



# THE COMET'S TALE

## Sandy Creek Central School

### Board of Education:

President: Creg Ivison  
Vice President: Brian MacVean  
Jean Bonhotal  
John Clark  
Michael Hovey  
Lynn Miller  
Deanna Soule

### District Office:

Superintendent:  
Mr. Stewart R. Amell

### Business Office:

Business Administrator/  
District Clerk:  
Shelley H. Fitzpatrick  
Assistant: Vicky Stoker  
Treasurer: Mike Cambareri  
Sr. Account Clerk: Lori Krebs  
Sr. Account Clerk: Holly Kelly

### Principals:

Elementary: Sue Ann Archibee  
Middle School:  
Joanne Shelmidine  
High School: Maureen Shiel

### Dean of Students:

Michael Stevens

### Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds:

Chris Ouderkirk

### Cafeteria:

Cook Manager: Debbie Archibee

### Transportation:

Supervisor: Deb Stevens

### Technology:

Coordinator: Paul Goulet

### Athletics:

Coordinator: Mike Stevens

### Testing:

Coordinator: Amy McCormack

### Special Education:

Coordinator: Janice Burns



Stewart R. Amell  
Superintendent of Schools

## A Contract for Excellence

On Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, newly elected Governor Eliot Spitzer announced his plan for Education Reform.

I waited anxiously all day for the 2PM announcement. After reading a copy of his speech on the internet later that afternoon, listening to the news media that evening, and reading all the newspaper articles the next day, I finally think we have a Governor who really wants to improve education for all New York State students. He realizes that the main goal is to produce responsible citizens who have the tools to participate productively and meaningfully in the world around them and to be leaders of tomorrow in all areas of Culture, Science, Business, Service, and Government.

As Governor Spitzer stated in his address, "My vision for education reform is built on a single premise: to be effective, new funding must be tied to a comprehensive agenda of reform and accountability." I agree with this and will be first in line to make his vision a reality. As a School Superintendent, I have nothing to fear from increased accountability. We are already the most accountable school employees. That's all we have been asking for are the tools to deliver the results that we all seek.

I applauded his commitment to provide significant additional state aid to schools, especially those serving the neediest children like Sandy Creek and several other school districts in Oswego County. The Governor is also pledging a simplified funding system and multi-year commitment that will help all Superintendents and Boards of Education do their best planning and management.

Property Tax Relief is another major challenge in his plan for education Reform. His vision will not become a reality until we fix the burdensome and inequitable property tax system.

In summary, I want to recite a quote from his January 29<sup>th</sup> Education Speech, "A Contract for Excellence" that sums it up for me personally. Governor Spitzer states:

"The dynamic in education is about to change dramatically. With reform and accountability, we will propose in our upcoming Executive Budget, and the resources we will commit to fully fund our schools over the next four years, there will be no more excuses for failure. The debate will no longer be about money, but about performance; the goal will no longer be adequacy but excellence; and the timetable will no longer be tomorrow but today. And that is as it should be."

I finally feel that the Governor's Office wants to work hand in hand to improve education for our children.

## IVISON'S INSIGHTS



Creg Ivison, President,  
Board of Education

Again, I must thank my fellow Board of Education (BOE) members and the Administration for the enormous amount of time that they have been dedicating to the school. Through their dedication I truly believe great things will come to our school district.

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I would also like to thank our staff and students for going the extra mile during this round of testing. I know it is not easy and may bring additional stress to your already full lives. Your hard work will pay off both in individual performance but also in comparing our great institution with others.

As I write this article I'm looking at my desktop computer icon for weather bug indicating that it's a balmy -1, so I guess winter has finally arrived. I'm sure most residents are rejoicing about the relatively mild winter we have experienced. The snowmobile and skiing season has been much less than desirable. So all of us snow lovers always think about the good old days. I don't seem nearly old enough to remember the anniversary of "Roots" and the great Blizzard of 1977, but its only days away. All my peers tell me that the Blizzard of '66 was far worse however, I was not alive for that one, so '77 is the great one for me. For those that would like to recall the Blizzard of '77, I thought the following link provided some interesting reading:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Lakes\\_Blizzard\\_of\\_1977](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Lakes_Blizzard_of_1977)

This is the time of year when the Administration and BOE begins diving into the budget process for the 07/08 school year. The State's budget will be interesting this year with a new Governor and party at the helm in Albany. Political affiliations aside, NYS government has a lot of issues that need to be fixed. Hopefully the current power brokers will get to business and fix some of them. I would like to invite all of our readers to attend the board meetings on 3/8, and 3/22 as we will be reviewing components of the budget. I want to reiterate that the BOE intends for this to be an open and transparent process. Also as a reminder, if any one has a desire to become involved in their community, nominating petitions for the BOE are available starting March 16th, as there are two positions that are up for re-election this year.

As I promised (or threatened) in the last article I am going to continue with the topic of "How can school boards improve student achievement." The following items are adaptations from an article by Carol Jeep in "On Board."

- Successful boards take advantage of training opportunities - most of the available training for the BOE comes from the New York State School Board Association. This is an area where we need improvement. I admit it has been difficult to commit to the training as most events are held in Albany, the cost is not covered by our membership dues, and it has been hard to work around family events.
- Successful boards commit to high student expectations. Express them through statements of vision, mission and goals, and standards with a focus on improving student achievement for all students.
- Prioritize resources. Support ongoing training for staff, administrators, and board members.
- Expect high accountability. Measure and monitor. Set a schedule to examine various reports on meaningful academic indicators at least monthly.
- Align policy, planning and practice. Use data to inform decision-making.
- Commit to having a strong and productive board/superintendent relationship. Use retreats, training, board self-assessment and superintendent evaluation to make your governance team a true team.

- Cultivate mutually respectful relationships on the governance team. Communication, trust and understanding role differences are the foundation of good board/superintendent relationships and the most critical factors in determining how well a school system operates.

As I wrap this up for this edition, I'd like to personally invite you to attend our BOE meetings. At the January 11th regular board meeting the social studies department gave a very thorough presentation on how their methods of teaching both align with New York State Standards and kept the students interest while learning. On January 25<sup>th</sup> the Board of Education was really put to the test at their work session. Representatives of the art department presented not only an overview of their current course offerings but also challenged the board in a bit of their own creativeness. The drawings of each BOE member hand were quite exquisite! Again, we welcome you to attend our next board meeting(s). Not only will the budget be a topic of discussion but we will also have presentations from the following departments: Health/Physical Education and Languages other than English (Spanish & French).

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## Students Give up Time at School to Help Others in Need for the Holidays

On Wednesday, December 13, 2006, members of the National Honor Society and Peer Group at Sandy Creek Central High School traveled to the Sandy Creek Methodist Church to wrap gifts.

The gifts were donations made by members of the community and the Friendship Shop. Over 100 families benefitted from this events, gaining not only gifts for their children, but a meal for Christmas dinner. The event was supervised by Teresa Crast, National Honor Society advisor, and Peggy Manchester from the Friendship Shop.



In addition, the National Honor Society takes pride in adopting a family each Christmas. Members contribute their own time and money to purchase age appropriate gifts for members of the family. This year they adopted a family with 4 children and 2 adults. Toys, clothing and household items were purchased, wrapped and delivered to the Methodist Church.

On wrapping day, the students, along with various community volunteers, wrapped hundreds of gifts that were boxed and organized by family. When everything had been wrapped, the students helped to organize the boxes by number, age and family. On Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, a few of the members of the senior class returned to the Church to help distribute the gifts and food to the families, and load them into their cars.



The students that volunteered gained community service hours, a requirement for both graduation and membership in the National Honor Society, as well as the gratitude of helping others for the holiday season. This event has been an annual tradition for Sandy Creek Honor Society members, and one they look forward to each year.

## PRE K AND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION AT SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL

We will hold PreK and Kindergarten registration (for the 2007—2008 classes) on Wednesday, March 28, 2007. You must be a resident of the Sandy Creek Central School District and on or before December 1, 2007, your child must be 4 years old for PreK and 5 years old for Kindergarten to be eligible to start in September.

### Registration hours are as follows:

**12:30 - 2:00 P. M.            at the Sandy Creek Elementary**  
**6:00 - 7:30 P. M.            School, in the Elementary Lobby.**

Registration will be held at Sandy Creek Elementary School Lobby. You may come in to register at the time convenient for you. Your child does not need to attend registration with you. PreK information will be available regarding August health screening and September visitations. There will be visitation and testing dates for the incoming Kindergartners later in the spring.

Please bring your youngsters' birth certificate and immunization records to registration. Questions about immunization requirements may be directed to the school nurse. Other papers such as proof of residency or custody papers may be required at a future date. Be ready to sign up for a testing date in May if you are registering for Kindergarten. If you are unable to join us on March 28, you may call the elementary office to make other arrangements [387-5626 Ext. 1110].

For all PreK registrants: Please understand that this is the first step in the application process. Space is limited, and you must have completed information returned by **the end of the day March 28<sup>th</sup>** to move ahead in this process. It is important to fill out all the information, especially the transportation form. This information is needed to determine the A. M. and P. M. classes and the timing for the bus routes. If more than 36 students are signed up on March 28<sup>th</sup>, students will be picked from a lottery. If less than 36 students are signed up on March 28<sup>th</sup>, they will all be included at that time.

If you are new to the area and/or feel we may not have your child on our census list, please call the elementary office now [387-5626 Ext. 1110]. It is important that we have an accurate projection of kindergarten size for staffing and facility planning. Also, there are materials we would like to send you.

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## Middle School Musings —Joanne Shelmidine, Middle School Principal

Our first round of testing is complete as our students all took their NYS ELA assessments. When talking with our students, it was clear how hard everyone has been working to prepare our students to be critical readers, writers, and thinkers. Our students talked about how prepared they felt to take these tests-not a small thing for a middle school student to say. Students went on to say that they felt their teachers had done a great job. They certainly were echoing my thoughts. We at the middle level have been very focused in delivering a consistent curriculum to our students and it shows.

One tool that can not be overlooked in our focus on student success is the student planners. Middle school teachers are using the planners to help students stay organized. Each team has initiated "Circle Free." What this means is that when a student has not done an assignment, the teacher will circle that assignment in the planner. If the assignment remains incomplete, then the student may not participate in a fun activity, but instead will sit with a classroom teacher and catch up on any assignments. Parents, please look through your child's planner. It will tell you what they are working on in school, and if they remain caught up.

The Middle School Student Council will be starting a magazine sale. We hope to sponsor an eighth grade trip at the end of each year. All students in the middle school will have the opportunity to participate. The student council has been quite busy planning dances and community service activities that bring our middle school together.

As we work together to help your child be successful, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We all want the same thing - your child's success.

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## Did You Know?

Did you know that there are only 6 school days between our return from February break and the New York State Math Assessments for grades 3, 4 and 5? Students in grades 3 and 5 will be completing the assessment on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 6th and 7th, 2007. Fourth graders take the assessment on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, March 6th, 7th and 8th, 2007. Please support your child by making sure he/she has adequate rest and good nutrition on these days and those preceding the test. We appreciate your help!

## News from the High School

Students at the high school have just finished mid-term exams and some took Regents exams the later part of January. Third quarter officially started on January 29, 2007. There will be several activities happening at the high school within the next two months that should be mentioned. Winter sports are finishing up and play-offs probably finished by publication time. We hope to see the community out supporting all of our Teams.

Music in Our Schools will be held on March 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Gym. We invite all to come and enjoy the celebration of musical talent starting with musical performances at the third grade through the twelfth grade. Expect to see instrumental, rhythmic, and vocal performances that evening.

Students from the Drama Club have started rehearsals for the annual High School Play. There will be two performances, one on March 16<sup>th</sup> and the other March 17<sup>th</sup>. The two performances start at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

We finish out the month with the Spring performance from the Middle School and High School Band. This performance is scheduled to be held on March 29, 2007. Please plan on attending and supporting our students.

### Distance Learning Opportunities

Sandy Creek Central School's distance learning room has the technology available to connect students with professors at Onondaga Community College (OCC) providing live interaction. SCCS has been utilizing this technology to provide high school students with the opportunity to begin taking college level, credit bearing, courses while still in high school. The district would like to expand this concept, making the facilities and technology available to the community after school hours if there is sufficient interest by adults to take college courses. If you would be interested in taking college courses offered at the SCCS facility, please fill out the following survey and return it to Sandy Creek Central School.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would be interested in taking the following evening courses:

ENG 103 Freshman Composition I;  ENG 104 Freshman Composition II;  Psy 103 General Psychology;  SOC 103 Intro to Sociology;  CIS 100 Principles of (Computer) Information Systems;  RDG 130 Reading/Study Skills;  RDG 134 Listening/Notetaking;  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Complete course descriptions can be found at OCC's website at [www.sunyocc.edu](http://www.sunyocc.edu) or contact the college for a course catalog.

Please return this survey to: Sandy Creek Central School, ATTN: Dorothy Hovey, PO Box 248, Sandy Creek, NY 13145 or email: [dhovey@sccs.cnyric.org](mailto:dhovey@sccs.cnyric.org) or phone 387-3465 ext. 1906.

### Facility Use at Sandy Creek

During the construction project a team was formed to look at procedures and policies needed for using the school building and fields. It was important to the team that we give access to as many groups/organizations as we possibly could. The first priority for usage is for school and school related activities. Priority 2 is community youth organizations and groups, Priority 3 is all other community organizations and groups, and finally Priority 4 is non-community and for-profit organizations.

Facilities that are commonly used are classrooms, the athletic fields and gymnasiums, the auditorium and the cafeterias. There is a cost associated with facility use which is reviewed by the team annually. Costs vary depending on priority and staffing. Priority 2 and 3 groups are charged \$20.00/hr for custodial assistance when coverage is not already scheduled. Priority 4 groups regardless of scheduled custodial coverage will be \$30.00/hr and a \$50.00 usage charge.

#### SOMETHING NEW!

**The Sandy Creek community now has the ability to fill out a facility use request by way of the internet. We have recently purchased a program called School Dude. The program is being set up and will be available for the community shortly. Anyone interested in using the facility can find the necessary forms and policy in the high school and elementary school offices.**

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, 2006 to February 16, 2007:

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

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**Sandy Creek Central School District**

REQUEST FOR PESTICIDE APPLICATION NOTIFICATION  
(Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ School Building

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to contact Chris Ouderkirk, 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

## Character Education Update

Joanne Shelmidine, Middle School Principal  
Harold Cappell, Student Assistance Counselor

We as a school district are always looking for ways to improve the learning climate of the school district. Not only do we want students to be successful academically, but we also want them to be successful socially and emotionally. Forging friendships, making good choices, assisting others who may not be as fortunate-those are other ways that we look for students to be successful.

At the elementary grades, a curriculum called The Great Body Shop gives students tools to handle themselves in a variety of situations. Thanks to the Climate Committee, hallways have been renamed with character traits such as respect and responsibility. A visit through the hallways, looking at the posters, shows all of us what can happen when students work together to make school a nicer place to be.

At the middle grades, teachers have focused a lot on self respect and responsibility. The student planners have taken on an important role in ensuring student success. Discipline referrals are down and grades are up; a sure sign that students are making the connection from school work to success.

At the high school, you will be hearing more about the Amigo Project. This program pairs high school students with elementary students to assist them in school work. Our students have consistently helped in the community with volunteer opportunities. Overall, our students are making wonderful choices that allow them to be successful both in school and in our community.

Harold has been riding on different buses to get a better understanding of some of the issues facing our students. Our bus drivers do an amazing job of transporting students from a wide variety of grade levels, and with a wide variety of needs. Some of our students spend a great deal of time riding the bus, our bus drivers make that ride a safe, secure one.

You will be hearing more about many of the programs here at Sandy Creek that meet the social and emotional needs of our students. We count that as one of our most important roles.

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**REMINDER**

**SCCS BOOSTER CLUB MEETINGS**

**4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH**

**6:30 P.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM**



# NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL NURSES

WINTER 2007

**HEALTH FAIR!** The Nurse's Office will be hosting a **Health Fair** for Grades 6-12, on **March 15th**. We will be focusing on healthy habits including nutrition and exercise. We will also have information about drug abuse, smoking habits, character education and more. It will be held from 10am- 1pm in the hallway outside the cafeteria so students can view the information during their lunch time. If all goes well we hope this will become an annual event for the students.

**FREE EYE GLASSES?** Did you know that the School Nurses participate in a Vision Eye Glass Plan called "**Sight for Students**"? If your child does **not** have any other vision insurance coverage (including Medicaid) and needs an eye exam from an eye care specialist, he/she can get a gift certificate from either of the School Nurses. The participating providers are Drs. Dexter and Baker who have an office in Pulaski. Your student can receive a free eye exam and free glasses if indicated. This is a wonderful service provided for our Sandy Creek students through the National Association of School Nurses and by our school district. Please call our office if you have any questions.

**ELEMENTARY "BMI" PROJECT** We have started a long term study with our elementary students in the areas of height, weight, and BMI calculations to determine if there are students that may be showing tendencies toward an unhealthy body weight. **BMI, or Body Mass Index**, tells if a person may be overweight or underweight. It is a screening test. Doctors use screening tests to find problems early. Every elementary student has had a BMI calculated for them at the time of regular health screening. Monitoring the BMI each year may help prevent more serious health problems from developing later. Contact us if you would like to discuss your child's BMI.

**E-MAIL US!** You are welcome to call the Nurses Office anytime, but if you would prefer to drop us an e-mail, please know that we do check our e-mail frequently throughout the day. Our addresses are: [churne@sccs.cnyric.org](mailto:churne@sccs.cnyric.org) for Claudia Hurne, RN, Elementary School Nurse and [lacrast@sccs.cnyric.org](mailto:lacrast@sccs.cnyric.org) for Laurie Crast, RN, High School Nurse.



## SCCS Transportation—Deb Stevens, Supervisor



### *A REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS*

**Be On Time:** Please be outside waiting for your bus at least 5 minutes prior to your scheduled pick up time.

**Never Rush:** Don't chase after a bus. Never run, play or push someone next to school buses.

**Wear Appropriate Clothing:** Try not to wear clothing that have drawstrings or cinch-up backpack straps that dangle.

*Let's have a safe school year!*

## *News from our Special Education Department*

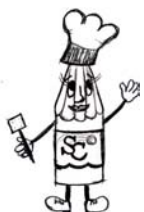
There have been many recent changes in policy and regulations at the State level that will impact Students With Disabilities. School districts will be expected to maintain the same rigorous standards for these students as they do for their typical peers. At Sandy Creek, we are ahead of the game on many fronts. Our program is fully inclusive with a minimal number of students receiving services outside of the general education setting. This provides us with an excellent base on which to build an even more rigorous program that should result in increased numbers of Students With Disabilities receiving local and Regents diplomas as they exit high school.

The changes that are occurring are based in part on the federal laws that help ensure that children with disabilities receive services they need. These laws include the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA).

NCLB ensures that every student receives a high-quality education. Its goals are to challenge and motivate students, provide highly qualified teachers (including special education teachers) who use proven teaching methods and ensure a safe, drug-free learning environment. Under NCLB, an assessment system is used to ensure that all children are learning.

IDEA is the nation's special education law. It allocates money to the states to provide special education and related services to eligible students with disabilities. These services are provided at the pre-school and school age level. IDEA requires that a special team of educators and other professionals involved in a student's individual education plan determine how the child is assessed.

(Information contained in this article is found in part in [A Parent's Handbook](#) from the Channing Bete Company, Inc., 2006).



### *Ketch up with the Kitchen*

Our *Healthy Vend* machine seems to be a big hit. It is especially handy for the students participating in after school activities so they can have something healthy to eat. We have three kinds of sandwiches and four flavors of low-fat milk. We also have apples, carrot sticks, popcorn and numerous other snacks that fit the smart choice guidelines. The kids have given me some ideas for things they would like in the machine. Some work and some don't but please **keep the suggestions coming!**

## STAR Program May Lower Property Taxes: Have you filed your application?

Lower school taxes result from the homeowners who participate in the state's School Tax Relief (STAR) Program. STAR provides primary residence homeowners with a reduced assessment.

There are two STAR programs, as follows:

### **BASIC:**

All eligible homeowners

Exempts first \$30,000 approximately [06-07 ranges of \$26,220 - \$34,230 specific by town](full value) of assessment for school tax purposes

### **ENHANCED:**

For homeowners 65+ years of age

Income for STAR purposes less than \$66,050

Exempts first \$50,000 approximately [06-07 ranges of \$49,640 - \$64,810 specific by town] (full value) of assessment for school tax purposes

Must be renewed annually

Cannot be combined with Basic STAR

### **Q. How do I get my Basic STAR tax cut?**

**A.** You must file an application with your town assessor. The application has been made as simple as possible. Property owners who are granted the Basic STAR exemption generally will not need to reapply in subsequent years because the Basic STAR exemption is granted regardless of income. However, Basic STAR recipients will need to notify their assessor if their primary residence changes.

### **Q. Where do I get the STAR application?**

**A.** Star applications are available from your town assessor, your county real property tax office, or on the internet.

### **Q. Is there a deadline by which I must file the application form?**

**A.** Yes. The deadline for applications is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Q. Where do I file the STAR application form?**

**A.** With your town assessor. The application is processed locally, not by the State. Do not file the application with the State Office of Real Property Services, the Governor's Office, your school district, or any other State agency.

Additional information on the STAR program can be obtained from your town assessor, county tax office, or on the internet at [www.orps.state.ny.us/star](http://www.orps.state.ny.us/star).

*To: Parents & Community Members,*

As part of the No Child Left Behind Legislation, the Federal Government, along with the New York State Education Department, is evaluating schools on both their participation and/or performance on New York State Exams. You might have recently seen an article or heard that Sandy Creek High School is a School in Need of Improvement "SINI". This information is correct. The high school was placed on the state list for participation, not performance. We did not have enough of our graduating seniors take the Math A Regents exam or the Math Regents Competency Test during the 2004-2005 school year. The annual state cut off point is 95% for class participation. Sandy Creek's participation rate was 94.4% for 2004-2005. This means that out of the 73 seniors that graduated in 2005, 68 of them took a Math exam. The remaining 5 students did not because it was not a requirement for their special education individualized plan.

Once a school is designated as a School in Need of Improvement (SINI), the school must demonstrate adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years to be removed from SINI status. The Sandy Creek High School is currently in the second year of this status. During the 2005-2006 school year, we made progress, and according to recently released results, our participation rate for both Math A and English 11 was at 97%. All of our students regardless of what diploma they are striving for will attempt the Math A exam or an Alternative Assessment. We will be on the SINI list for the remainder of the current school year, but have made positive progress. We will continue to do what is necessary to regain good standing by the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year.

Maureen Shiel, High School Principal  
Amy McCormack, Reading & Testing Coordinator



★ The SCCS Cheerleading Program had an amazing winter season. For the first time ever we cheered at all home basketball games for both the JV/Varsity Girls' and Boys' Basketball teams. The JV team had eleven members and were coached by Heather Peter. The members were: Rachel Paige, Rachel Urquhart, Shelbie Tedd, Brooke Thomas, Lisa Salzman, Patti Miller, Jenna Waggoner, Kat Deep, Stephanie Quick, Kim Lyons, and Torrie Edwards. The JV did a terrific job cheering for our JV teams and performed at an exhibition at the Frontier League Winter Competition.

★ SCCS hosted the 2007 Frontier Cheerleading Competition. This was their 20th Anniversary and alumni cheerleaders and coaches were honored at this event. The Sandy Creek Varsity Cheerleading Team took First Place. The members of the Varsity Team are: Morgan Miner, Frannie Bray, Morgan McKenzie, Emily Wallace, Amanda Flory, Brittany Braley, Brittnea Bryden, Allie Dowlearn, Caitlin Clark, Allie Miller, Jamie Urquhart, Alex Forcione, Megan Clark, Sagan Bush, and Nickie Ginnan. Also, the following won Senior All Stars for their individual cheers: Morgan McKenzie, Frannie Bray, Morgan Miner and Emily Wallace.

★ The Team then competed at Section III Competition held at Oriskany and again placed **first! The first time in SCCS Cheerleading history that the Cheerleading Team was Frontier League and Section III Champions!!** Also, Morgan McKenzie and Morgan Miner won Section III Senior All Stars.



SCCS Athletics

**Congratulations to our teams!!**

***VARSITY CHEERLEADING***

**Frontier League C Division Champions  
Section III Class C Champions**



***BOYS BASKETBALL***

**Frontier League C Division Champions**



***VOLLEYBALL***

**Frontier League C Division Playoff Champions**



***WRESTLING***

**Section III Class D Champions**



**Elementary School Climate Committee**

Advisor, Justine Hammond and Elementary Principal, Sue Ann Archibee are pictured with some members of the Elementary School Climate Committee displaying some of the signs they purchased as part of the school's character Education incentive. Some of the names of the signs include "Responsibility Avenue", "Respect Road", "Caring Lane" and "Fairness Lane". The signs will be mounted at the ends of each hallway reminding students to be responsible, respectful caring and fair as they navigate the halls. Mrs. Archibee hopes that this incentive will also remind students to take pride in the building. Pictured with the new signs are: Front Row (Left to Right) Bailey Laundre, Spencer Hall, Vincent Miranda, Paige Kehoe and William Larkins. Back Row (Left to Right) Mrs. Sue Ann Archibee, Jay Ivison, Autumn Darling, Hannah Caufield, Devin Dragicevich, Conner Rowell, Dylan Luberto, Allison

01/23/2007

### WALL OF DISTINCTION

The Sandy Creek Central School District, will again be accepting nominees for the “Wall of Distinction”. Graduates of distinction are those who have achieved a high level of prominence in their personal and professional lives and who represent a positive role model to our youth.

- Candidates for the Wall of Distinction must be recommended by a resident of the Sandy Creek Central School District. Candidates must meet the following criteria:
- Must have achieved a high level of professionalism and distinction.
- Must be of sufficient moral character as to represent a positive role model to students in the school district.
- Candidates must be graduates of the Sandy Creek Central School District.

An Advisory Committee will coordinate the program. The members of the Advisory Committee are non-graduates of Sandy Creek. Please complete the nomination form located on the opposite page and return it to Stewart R. Amell, Superintendent of Schools, Sandy Creek Central School District, PO Box 248, Sandy Creek, NY 13145. The deadline for nominations is March 30, 2007.

### Assessment Update

It is a busy time here at midyear! We have completed the New York State English Language Arts Assessments for grades three through eight, and are completing the last Regents tests for grades nine through twelve as I type this article. With those done, we are gearing up for the next round already. The future looks like this:

| <b>Dates</b> | <b>Grades</b> | <b>Assessment</b>                             |
|--------------|---------------|---|
| March 6-8    | 3-5           | New York State Math Assessment                |
| March 13-14  | 6-8           | New York State Math Assessment                |
| April 23-24  | 8             | New York State Science Performance Assessment |
| May 7-11     | Incoming K    | Kindergarten Screening                        |
| May 8        | 8             | New York State Science Written Assessment     |
| May 9-10     | 4             | New York State Science Assessment             |
| May 14-25    | PreK-5        | DIBELS Outcome Assessments                    |
|              | K             | PPVT Outcome Assessments                      |
|              | 1-3           | Terra Nova Assessments                        |
| June 5-6     | 8             | New York State Social Studies Assessment      |
| June 12-13   | 6-12          | Final Examinations                            |
| June 14-21   | 8-12          | Regents Examinations                          |

It is always best to check with your child’s teacher if you have questions about testing and specific dates. Some assessments are given for only one or two days in the window of dates listed above. Attendance is critical for these assessments so we will work to make this as clear as possible to encourage full participation.

District-wide assessment results can be found in the School Report Card compiled by the New York State Education Department. This can be found on the web at [www.nysed.gov](http://www.nysed.gov) or you may request a copy from the district office. Your child’s individual results can be obtained through his/her teacher.

It is our goal to help you understand this process. We thank you for your assistance in supporting your child’s success. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please call your building principal for assistance.

# SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT WALL OF DISTINCTION RECOGNITION PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee to the Wall of Distinction: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:     Stewart R. Amell, Superintendent of Schools  
              Sandy Creek Central School District  
              PO Box 248  
              Sandy Creek, NY 13145

Deadline: March 30, 2007

Sandy Creek Central  
School District

PO Box 248  
124 Salisbury St.  
Sandy Creek, NY 13145

Phone: 315-387-3445  
Fax: 315-387-2196  
District Office: Ext. 1510  
Business Office: Ext. 1510  
Elementary : Ext. 1110  
Middle School/High School: Ext.: 1910  
Nurses Office—  
Elem: Ext. 1503; HS: Ext. 1505  
Transportation: Ext. 3330

## COMMUNITY TRACK/WEIGHT ROOM INFORMATION



The Sandy Creek Central School District Weight Room and Track are now open for the community's use every evening from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call the District Office at 387-3445.

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.sccs.cnyric.org](http://www.sccs.cnyric.org)

The Comet's Tale Newsletter  
Sandy Creek Central School  
PO Box 248  
Sandy Creek, NY 13145

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