



THE COMET'S TALE

Sandy Creek Central School

Board of Education:

President: Greg 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

State Monies To Cover Local Share of Capital Improvement Proposal



Stewart R. Amell
Superintendent of Schools

After the first of the year, the Sandy Creek Central School District will propose to the voters of the community a Capital Improvement Project that will be financed by state monies.

New York State is providing capital monies thru EXCEL(Expanding our Children's Education and Learning) AID to school districts across the state to maintain/or renovate their school buildings for specific purposes. This money is intended to supplement/totally fund the taxpayer local share of the capital project. The eligibility criteria for the EXCEL monies are:

Educational Technology: The monies can be used to enhance the use of technology including, but not limited to, instructional content with video streaming, electrical upgrades, wiring, cabling installations, internet connections, fiber optics, hardware, electronic commerce, and wireless options.

Health and Safety: The monies can be used to address the reduction or elimination of the risk of personal injury or harm to occupants of public school buildings including but not limited to, environmental remediation, eradication of fire and health code violations, and adequate ventilation and heating.

Energy Projects: The monies can be used to reduce energy costs and/or energy consumption.

Accessibility: The monies can be used to enhance accessibility to public school buildings used primarily for instruction for individuals with disabilities.

Physical Capacity/School Construction: The monies can be used to expand the availability of adequate and appropriate instructional space including but not limited to, provisions for reduced class size and science laboratories.

The School Board has been working with the administration and architect for the past several months developing a list of possibilities to include in the project. At the time of this writing, the project would include the following proposals under the state specified EXCEL criteria:

Continued Pg. 2...

Continued from Pg. 1....

Health and Safety

Elementary Parking Lot Expansion

Purchase and Demolish Adjacent Property
 Parking Lot Construction
 District Wide Voltage Regulators
 District Wide Upgrade of Security Technology
 Elementary Gymnasium Renovation and Clock Integration
 District Wide Lightening Protection System
 District Wide Main Entrances Card Security System
 MS/HS Dry Stand Pipes for Fire Protection (2nd Floor)
 Kitchen Area Engineer and Renovation of Ventilation System
 District Wide Technology/Industrial Arts Safety Shower Area
 Elementary Cafeteria Sound Deadening Barriers
 Elementary Basement Encapsulation of Dirt Floor
 MS/HS Gymnasium Complex Ventilation for Ice/Training Room
 Elementary Cafeteria Installation of Bathroom Facilities
 MS/HS Cafeteria Additional Egress
 Elementary Art Room Additional Sink

Energy

Replace Fulton Boiler #6
 Monitoring Capability for District Energy Management System
 Elementary T5 Lighting
 MS/HS Gymnasium T5 Lighting
 MS/HS Server Room Independent Cooling System
 Upgrade for Energy Management System

Technology

Grade Six Science Classroom Laboratory
 District Wide LCD Projectors Ceiling Mounted & Auditorium LCD Projector
 District Wide Central Data Storage
 District Wide CAT 5 Wiring (Classrooms with Limited Drops)

The State Department of Education will have to approve all our proposals and certify that they meet the EXCEL criteria.

The Board of Education will provide more information regarding the project to all of the taxpayers after the first of the year and set a public hearing date on the proposed project. A vote on the proposal will take place sometime in late winter or early spring.

As mentioned in the introduction, the District is trying to secure this project with no additional cost to the taxpayer. Questions should be directed to me, Stewart R. Amell, Superintendent of Schools at 387-3445 Extension 1510.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Math Now!

We have spent much of our energy over the past four years working on reading skills, and helping you as parents understand what you can do to reinforce those skills at home. We would like to take this opportunity to speak to you about math skills, and how to incorporate the review and reinforcement of math concepts and skills into everyday family life.

Math is everywhere in our daily lives. In the kitchen, fractions are a big player in any recipe. Measuring cups and spoons can be great tools to use in developing and understanding of concepts like two halves make a whole. Volume and estimating are also a big part of cooking. Building or creating household items reinforce measuring skills, such as those used in sewing or carpentry tasks. At the grocery store, money is the major lesson to learn. You can ask your child to keep track of how much you spend on groceries or save with coupons. They can also figure out what size or brand is the best value.



The important thing is to remind children how valuable math skills are in every day life, and to keep it fun. Mastering these skills will pay off their entire lives!



Reading Knights



'I am thankful for' poster

Sandy Creek Elementary's Reading Knights recently held their first Family Reading Event of the year. Over ninety parents and students enjoyed the evening. The theme of the night was "Harvesting Good Readers." Parents and children visited three centers: A Read Aloud by Mrs. Archibee, our guest reader, a "What We Are Thankful For..." craft center, and a family reading center. We would like to thank Subway in Pulaski for their generous donation of sub platters. Our next Reading Night will be held in January. We hope to see you there!



The Pappa Family with Anthony Deep



Chance Hagler



Bonnie Reid & Patti King

SCCS Library Borrowing Policies

Loans

- * Students must return items on time.
 - * Elementary students must return their items (books and magazines) on or by their next library class.
 - * Middle and High School students have two weeks to borrow books and two days to borrow magazines.
- * Kindergarten students are allowed to borrow 1 book at a time.
- * Students in grades 1-5 are allowed to borrow 2 items at a time.
- * Middle and High School students are allowed 4 items at a time. Additional items needed for assignments are allowed at the discretion of the library staff.
- * All items can be renewed. The library staff reserves the right to limit renewals.
- * **If you move and your child no longer attends SCCS, please return any items prior to leaving.** (The library staff will notify the student's new school of any items or fines owed to SCCS. Borrowing privileges may be suspended at the new school)
- * Students who are new to the district may have suspended borrowing privileges if the SCCS Library is notified of items or fines due from their previous school.

Fines

- * **Elementary** book replacement cost is **\$10** for a lost or severely damaged book. **Middle and High School** book replacement cost is the **current retail price** of the book.
- * **Elementary** magazine replacement cost is **\$1**. **Middle School and High School** magazine replacement is **\$1.50**

Overdue/Lost Items

- * At the end of each marking period if a book is over a month overdue, a letter will be sent home with the report card and borrowing privileges are suspended until the book is returned or paid for.
- * Any student owing a book from a previous year(s) will have their borrowing privileges suspended until the book is returned or paid for.
- * If a student returns a lost book that was paid for and a record of payment exists, money will be refunded. (Refunds will not always be instant)
- * Student report cards will be held at the end of the school year if money or library items are owed.

Damaged Materials

- * A severely damaged book may result in suspended borrowing privileges and/or fines.
- * Please do not attempt to repair books with any damages, severe or minor.

REMINDER
SCCS BOOSTER CLUB MEETINGS
4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH 6:30 P.M.
IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM

Middle School Musings—Joanne Shelmidine, Middle School Principal

The first marking period has closed! Ten weeks have passed so quickly and I can hardly believe all that has happened! I feel like we are flying into NYS assessment season. We are all very focused on student assessment data as we make instructional decisions that help all of our students succeed.

Attendance is so important! Students who miss school miss the conversations surrounding the topics taught. Doing make up work, although important, does not begin to capture the discussions, and explanations offered in class. Please try not to schedule vacations, etc. when school is in session. When children miss school, they miss out and we miss them!

Overall, most middle school students struggle with organization. You can help your child by helping them establish routines about homework, and getting their book bags organized for school. Book bags and lockers become virtual "black holes", school work goes in but has trouble getting out and turned in. Having students share what is in their book bags helps them see what is in them, and gives you an idea of what they are working on in class.

As I mentioned, we continue to be very data driven this fall. All of our core areas are focusing on student data, and using it to improve instruction. Teams are working together to identify gaps and to make sure that students are seeing a global approach to learning. Reading and vocabulary strategies are a focus in all of our classrooms. If a child cannot comprehend the text or the question, then he or she will not be able to share what they know. We continue to work toward the common goal of student success for all students.

Spanish Club

Every year the native Americans of Mexico and other Central and South American countries celebrate "The Day of the Dead" on November 1st and 2nd. Often times it is thought that Day of the Dead is the Mexican version of Halloween. This is a misconception, and Day of the Dead is better compared to Memorial Day. These days are to honor people who have passed away.



It is customary to construct an altar in the home to pay honor to those people. There are also altars constructed in the cemeteries with candle light vigils, food, and music.

In order to grade students constructed an altar to a made their altar to Bambi's mother, and the red teletubby.

The students did a wonderful job working very impressive!



—experience the culture behind this day, 8th childhood character. The fifth period class sixth period class created an altar to Po, the

as a team for the project, and the altars were



A Word From The School Based Health Center

We have been back to school for almost 3 months, and it seems as if everyone has a “cold”. Children typically get approximately 10 “colds” per year. The school based health center staff would like to review the difference between a cold (virus) and a bacterial infection that requires an antibiotic.

Viral Infection (cold or flu)

- stuffy or runny nose
- watery eyes
- sore throat
- chills, aches, pains
- dry, irritated cough
- low grade fever
- symptoms lasting 7-10 days

Bacterial Infection

- persistent fever
- thick yellow-green discharge
- chronic, productive cough
- symptoms lasting over 7-10 days

Remember that antibiotics do not help cure viruses. If you use antibiotics when they aren't necessary, they might not work when you truly need them. Overuse of antibiotics also leads to the development of “superbugs” like MRSA, which is a bacterial staph infection that is resistant to some antibiotics that cured it in the past.

We all want our kids to feel better when they are sick, but giving an antibiotic is not always the answer. The school based health center staff want to make sure your child receives the appropriate care for the illness they are sick with. For more information contact a health center staff member @ 387-3620.

Technology Update - Using Teacherweb

Communication between teachers, students and parents is always an important part of a successful educational environment. With so many people getting their information via the internet and using their computer for communication purposes it makes sense for our teachers and administrators to have personal web sites to post classroom and school information. We are using an online website called Teacherweb (www.teacherweb.com) to meet this need.

Many of the teachers and administrators at SCCS have begun working on personal websites through Teacherweb. The link to each teacher's site can be accessed by going through the SCCS website (www.sccs.cnyric.org) and clicking on the staff directory button on the menu. The LINK button to the right side of the teacher's name will connect you directly with their Teacherweb web page. You can also access the teacher's page by going to Teacherweb and searching for the teacher. All Sandy Creek teachers are listed under the state of NY, and the district name is SCCS.

The pages that the teachers and administrators are creating may contain class information, assignments, notes to students and parents, and student grades. The grades section is password protected and grades are updated according to a schedule determined by each individual teacher. If you need to obtain a password for your student's grade page you can ask your child or e-mail the teacher directly. An e-mail link is provided on the SCCS staff directory page and the Teacherweb page.

Continued.....

INTERESTED IN THE DISTRICT BUDGET LIAISON COMMITTEE?

The Board of Education will begin to develop the 2008-2009 Budget shortly. Presently several community members are involved. If you are interested in being considered, please send a letter of interest to Creg Ivison, President of the Board of Education at the following address: P.O. Box 248, Sandy Creek, NY 13145

News from the High School

Events: During the winter months there are many activities and events that community and students can attend. Winter sports practices and games are underway. Look to the Sandy Creek web site for dates and times of sporting events at www.sccs.cnyric.org. The 5 -12 Chorus Concert is scheduled for December 12th at 7:00 PM in the HS Auditorium. In the event of snow and the concert is cancelled, the snow date is December 19th. Winter recess starts on Saturday, December 22nd through January 1st. Students return to school on January 2nd.

I-Tip Training: The middle and high school teachers have spent five days in I-Tip (Instructional Theory in Practice) training. This staff development training offers teachers additional techniques for delivering instruction that meets the diverse learning styles of our students. The last group of teachers should be finished with training in the Spring of 2008.

After School Activities: Parents and students are reminded that students are not to be in the building past 3:05 PM unless supervised by a staff member. Students that are found in the building unsupervised will be sent to a study hall and consequences will be assigned the next morning. We always encourage student/spectator participation, but students are to leave campus at 3:05 PM and return for the events at their scheduled times.

Emergency Management: The Emergency Management plans were updated last year by a committee consisting of staff members and community rescue members. It has recently been distributed to all staff members. The school district also continues to practice a variety of emergency drills that focus on the safety of students and staff.

Technology Update Continued.....

If you visit a teachers site please let the teacher know you have visited. This site allows for two way communication and letting the teachers know you are using the site and what additional information you need is very helpful. If the teacher does not have a web page available, then e-mail that teacher and let them know you are interested in obtaining class information on-line.

The Board of Education members and SCCS administration are dedicated to providing efficient communication to parents, students and community members. Please feel free to send your opinion of this product to any board member, the superintendent, or any of the building principals.

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

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

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.

Flu Shots

If you are interested in getting your child a flu shot, please call the Health Center at 387-3620.

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

Non-Profit
US Postage
Paid
Permit No. 7
ZipCode 13145