



THE COMET'S TALE

Sandy Creek Central School

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Elementary: Sue Ann Archibee

High School: Maureen Shiel

Dean of Students:

Michael Stevens

Middle School Coordinator:

Carolyn Shirley

Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds:

Chris Ouderkirk

Cafeteria:

Cook Manager: Debbie Archibee

Transportation:

Supervisor: Robin Cashel

Technology:

Coordinator: Paul Goulet

Athletics:

Coordinator: Mike Stevens

Testing:

Coordinator: Amy McCormack

Special Education:

Coordinator: Janice Burns



Stewart R. Amell
Superintendent of
Schools

School District Receives "Race to the Top" Grant

The New York State Department of Education has received 700 million dollars from the federal government to implement a new education reform effort called; "Race to the Top".

The federal monies will be divided up among most of the school districts throughout New York State. Sandy Creek Schools has been awarded \$70,000 dollars over the next four years. The money can only be used for specific reform strategies that include:

- * Adopt Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- * Create and implement new Assessments that align with the new Common Core Standards.
- * Provide professional development activities for teachers and principals on how to design instruction that align with the new Common Core Standards and Assessments.
- * Enhance our existing data system to better inform teachers, principals, and parents on how our students are performing on the new assessments.
- * And to implement a new teacher and principal evaluation system that will use student test results on the new assessment as part of the evaluation system.

As you can see, New York State is taking on a huge challenge as it relates to education reform. This reform effort will take several years to create and implement with the ultimate goal of providing a better educational program for our children that will prepare them for college or a career. The school district staff will keep the community informed as we implement changes in our educational program.

MAC VEAN'S MEMOS



Brian MacVean, President,
Board of Education

It's hard to believe that we are fast approaching the holidays. Mid term exams are not that far away and those parents of seniors are dealing with college applications and future plans. The Board has also been busy with regular and work session meetings and each Board member is attending multiple committee meetings as well.

One of the important items we attend to each year is a setting of Board goals. A brainstorming session generates a number of items the Board feels important and we then narrow that down to five or six items to concentrate on. This year the following have been set as our Board goals:

1. Continue the Implementation of the Shared Services Study- The Sandy Creek and Pulaski School Boards have met and will continue to meet to discuss how to best implement shared services.
2. Continue to Support the Middle School Concept - When Ms. Joanne Shelmidine, MS Principal, left our District to pursue a Superintendency the Board had to decide how to best replace her based on the economy of our school budget. After consultation with the Middle School Staff and Administrators, the Board felt the MS concept important enough to continue and asked the Administration to provide on-going documentation supporting that decision.
3. Develop a plan for Race to the Top funds (RTTT) - The District has been allotted RTTT funds (approximately \$69,000) and the Board will look at ways to effectively utilize those funds within the parameters set by the legislation.
4. Develop an Anti Bullying Policy- New laws concerning anti bullying will be going into effect and the Board and Administration has to develop a policy and program to comply with those laws. A District Wide Committee has been implemented with parent and community members as well.
5. Develop a Long Term Capital Improvement Plan- Discussions will be held regarding the capital reserve fund and how these monies should be spent. The mission of the fund is to keep our facility in its best shape, continuing to provide a safe and healthy facility for our children to learn.

These are just a few of the items that the Board will work on. We welcome ideas and thoughts from the public on what you may feel are important. Please feel free to contact any Board member or attend a regular board meeting.

News from the Middle School Coordinator

By Carolyn Shirley

As our first marking period draws to a close, I would like to thank you for your support as we continue to work toward our common goal of success for all students. The skills students acquire through academics and other activities will serve them well for years to come.

Middle school can be a time of great change and development for students. Adolescents are trying to find their place among their peers, within their school, and in the community. Students at this age typically struggle with organization and completing homework. One way that you can lend support is by establishing routines about homework and getting organized for school. Developing positive study skills and habits will encourage your child to use time effectively, learn independently, and take responsibility for their work.

Our first ten weeks have been busy. Teachers are setting high expectations for student learning while recognizing their individual needs and learning styles. There is a clear expectation that students are to be kind, work hard, and be responsible for their actions.

Students are also engaged in various activities after school, such as sports and clubs. Students enjoyed spirit week festivities, such as dressing up, decorating our hallways, and attending our grades 6-8 pep rally. Many students attended the middle school dance and contributed to our can drive, which will benefit our local food pantry.

REMINDER

**SCCS BOOSTER CLUB MEETINGS
4TH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
6:30 P.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM**

Sandy Creek Central School Bully Prevention Initiative October 2010

Sandy Creek Central School is convening a committee of interested staff, students, parents and community members to study the new, New York State legislation on bully prevention, review current school programs, and make recommendations for policy and new program components in this area. The initiative covers all grade levels, Pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. The first meeting was held on October 28, 2010 at 3:20 PM in the Elementary Cafeteria, and was an organizational meeting for the group.

This committee will be exploring the mandated components of a comprehensive bully prevention initiative (policy and program), training opportunities for all stakeholder groups and available resources. Our cyber-bullying presentations conducted in October are an example of the types of components we will review.

We are still accepting new members. If you are interested in joining or in obtaining more information, please contact Sue Ann Archibee in the Elementary Office (387-3445 Ext. 1110) or via email (sarchibe@sccs.cnyric.org).

News from the Elementary

On Thursday, September 30th Sandy Creek Elementary School held a dedication/rededication ceremony for our Memory Tree Mural and Playscape, immediately before our annual Open House. Present at this ceremony were over thirteen family members for each of the two recognized memorials, in addition to our Open House visitors.

In 1989 our community built a wooden playground in memory of Sean Eric Thompson, a student who was accidentally electrocuted in a fall from a tree. This playground had begun to show its age, with wood splinters becoming a major safety issue. When funding became available, the decision was made to replace the structure with safe, updated equipment. Many voices combined to choose pieces and design our new playscape, keeping the spirit of the original playground in tact. In October 2009 our first classes were allowed on the equipment, and by spring our entire Playscape area was complete. With the grass grown in this September, we were ready to present the finished playscape area and rededicate it to our families in Sean Thompson's name. We thank Sean's family for joining us on this special occasion.



A horrific house fire in January 2009 claimed the lives of two of our Elementary students, brothers Riely Pottenburg and Joseph Dillenbeck. To honor their memory, we decided to create a mural in an area of the school that both boys loved, the library. Our librarian designed a memory tree mural, using input from the staff and students, and painted it on the wall above our group reading area. Here the tree's branches shelter readers of all ages, and two special leaves hold the names of Riely and Joe in the memorial. A book collection was established in their names as well, with donations received from other schools and some of our community members. The entire package was dedicated in the presence of the boy's family and friends, and we thank them for allowing us this honor.



The ceremony concluded and Open House followed which included many displays from school representatives and outside groups. Although the rains were persistent all night, attendance was strong and everyone enjoyed the evening. Please be sure to contact your child's teacher.



Ketch up with the Kitchen

A new soup has been added to our "homemade soup" menu this fall. Creamed Corn was the highlight of the day with students asking for seconds! Don't worry, we'll have it again soon!!

Wall of Excellence 2010

On Saturday, September 23, 2010, the Sandy Creek Central School District Board of Education inducted three past educators in the Annual Wall of Excellence Program. The program recognizes past and present Faculty and Staff Members who have gone above and beyond for the students of the school district.

In order to be eligible, candidates must have achieved a high level of professionalism while employed by the School District, displayed a true commitment to the mission of the School District, and during their service, demonstrated an extra-ordinary level of performance for the benefit of students, staff, and the community.

This year's inductees were: Mary Jane Burke, retired English Teacher and Drama Club Advisor; Richard Gilbert, retired Teacher, Coach, and Elementary Principal; and Martin Maurer retired Teacher, Coach, Bus Driver and Athletic Director.



(Pictured from left to right), Stewart Amell, Superintendent of Schools, Martin Maurer, Mary Jane Burke, Richard Gilbert, and Brian MacVean, Board of Education President.

School Bus Safety

What can Parents/Guardians, Grandparents & Daycare Providers do to make their children's bus ride a safe experience?



In order to shorten transportation time for students and the cost of idle time for buses, make sure your child is ready and watching for the bus at least 5 minutes before it is scheduled to arrive. Drivers have been instructed not to wait for students who do not come out when they stop.

Remind your child to wait for the drivers signal, whether they are crossing or getting on the same side. Also remind them to stop and look left and right before getting on or off the bus.



Remind your child to stay out of the “Danger Zone”, at least 10 feet away from the bus and NEVER run after a missed bus or something they drop on the ground. Many children do this because they are afraid they will be in trouble, parents can help by assuring them that it's more important to be safe!

Remind children to obey the bus driver and follow bus riding rules such as, stay seated when the



bus is in motion, talk quietly, keep the aisle clear, absolutely NO HOT beverages, no glass containers, no coffee – only water in a plastic bottle, and show respect for the driver and their fellow passengers.

Make sure someone is home for younger students and students with special needs.

A safe and enjoyable bus ride makes for a great day for everyone!



Sandy Creek High School News
Jared Campbell to Perform
November 16, 2010

Jared Campbell is an accomplished singer/songwriter who will be performing for the Sandy Creek middle school and high school students. He is originally from upstate New York but has toured the country playing in national acts and has sold over 17,000 CD's. His music has been featured on MTV's "Real World" and "Road Rules".

Mr. Campbell's message to his listeners focuses on looking past obstacles and living a better life. His songs are said to be uplifting, thought provoking, and heart felt. He talks about life in general and the things we go through including passion, appreciating loving relationships, dealing with loss, and loving life.

Mr. Campbell shares personal experiences that relate to his audience. He uses humor in his stories/songs when talking about life on the road. His message about making positive life choices is all apart of the Character Education initiative at the middle and high school levels.

SCHOOL NURSES NOTES

Elementary- Claudia Hurne, RN Middle/High School- Laurie Crast, RN

“KIDS SAY THE WISEST THINGS!”

Winter is upon us, and we nurses wanted to hear what our students will do to keep themselves healthy throughout the snowy, cold days. So in the spirit of the late Art Linkletter’s “*Kid’s Say the Darndest Things*”, we took a random survey of some of our students here at SCCS.

The question was: ***“How are you going to keep healthy this winter?”***

Here are their answers:



- ◆ Boy, Age 11- ***“Eat good food”*** (Mmm. . .like fruits and vegetables)
- ◆ Girl, Age 6 - ***“Have hot chocolate”*** (Great for preventing hypothermia, but don’t burn your tongue!)
- ◆ Boy, Age 9- ***“Eat venison”*** (Great choice! Venison is very lean- low in fat, high in protein)
- ◆ Boy, Age 5- ***“Have a good breakfast”*** (This is FOUNDATIONAL- this kindergartener knows the secret for having a good day!)

◆ Girl, Age 10- ***“Wear a heavy coat”*** (So many kids, especially as they get older, don’t like wearing coats. Suggest layering sweatshirts and hoodies, etc. and don’t let them forget gloves!)

◆ Boy, Age 8- ***“Brush my teeth”*** (Did you know that if a child has healthy teeth, he will probably also have a healthy heart? And besides, have you ever tried to concentrate on anything when you have a toothache?)

◆ Girl, Age 8- ***“Take medicine for a couple days”*** (Depends on what kind of medicine your child is taking! REMEMBER, if your child is on an antibiotic, they MUST finish ALL of the medicine to be sure that they have killed all of the bacteria. If your child is taking a decongestant, or a fever reducer, like Tylenol, a couple of days may be all that is necessary to get them back on their feet)



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♦ Girl, Age 14- *“Wash my hands a lot!”* (This student knows that the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT WAY TO STAY HEALTHY IS TO WASH HANDS, SEVERAL TIMES A DAY!)

♦ Boy, Age 4- *“Moo, like a cow!”* (huh?)



Our students at SCCS are indeed wise; they know about good hygiene, correct eating, and ways to protect themselves against illness. These habits really DO keep them healthy, and *“moo-ing”* all day long!

Technology News & Notes

Cyber Bullying

A lot of press has been generated lately concerning bullying prevention in schools. School districts have been busy developing policies to address and help prevent bullying in accordance with recently passed legislation. The New York regulations specifically address bullying that takes place on school grounds or at school events. Cyber bullying typically does not take place at any of these locations and often originates from home computers and/or from personal devices such as cell phones. Despite the bullying occurring away from school, the detrimental impacts on a child's education can still be profound.

What can we (parents, teachers, students, administrators) do to stop bullying?

There are several very concrete steps to help curtail or end cyber bullying.

1. Education – Letting our students know what cyber bullying is, why it is wrong and what they should do if they encounter it. The SCCS district has already done presentations for students in grades 3-12 on internet safety and cyber bullying and will continue to provide more information for our students.

2. Do not respond to the cyber bullying but preserve the “evidence”. Bullies are looking for a response and sending nasty messages or texts back might allow them say that they are the ones being bullied. Preserving the messages gives you something to pass on to school administrators, service providers and the police.

3. Contact the parents of the bullies, the school district, and possibly the service provider and police. The school district needs to know the bullying is taking place. Please contact your child's principal if you know or suspect your child is being bullied. Bullying or harassment violates the terms and conditions of many social websites and cell phone providers. Contacting them may result in revealing anonymous identities, elimination of cell phone contracts or at least getting an account deactivated. If the bullying involves physical threats or obscene material then the police should be contacted.

SCCS Athletics



The Varsity Football Team has had a great season, 2-1 in Class D—West; 7-2 overall and is headed to the Syracuse Carrier Dome for Sandy Creek's first ever Section III Championship game. I'm very proud of our team & coaches effort and commitment. They are true champions to me.

Our Modified Football team did well this year considering that almost half of the roster consisted of new players. We finished the season 3-3 and improved as the season went on.

The Varsity Cheerleaders had another strong season including the following achievements: Successful spirit week with Pep Rally and cafeteria decorations; Third Place at Liverpool Invitational; top Sportsmanship Award at NNY Competition; Frontier League First Place Champions and Frontier League Team Spirit Award. Also, Senior Rachel Paige is three time All Star and Junior Torrie Edwards is two time All Star.



The Varsity Boys soccer team really enjoyed this season with the return of many veteran players and the addition of some new faces. Jarrett Luberto, Alex Howland and Henrik Soderstrom, our All Stars for this season, had a standout year, while many others on the team stepped up to fill new roles.



The Varsity Girls soccer team ended a successful season with a record of 9 wins and 7 losses taking second place in Class C. This team had 9 players selected to the Frontier League All-Star team. They advanced to Sectional play for the first time in five years.

The JV Girls Soccer team finished their season with an 8-3-2 record. Great job girls!!

The Modified Girls Soccer team finished their season with a record of 6-1-4. The season was a fun and successful learning experience for all.

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The Varsity Cross Country 2010 season had the largest varsity team in the last seven years. We had six boys and 13 girls. Cody Donahue made the All-Star team and Freya Sergis made the All-Star Honorable Mention team. We had a successful Invitational here at Sandy Creek.

This year's cross country sectionals went very well. The girls team placed 8th out of 17 teams. We had 10 girls eligible for the race. Our girls team was led by Freya Sergis (9th grade), Maggie King (8th grade), Juliana Godfrey (11th grade), Lexi Presley (10th grade) and Amelia Yousey (11th grade). The boys team also placed 8th out of 18 teams. Cody Donahue placed 9th out of 120 runners and missed qualifying for states by just 6 seconds. Conner Luberto placed 10th. The other contributing runners were Ryan King, Jake Donohoe, David Ridgeway and Justin Haskins.



Sporting brand new uniforms, the Modified Girls Cross Country team had a record-breaking 24 runners this season. The Modified Boys Cross Country team had a fantastic season, having a complete team to score at every meet this year. Check out all the XC additions to the trophy case!

**Congratulations to all our Fall Athletes and Sports Teams.
Although winning is our ultimate goal, it's the experience
we gain along the way that really counts.**



Winter sports have started and schedules are available.

We hope to see you at the games!!



Sandy Creek Central
School District

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Elementary : Ext. 1110
Middle School/High School: Ext.: 1910
Nurses Office—
Elem: Ext. 1501: HS: Ext. 1502
Transportation: Ext. 3330

COMMUNITY TRACK/WEIGHT ROOM INFORMATION



The Sandy Creek Central School District Weight Room and Track will be open for the community's use every evening that school is in session from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. They will not be open on snow days, holidays, vacations, weekends or any day that after school activities are cancelled. If you have any questions, please call the District Office at 387-3445.

We're on the Web!
www.sccs.cnyric.org

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