



Dear Seniors,

This is a reminder that a requirement to graduate is 20 hours of community service. The year is flying by and we are rapidly approaching the 20 week mark. Don't procrastinate your community service project any longer. If you need ideas for your project contact Mr. Ferguson. Also, don't forget that with every project you do you must turn in a typed contract signed by your advisor and Mr. Ferguson with a photo of you participating in the event.

The Editors,

*Jennifer Howe &*

*Adrienne Teachout*

Volume 2, Issue 2

December 2006



*Inside this issue:*

School happenings	6,7,8
Clubs	7,8
Editors page	1
Technology	10
Current events	9
Winter Sports Review	2-5
Meet the Teacher	12

# Winter Sports Review

Contributing reporters: Scott Luberto Mary Kate Blanding Karin Blanding  
Ethan Claflin Brittany Scullen

## Volleyball

The Varsity Volleyball team opened the season with a win against APW. They are looking very good this year, and we hope to see you at their games. The captains this year are Katelyn Fowler (senior, OH, M), Kari Mickinkle (senior, OH, M), and Lyndsay Rowell (junior, setter). The other girls that play on the team are: Cash Dash (senior, OH), Adrienne Teachout (senior, setter, OPP), Jennifer Howe (senior, OH), Lindsay Thomas (senior, M), Jamie Colvin (senior, OH, M), Sarah Bianco (senior, OPP, L), Tricia Stevens (junior, OPP, L), Emily Nellis (junior, OPP), Elizabeth Lawrence (junior, OH, M), Christina Peck (junior, OH, M), Kaylee Fravel (junior, OH), Pamela Denny (junior, OH) and Chelsea Crump (sophomore, M). The girls are coached by Mrs. Dori Hathway.



The JV Volleyball team opened their season with a loss to APW, a well fought battle. The girls worked very hard during practice and it showed in the game. We hope to see you at the games cheering the girls on. The team consists of: Rachel Pretory, Samantha Pfluger, Christine Howe, Stephanie Warner, Dayaisha Eldridge, Eden Rudd, Irina Sergis, Nicki Clark, Stefani Senke, Brittany McGrath, Amber Lizotte, Miriah Buley, Shelby Goodnough, Cassia King, Heather Schad, and Jessica Blauelt. The girls are coached by Mrs. Val Fowler.

The Modified Volleyball team has been playing for about three weeks now. So far they have played Beaver River, Indian River, General Brown and Belleville Henderson. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade team consists of 15 girls. They are: Marissa Ranieri, Chelsea Elliot, Allison Miller, Brooke Keruski, Maria Rice, Shaina Johnson, Breanne Warner, Sarah Tyrell, Lillian Luszezynski, Sami Densomore, Christina Pfeifer, Sabrina Hays, Jessica Elmer, Denna Buley and Tara Stone. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade team consists of two 7<sup>th</sup> graders, Michaela Mothersell and Karina DeCarolis, and seven 8<sup>th</sup> graders: Jada Bachar, Kaylee Fisher, Kaylin Foster-Switzer, Jana Maloff, Marie Mason, Lyndsey Paker, and Lalitha Sergis. The girls are coached by Jeff Klopotoski and Meg McKiernan.

## Boys Basketball

This years Varsity boys basketball team has only eight players. As you may know, in basketball there are five players on the court at one time, making it especially difficult for our players this year. However, with their current record, these guys obviously work for it. This year's team consists of Seniors Gavin Bertram, Brent Crump, Brad Shippee, Josh Synder, and Brad Wallis. Also on the team are Juniors Brent Trexler, Paul Hallock, and Freshmen Koby Fowler. Calendars for the Varsity boy's games can be found at the High School Office, as well as online in the athletics section of the school website. Good luck this year guys! Keep working hard.



Nothing less can be said of the boys JV Basketball Team. Through practice, hard work, and -lets just face it- natural talent, the JV boys team took 2<sup>nd</sup> in their Thanksgiving tournament and currently have a record of 2-1. Led by team captains and sophomores, Taylor Ouderkirk and Mike Elkin, they have won against Alex Bay and Lyme. Current team members include Sophomores: Shane Conzone, Paul Hollis, Bobby Malik, Freshmen: Dustin Green, Chris Loran, Dylan Shiel, Jake Snedeker, Caleb Snyder, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders: Alex Howland, and Jarret Luberto. Good job guys keep the pace going. Good luck in the upcoming season!

## Cheerleading

Tanya VanOrnum is the coach of the Varsity Cheering Squad, which consists of 16 girls. This year, there will be a change in the organization. The girls will be cheering for both the Boys and Girls Basketball Teams. This is the result of a new rule in Section 3, which states that the cheerleaders must perform at an equal number of both the Boys and Girls Basketball games. Because of the change, the Cheering Squad will be performing at only home games at this time. The cheerleaders are also continuing to work hard on their performance for competition. Jasmine Mariano and Caitlin Clark are working on the dance routine while Frannie Bray and Morgan Miner are creating the cheers. Good Luck girls.

The Junior Varsity Cheerleading Squad is also being coached by Tanya VanOrnum. They, like the varsity team, are cheering for the Boys and Girls Basketball teams and have the same circumstances. Although they do not go to any actual competitions, they will be competing in an exhibition and working on becoming better cheerleaders.



## Winter Sports Continued

### Cross country Skiing

Diane Vezendy is our lone cross country skier this year. She unfortunately will be graduating this year and the ski program will be coming to an end, so Diane plans to work hard and make it to the Junior Olympics again. Although Diane has been to the Junior Olympics in the past, in order to qualify she must race in 6 out of 8 races and be within a certain percent of the top skier.



### Hockey

There is a total of twenty-six players on the hockey team, five being from Sandy Creek. The team is off to a good start. They won the championship in the Thanksgiving tournament, and it seems their record is going to be better this year as well. Last season, their record was 3 wins, 20 losses, and 1 tie, but so far into the season this year they are 3 and 1. Coach Sturick says of last season, "It was a transitional year, but a good season because I was teaching the team a new system of hockey they weren't used to, but they responded very well." Playing for our school are Eddie Stevens, Ben Thomas, Devin Coon, Audrey Coon, and Hampus Bjorkman. Good luck throughout the season!

### Figure skating

Sabrina Howland is a figure skater. She has to travel to Pulaski to practice at the Haldane Center. She receives group lessons on Sundays, but gets one on one time with the coach during her private lessons. These lessons are used to prepare her for both competitions and test sessions. At the competitions, skaters compete with others in freestyle, synchronized teams, or dance. In skating, one does not compete at an age level, but according to the skill level. These levels are separated in to pre-preliminary, preliminary, pre-juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior, and senior. You move up in these levels during a test session. Test sessions are held with judges and you perform elements. If you pass this test, you can then test for freestyle. Freestyle is also performed in front of judges but there is music. You only move up a level when you pass your freestyle. Sabrina says, "Competing can sometimes be intense, but altogether it is a fun sport to be a part of."

### Modified Wrestling

The winter season has brought another year of wrestling and with it a new modified wrestling coach. Athletic Director Mike Stevens has taken the place of recently retired Mr. Archibee. Mr. Stevens is excited about the upcoming season with eighteen wrestlers competing this year. He says "The kids are learning a lot and having a ball." The wrestlers are waiting in great anticipation of their first match of the year. All of them put forth great effort and are making gigantic strides in technique and performance.



## Girls Basketball

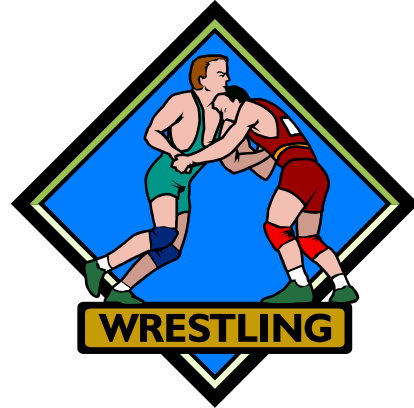


With the majority of last year's team returning for another season, and some newcomers, things seem promising for the JV Girls Basketball team. Sophomores on the team are Courtney Claflin, Tyffany Howlett, Fantasia Grossman, Tiffany Crandall, and Mary Kate Blanding. Freshmen on the team are Karlie DeCarilos, Tayler Fravel, Sam Luberto, Lara-Jean Collier, and Eden Caufield. During a scrimmage versus Pulaski, the team got a lot of practice, and is still ready for more improvement. Best of luck to the girls during your season!

The Girls Varsity Basketball Team is being coached by Ben Archibee this season. There were nine girls that tried out and made the team. The team consists of six seniors and three juniors. These girls have been playing together and have many goals this year. They would like to uphold tradition and do well in both the League and the Tournament at the end of the year. Also, the team would like to make it to Sectionals and continue the success of previous teams.

## Varsity Wrestling

Entering the season with an astonishing forty participants, the Varsity Wrestling Team has had a major resurgence in interest. With such a large team, competition is fierce and outlook on the season is excellent. Returning from a 10-10 record last year, the Comets are hoping to advance even further this season. Opening up the season this year was the first ever Sandy Creek Dual Meet tournament. The teams that participated in the tournament were Red Creek, APW, Skaneateles, Carthage, Lowville, and your very own Sandy Creek Comets. The tournament was a very successful day for the comets. Not only did they beat Lowville, for the first time in 32 years, but they also won the tournament. Predictions for the season look good with Sectional place finishers Scott Luberto and Kris Shirley looking to advance to the state tournament this year. Veterans like Kevin Shirley, Zach Presley, and Logan McNitt look to turn heads this season, as well. All of the individuals on the team look to make Sandy Creek the wrestling powerhouse that it once was.



## School Happenings

### Voice of Democracy by Rachel Freeman

The annual Voice of Democracy competition was held this year on November 8th in the auditorium. Nine presenters discussed the theme "Freedom's Challenge" in a three to five minute speech. This speech was recorded and judged prior to the presentation day. Elizabeth Lawrence took 3rd place with a prize of \$75, Alyson Waring took 2nd place with \$100, and 1st place was taken by Ashley Haskins, receiving \$150 and moving on to county level. Prize money and a panel of judges were provided by the VFW of Lacona.



### The New Machine by Jordan Lehman

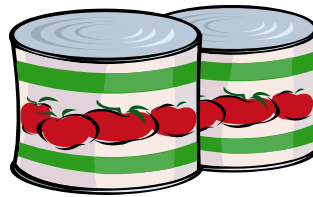
Some of you may have noticed the new snack machine near the gym on your way to P.E. If you haven't seen it yet, you will probably want to.

The new vending machine sells a few different kinds of sandwiches, apples, granola

bars, cereal, cheese sticks, and several other fruits and snacks. The machine is open early all day, so people can eat a quick breakfast if they overslept or if they want to grab a snack before they go

home for the day. The prices are reasonable, so now you can get nice little treats.

Bon Appetite!



### Middle School News by Nicki & Megan Clark

Thirty educated students have worked together to establish the first Middle School Student Council. They have been very busy this year organizing events to contribute to the community. Currently, they are collecting canned and other dry food products to donate to the food pantry of Sandy Creek. They also organized the first Middle School semi-formal on December 2nd and other dances for the students. The council plans to begin an additional food drive for the soldiers in Iraq as well as small toys for the children in Iraq. Mrs. Soluri would like this committee to reach their goal of attending an end of the year field trip for all students. We wish the new student council good luck on reaching their goals for the school year.

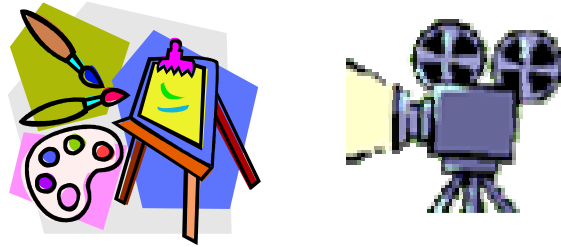
*"People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I don't believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they can't find them, make them."*

--- [George Bernard Shaw](#)

Quotes contributed by Ruzena Thibault

## Art Club Movie Night By Brittany McGrath

To celebrate Halloween, the Art Club hosted a movie night. Horror movies shown were appropriate for all middle to high school aged students. They premiered *Young Frankenstein* and *Night of the Living Dead*. The cost to get in was \$3.00, and popcorn and soda were only \$1.00 a piece. Fifty people showed up to support our Art Club movie night. The profit they made will be utilized to offer a Christmas theme movie night in the near future. They hope to keep the movie night alive for next year. Come and support our Art Club by watching movies and relaxing.



## Drama Club News by Elizabeth Lawrence

On November 2, 2006, members of the Drama Club had the opportunity to attend the production done by Watertown High School Drama Club, entitled "High School Musical." The show was well done, and according to Heather Schad, "It was the greatest, and I wish I could have gone up onto stage!" Members of our Drama Club found that because Watertown is much bigger than our school, they are able to produce much more elaborate productions. However, when compared for quality, both schools do an excellent job with the opportunities that they are given.

Here at S.C.C.S., the musical portion of our production has been decided. The Drama Club will be performing "The (Dis)Concert(ed) Choir," by Alan Haehnel. This is a comedy that shows the characters' inner emotions during the preparation for a high school choir concert. The conductor cannot wait to retire, the accompanist is having trouble hitting the right notes, Jason has an enormous crush on Marsha, Josh probably should not have eaten pizza for dinner because of its gaseous output, and Dad feels caught in the all the drama. The one act play portion of our production has also been decided. The Drama Club will also be performing "The Ugly Duckling," by A.A. Milne (who is also the author of Winnie the Pooh). This is a comedy about a plain princess and her marriage prospects. If you are interested in being a part of either of the productions, try out will occur shortly after Christmas Vacation.

Drama Club members have voted for officers, and there was a tie for president. A tie breaker was done to determine the president and vice president. Results are as follows: President: Frannie Bray, Vice President: Cindy Bacon, Secretary: Elizabeth Lawrence, Treasurer: Andrea Levack, Reporter Kelsey Tyrrell, and Historian: Ryan Houghton.

## National Honor Society Blood Drive by Tricia Stevens



On November 21, 2006, the National Honor Society held a blood drive hosted by The American Red Cross. There was an immense amount of donors, roughly 43% of which were sixteen years old. There were sixty-nine scheduled appointments, and out of that, there were fifty-eight productive units. This year there were thirty-two more dona-

All in all, the blood drive was a success. Unfortunately, there were more people willing to give blood, and not enough supplies. Therefore, they had to turn away a few of the appointments. We will find out if we reached our goal of having the highest percentage of donors in the region after our next blood drive, which will be held in May of 2007. We encourage you to donate if you are able to, and at least sixteen years of age.

## Mock Trial News By Kyanna Maloof

The New York Statewide Mock Trial Program of 2006-2007 is focused on helping students be prepared for court room trials through a simulated trial that includes issues that are interesting to them. The advisors this year are Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Stoker. The students that were involved are Scott Luberto, Troy Shirley, Caitlin Clark, Aaron Pittman, Paul Kelly, Allie Dowlearn, Lindsey Forcione, Brittnea Bryden, Phylissa Waggoner, Ashley Haskins, and Kelsey Tyrell. The kick off ceremony was Friday September 1st in Oswego. The guest speaker was Will Barclay. The local competition will begin in February. This program is looks great on a resume and is a great opportunity.

## Elementary News By Eden Rudd & Shaylee Kirk

This Christmas, fifth grade chorus will sing songs relating to the holiday season. They will sing some songs on their own in the concert, and then they'll have a joint performance with the sixth graders.

The Music In Our Schools concert will include grades three through five. Third graders will sing a few songs, fourth graders will play their recorders, and fifth graders will be singing with sixth graders. These concerts are usually taped so that the fifth grade can watch and critique themselves. Mrs. Parker does this to help them to learn to fix their mistakes. "I don't expect them to be perfect... I expect them to do the best they can," says Mrs. Parker. During the Christmas holiday the fifth graders will sing carols in school.

Mrs. Abbot teaches the elementary art classes. She only teaches kindergarten, second and third grade. The kindergarteners are creating primary color and watercolor paintings. Second graders are making animal tempera paintings with patterns in them. Last but not least, third grade's classes are creating south west Navajo weavings.

## Salsa Lessons by Frannie Felo



A new salsa dance clas is starting on Friday December 8th at the Pulaski Methodist Chruch at 7pm. If you are interested or have any questions please feel free to contact Frannie Felo at 387-6504.



## Current Events

### Poison In Russia by Brent Crump

Consequent from the ingestion of the element Polonium 210, Former Russian KGB spy, Alexander Litvinenko, suffered for three weeks as his internal organs failed. On his deathbed, he blamed Russian President, Vladimir Putin, for his death. He had apparently ingested the poison while eating at a London sushi bar.

Polonium 210 is an extremely rare and deadly radioactive material. It can be found naturally in places such as the soil and atmosphere. We even have a miniscule amount in our bodies. Using a nuclear reactor could only create the amount needed to terminally poison

That is seriously the situation when deciding whether or not to have the baby. But is abortion wrong? Some people may call it murder, while others say it is the mother's right to choose. Before you make this life-changing decision, perhaps some things should be taken into account.

After effects, there are tons of things that could go wrong once the fetus is removed. An example could be breast cancer. Yes, because the pregnancy had started, and the fetus was

the former spy.

Recently, Putin hasn't been able to flee the bad publicity resulting from possibly coincidental events such as these. Last month, a harsh critic of Putin was shot dead in her residence in Moscow. This took place on the President's birthday. These two instances may be carefully thought out strategies to denounce the Russian Government, or may be the surfacing of an enormous scandal, that was unsuccessfully covered up. Hopefully, no more will be killed, and be left unaccounted for.

## Opinion

removed, the risk of getting breast cancer is increased.

Is the doctor performing the surgery in fact, a certified doctor? There have been cases in which the doctor was indeed, pretending to be a doctor. There should always be a medical degree in the office, and if there is none present, you should ask to see one.

What about the psychological end of abortion? Can a mother truly leave her soon to be baby? The mother should have a right to choose, but what of that child's future? There are families out there that want a child, but the mother or father might



Litvinenko before Polonium 210



Litvinenko after Polonium 210

### Life or Death by Jessica Blauvelt

be incapable of having children. That fetus that was thrown away could have become a member of those families, if the mother chose to put it up for adoption. Adoption is always an option, and there are families out there that would love to share their lives with that child.

In my opinion, I think that abortion is murder. I think that people should be able to accept the consequences of their actions, and learn to deal with what fate gives you. That baby that was just thrown death, could indeed, have had a future, If the mother and father would have chose to give it life.

# Technology

## Trouble Shooting Keyboards and Mice by Rachel Hurd

- 1) There are two main types of keyboards and mice
  - a) the first kind, which is starting to disappear use a specialized end, and work only in the specialized port
  - b) The second kind of keyboard/mouse is a USB keyboard/mouse which plugs into a standard USB 2.0 port
- 2) The most common problem with the first type of keyboard/mouse is putting it in the wrong port. Most keyboards and mice have color coded ends that match your computer so check to make sure it is in the right port.
- 3) There are two major problems you may come across with the second keyboard/mouse. First you need to make sure that the USB ports on your computer are USB 2.0 ports because there are several different types of USB ports. The second problem you may run across is that some USB keyboards are wireless that you just plug in the receiver so you need to make sure you have batteries in it and your receiver is in a proper place.



## The Wii by Niki Scheppard

The Wii was one of the best sellers coming out this year of the three new gaming systems. For those of you who don't know what the Wii is, basically it's Nintendo's newest brain-child. It's wireless, has two controllers one for each hand. The remote has a D-pad and buttons and the num-chuck controller has the joystick and trigger button. They're also motion controlled so you have to move around to play. Already out these are some of the games you can buy, Medal of Honor: Airborne, Call

of Duty, Harvest Moon, Madden NFL 07, Wii sports, Trauma Center: Second Opinion, Redsteel, Fire Emblem, Super Smash Bros. Brawl, Resident Evil, Zelda: Twilight Princess, Metroid Prime 3: Corruption. Enjoy your gaming.

## Meet the Teacher by Lindsay Thomas

Do you want to get to know a certain teacher here at SCCS a little bit better? Well here's your chance- meet Mr. Jonn T. Stoker.

Mr. Stoker was born on September 20<sup>th</sup> a long time ago. He attended Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School. There he was a member of the track team and played as a guard on the Rebels Basketball team. He then received his bachelor's degree in teaching, from Oswego State University. He returned to his alma mater where he was given a job as a special education teacher. At that time he also coached basketball and soccer teams. Mr. Stoker is now married and has two children, Karlie and Cade.

In his spare time, Mr. Stoker enjoys watching movies like *Saving Private Ryan*, *Rudy*, and *Hoosiers*. He also enjoys watching law and military based television shows like "Law and Order", "CSI", "NCIS", and "M\*A\*S\*H". His favorite color is COMET blue. His favorite food and drink are "Surf and Turf" (steak and shrimp) and Pepsi.

In his brief time here at SCCS, Mr. Stoker has become very comfortable with the students and the faculty. He has made many long lasting relationships with teachers and students alike.



Snapshots at [jasonlove.com](http://jasonlove.com)



" When they discover the center of the universe, a lot of people will be disappointed to discover they are not it."

*-Bernard Bailey*



A SANDY CREEK HIGH  
SCHOOL PUBLICATION

124 SALISBURY ST.  
SANDY CREEK, NY  
13145

Phone: 315-387-3465  
Fax: 315-387-5888  
Email: RFERGUS3@SCCS.CNYRIC.ORG  
Advisor: MR. ROB FERGUSON

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