business Administrator), Tim Filiatrault (Elementary Principal) and James Hunt (Assistant Principal/Athletic Director).

SCCS Celebrated National Custodial Workers Recognition Day!



Although October 2nd was National Custodial Workers Recognition Day, we think it's important to celebrate our custodians year-round! Their hard work and dedication are what keeps our schools clean, safe and beautiful! Please continue to treat our wonderful custodians with respect and make it a point to share your gratitude when you see them throughout the school year.

Fall 2023



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Sandy Creek Middle School Students Decorate Sidewalk to Cast Light on Suicide Prevention

The sidewalks behind the Sandy Creek Junior/Senior High School were recently covered with encouraging phrases such as "You Matter," "Be Kind," "Love Yourself," and "Smile Today."

This chalk artwork was created by Sara McNitt's sixth grade class to raise awareness about suicide prevention, which was part of their Creeker Character curriculum.

Creeker Character is a character education program led by school social worker Brittany Clark and middle school counselor Lacey Marriott. They work alongside core teachers to utilize a 25-minute break in the middle of the day to teach lessons surrounding each month's character trait.

September's character trait was service. The students chose to partner with the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Oswego County to participate in "Chalk the Walk," an event that promotes "normalizing conversations surrounding mental health

and wellness as a community-wide suicide awareness initiative."

"The students have come up with these quotes completely on their own, in hopes to bring light and happiness to someone's life, and to also let them know that they matter and are loved," Marriott said.

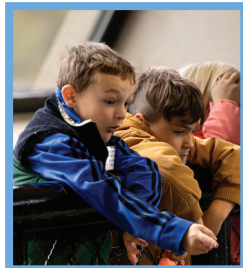
The sixth graders were not the only students participating in suicide awareness month. Sandy Creek Central School students of all ages pulled together to raise awareness for such an important cause. Six high schoolers made 150 bracelets and 100 ribbons that were handed out to grades 9-12 while middle schoolers played suicide prevention jeopardy. A recent football game was considered "suicide prevention awareness night" as SADD members handed out 988 suicide prevention cards and ribbons to spectators, while the cheerleaders wore suicide awareness bows.



"I'm so proud of how all grade levels brought awareness to suicide prevention this month and are taking steps to break the stigma every day," said Clark. "If anyone is interested in learning more about suicide prevention, visit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention <https://afsp.org/about-afsp/> or contact me for a free QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training."



Sandy Creek Elementary Students Visit the Salmon River Fish Hatchery



Second graders from Sandy Creek Elementary School recently attended a field trip to the Salmon River Fish Hatchery in Altmar.

The hatchery supplies fish for more than 100 public waters, including Lake Ontario, and stocks approximately 3.5 million trout and salmon each year.

Students spent their time walking the hatchery grounds, observing the retrieval of salmon eggs in the spawn house and watching salmon swim upstream from the viewing decks overlooking the Salmon River.

Additionally, the second graders listened to presentations where they learned about the fish stocking process and environmental impact of the fish hatchery.

Fifth Graders at Sandy Creek Participate in The Hovercraft Project



Sandy Creek's gymnasium was filled with enthusiastic fifth graders as they teamed up to build and race hovercrafts.

The first half of the day focused on creativity and problem solving, while the second half was spent executing plans and putting the students' hard work to the test through a series of races.

The fifth graders utilized communication, teamwork, and collaboration to build, problem solve, experience conflict resolution, learn how to operate as a team and apply classroom knowledge to a problem with limited tools.

Numerous teachers, staff and administrators observed from the sidelines until they were asked to join in on the fun, giving the students a chance to team up with an adult of their choice.

This fully immersive STEM experience was made possible because of The Hovercraft Project.



Local Fire Departments Help Sandy Creek Elementary Students Participate in Fire Prevention Week

Sandy Creek Elementary students recently participated in Fire Prevention Week, a national week of observance where children, adults and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire.



With the help of Sandy Creek, Lacona, Orwell and Redfield fire departments, students were able to tour fire trucks, handle equipment, try on gear, watch demonstrations, and listen to presentations about fire safety and prevention.



Every firefighter stressed the importance of a fire safety plan and explained to the students that fire prevention education can save their lives.

Fire Prevention Week was founded in 1922 by the National Fire Protection Association, making it the longest-running public health observance in the country.



Inspiring Rock Show Returns to Sandy Creek Elementary

Award-winning singer/songwriter Jared Campbell recently returned to Sandy Creek Elementary.

Students and staff sang, clapped, laughed, and danced in their seats as Campbell used humor and engaging songs to share powerful messages on stage. His songs focused on anti-bullying, respect, leadership and optimism.

During the show, Campbell pointed out that he has special ties to Sandy Creek, because his wife is a proud alumna of the school district.



Campbell has been acknowledged by Billboard Magazine as one of the top independent musicians in the northeast and has performed for thousands of people and schools across the country.

The concert was made possible through the Arts in Education program with CiTi BOCES.

We are now on INSTAGRAM!

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Sandy Creek Students Participate in Manufacturing Day Expo, Hosted at CiTi

Middle and high school students from Sandy Creek recently attended the Manufacturing Day Expo held at the CiTi BOCES Mexico campus.



Students were able to learn about the industry and its diverse career paths by engaging with 32 different local manufacturers who were present for the event.

One of the manufacturers in attendance was Felix Schoeller, of Pulaski. According to the company's HR manager Jessica

Kolenda, events like manufacturing day are mutually beneficial.



"We are given a chance to market our name and brand while explaining that there are amazing career opportunities with great wages and benefits in our hometowns," she said.

The Manufacturing Day Expo is one of several career exploration and workforce development opportunities that CiTi is providing all students in Oswego County as part of its Career Connection Series.

SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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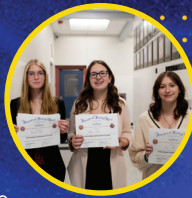
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Steven Newcombe
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Amy Howard-McCormack
Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Data

James Hunt
Assistant Principal
Athletic Director

The Sandy Creek Central School District in accordance with the Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and does not discriminate on the basis of sex or handicap in the educational programs or activities it operates. This includes recruitment and employment of employees; pay and benefits; counseling services for students; access by students to educational programs, courses and activities. The District's Title IX Compliance Coordinator is Cora Harvey (124 Salisbury Street, Sandy Creek, NY 13145 | 315-387-3445).



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Sandy Creek High School Students Win First Place in OCAY League Competition



The second competition of the school year was titled "In Our Classical Era" and was held Nov. 15 at the DEC Training Facility in Pulaski.

Students had to construct a working aqueduct to transport water, turn a classic painting into a sculpture, memorize and recite a classic poem and take a series of quizzes related to the theme.

A team of high school students from Sandy Creek won first place against eight other school districts at the recent Oswego County Academic Youth (OCAY) League competition.

Skylar Clark, Hannah White, Perle Convey, Sophie Harris, Daltyn Landas, Mason Ennist, Maddox Palmer, Trevor McDougal, Alex Caufield and Simon Preston were selected by their advisor Christina Hunt to represent the school district.

The competition was judged by Linda Knowles, former OCAY League coach and retired English and art teacher from CiTi BOCES and SUNY Oswego.

OCAY League was founded on the premise of academic excellence through the competition of schools in Oswego County. Teams are made up of eight to 10 members and compete in several events throughout the school year, with the next event happening in March.

Comet Pride is Strong at this year 's High School and Middle School Pep Rallies!

