

A PEEK AT THE CREEK

Volume 3, Issue 1

December 2007



We're Back!!!

That is the attitude of this year's newspaper staff as we work towards creating an interesting publication for our peers to enjoy, here at Sandy Creek Central. The staff is excited to get back to bringing readers another year of exciting school happenings. We hope that you will appreciate all the hard work that this staff put into producing this newspaper!

Investigative Reporters:

Seniors

Ethan Claflin
Caitlin Clark
Melissa Day
Jonnell Liebl
Josie Stawicki
Tricia Stevens

Sophomores

Megan Clark
Nicki Clark
Frannie Felo
Eden Rudd
Nicole Schepard
Jake Snedecker
Matt Smith

Juniors

Mike Cambareri
Rachael Hurd
Kyanna Maloof
Brittany McGrath

Freshmen

Russell Levack
Rachel Paige
Rachel Pretory
Steven Radford

Inside this issue:

Opinion	2-3
School Happenings	4
Tech/Advice	5
Sports	6-7
Current Events	8
Meet the Teacher	9
Poems	10

EDITORS:

Scott Luberto
Elizabeth Lawrence

ASSISTANT EDITORS:

Mary-Kate Blanding
Jessica Blauvelt

School Spirit by Eden Rudd

This year, spirit week lasted from the eighth to the twelfth of October. Due to Columbus Day, we didn't celebrate the first day of our festive week. However, many students made up on spirit when we came back on Tuesday. Since Tuesday was twin day, we were seeing double left and right. On Wednesday we were to celebrate the 70's. This split the school between hippies and disco dudes/ divas, complete with the extra large afros with a pick. Thursday was the classic pajama/ toga day, where not one person was dressed to impress without either a robe or bed sheet. Finally, Friday was the day that Sandy Creek had blue and white plastered over every human being in the school. We can only hope that next year's spirit week will be as enthusiastic as this year's.

Opinion by Ethan Claflin

What A Waste...of Time?



It has recently come to this investigative reporter's attention that Sandy Creek follows a detestable trend set by the majority of Americans. Should we feel ashamed to be contributing to the vast amount of waste generated by our country every day? Our own school fails to recycle many items that should have such done to them. Though we do practice recycling, it is a miniscule amount in

comparison to what could be done. It is a growing issue and is often ignored but that doesn't mean that we have to fall in line. *A Peek at the Creek* encourages all students, faculty, and administration to get involved and bring about some positive results. Conserve our planet's natural resources and be aware of ways you can help on a daily basis.

Opinion by Jessica Blauvelt

Keeping Cliques from Invading Our School

What exactly are high school cliques? Cliques are groups of people who share the same interests and like to exclude anyone who they feel doesn't fit in with their group. They may include what you would call the "jocks", the "popular kids", the "Goths" or anything of that particular nature. Many cliques are lead by one or two people who decide who can "hang out" with that crowd. The leader often uses manipulation to empower some and exclude others. Children who are part of a clique will often experience emotional highs and lows as they strive to become and to remain members of the group. Often times, it is a very painful feeling to be re-

jected from the group, and they could even attempt drastic measures to attempt to join. Remember that it is never a wise decision to not allow a person into your group of friends, just because of what one person may think. In many cases, this "denial" of entry into the clique could become bullying.

A good tip on avoiding cliques is as simple as keeping your circle of friends open to anyone who is willing to become a friend. Don't be picky, but look for friends who share a common interest with you and confront the ones you know to be bullying other students. It is never okay to bully. Meet new people and be yourself. Don't be pushed into "cliques" by peer pressure.

Opinion by Mike Cambareri

Remember Our Heroes

It is a turbulent time that we live in. The United States of America is embroiled in one of the greatest struggles in recent memory. Our population has recently reached 300 million people, and the government is locked in a tumultuous struggle between liberal and conservative politicians who fight tooth and nail to see their political and personal ends met. We are faced with the tough decision of whether to protect personal freedoms or to embrace an almost Machiavellian mindset and strive to protect the greater good. Immigration reform and abortion are critical topics for current political candidates. Everywhere, from the water cooler to the televised political debates, men and women are fighting bitterly to win in the name of their own personal beliefs.

As gas prices steadily climb over three dollars a gallon and we are bombarded by various controversies on the news, it is easy to lose track of a part of the population that is caught in the midst of this political insanity. These people are American soldiers.

It is impossible to men-

tion the Iraq war without finding at least one person willing to debate your opinion, whether for or against, until you are both exhausted. As we throw about thoughts of weapons of mass destruction and genocide, we often forget that there are American men and women on the other side of the world who fear for their lives night and day. These brave soldiers jeopardize their own safety for an ideal that was the foundation of this nation. Whether justified or not, this war is about protecting the liberties we enjoy from those who endeavor to take them away from us.

So perhaps you don't agree with this war. Maybe you despise the doctrine of this country and our heavy handed tactics. You may even think that our leader is the true enemy in these times. Because of the fight for freedom that we have been engaged in since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, you have the right to hate this war. You even have the right to set alight the symbol of this nation, the American flag. But as you sit while the people around you stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, consider this, the brave men and women in uniform fought and died to

give you the right to choose to rise to your feet or sit in defiance. So even if you don't rise, be thankful for the sacrifice made. Even if it simply means that you can disregard it.





Are You Prepared? By Niki Scheppard

Fires were raging in Southern California and many people were unprepared to evacuate their homes. Some people did not have fireproof boxes for their birth certificates and other important documents, so these essential papers are gone forever. Most people panicked and grabbed useless things, rather than taking belongings that were most important to them. For this reason, I have realized that most people don't think about the terrible things that could happen to them. The majority of people don't prepare for disasters. Even though the chances of a wildfire engulfing our town are very low; there still is the chance of a normal fire. The simplest things you take for granted could be gone forever. It is necessary for every family to have an emergency plan. These steps could save a person's life or your home. You and your family should come up with an evacuation plan and a meeting place outside. If you take medication, you should have the prescriptions in one area. This way, if there was a fire, you could grab the medication and not have to search the house. Also, you should have a plan as to what you would do after the disaster, such as where you will live. If you would like to see other ways that you could protect your house and family in case of an emergency, visit <http://www.72hours.org/>.

Elementary School News By Rachel Pretory and Rachel Paige

The elementary had a great open house this year! There was awesome art-work at all grade levels. The fourth graders made t-shirts which hung on a clothes line to be displayed for all the parents.

The Lacona Fire department visited the elementary school with the "smoke house." This gave the students a chance to experience a hurricane.

The elementary had their annual Halloween parade at 1:30 on Wednesday, October 31st. There are some new teachers in the elementary this year. Julie Delosh is in Pre-K and is aided by

Lori Cean and Stacy Jenkins. There are some new teachers in the elementary this year. Julie Delosh is in Pre-K and is aided by Lori Cean and Stacy Jenkins. Helen Perth is working as a BOCES Pre-K teacher for our elementary this year. Another new aid is Jennea Peter. Teira Norton is in fourth grade and Shelly Hathaway is in the fifth grade. There is also Mr. Buris in art. He splits his time between the elementary and high school classes. We would also like to welcome back Kristie White from her maternity leave.

Middle School News

8th Grade Awards:

The 8th grade team gathers for a mini-pep rally once a month. The teachers select students for two awards: "Caught Ya" Award and "Head in the Game" Award. The "Caught Ya" Award is given to students who are "caught" performing a random act of kindness. The "Head in the Game" Award is given to students who are focused, prepared, enthusiastic, and motivated in class.



Halo 3 and Gaming

By Steven Radford

Halo 3 was released for the Xbox 360 on September 25, selling 2.48 million units on the first day of launch. Many magazines and websites gave the game a 9.4/10 or better. The multiplayer feature is the best thing about Halo 3. As you progress through multiplayer, you can battle even better people online. You can create your own map and change the weapons, vehicles, and scenery to whatever you please. You can also get armor to customize your character. Every game you play online is found in the Theater where you can see every single game you've played. Save the video of the game you've played, look at the film and find a funny part or something, and it enables you to record it and put it on your File Share where everyone can see your hilarious death or your quick kills. This is a game everyone has to try and see how great it really is.

If you're planning on getting an Xbox 360, I recommend the Xbox 360 Premium Console. It includes every thing you need to get started and it comes with a 20 GB Hard Drive. If you're not into Halo games, there's Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare coming out on November 5th for the Xbox 360, Play Station 3, and PC. This game leaves its World War II setting and has its own story with new enemies and weapons. In the multiplayer world of Call of Duty 4, you can customize your character and create your own class. This allows users to customize their special weapons needed to start the game, as well as special skills like increased health, longer sprinting, increased bullet damage, and more. Go to Gamespot.com for the latest in gaming info or Gametrailers.com for high quality game videos. Plus, check out Game Head on Spike TV at 1:00 AM on Friday nights.

The Halo 3 logo is displayed in a stylized, metallic blue font with a glowing effect, set against a dark background.

Advice with Bonnie and Clyde

Dear Bonnie and Clyde,

What do I do if a girl likes me but is afraid of what her friends think, even though I told her not to worry about what they will think of her if we date? Please help me!

Thanks,
Questioning Kid

Dear Questioning Kid,

I think that you should just go for the girl. Don't worry what her friends will think of your relationship. Whatever makes you happy is what you should do. If her friends don't like you they're not true friends to her. You want to be happy with that special girl no one else. So do what you want to. Go for the girl and don't care what anyone else thinks. If you want to be happy in life you have to step on someone's toes at least once. If those toes happen to belong to her friends step lightly so you don't upset the one you care about.

Clyde

Dear Questioning Kid,

In general, I would have to agree with Clyde, which is something that I don't admit to doing often. But there is one more thing I have to say. Don't just go for it. Yes, it's good to talk but don't pressure her into dating you or pester her so much that she can't stand you anymore; that's never good.

Bonnie

Tech Corner

By Rachael Hurd

Welcome back to the Tech Corner! I thought we would start this year off with a little refresher. What is technology? According to the dictionary, technology is the practical application of science to commerce or industry. For our part, we discuss technology on a much narrower scale. In the past, articles in the Tech Corner have discussed technology in the more specific definition as "electronic or digital products and systems considered as a group". Does this mean that the other technologies aren't as important? Not at all. This year the Tech Corner intends to expand its articles to include multiple aspects of technology, not just computers and electronics. The Tech Corner plans to include articles about all technologies: ancient, recent, and future. We hope to have something to interest everyone at any age level. Hope you enjoy this year's column!

FALL SPORTS REVIEW

Football and Cheerleading by Jake Snedecker

Varsity Football

The Varsity Football season started off great by beating New York Mills and even winning at the Carrier Dome. It was something that no Sandy Creek Team has ever done. As the season continued the Comets were plagued with injury. First there was Will Donelly, one of our full backs who had a recurring injury and had to stop playing. Koby Fowler, the starting full back at the time, broke three of his toes during a game at IHC. Paul Hallock the starting tight end, who took a helmet to his leg during a game. And finally Brent Trexler, who was the starting running back was in a terrible car crash the night of the Homecoming game. He broke his back, his pelvis, and tore part of his small intestines. Even with all the injuries, the comets still managed to make the playoffs which was an outstanding accomplishment considering all that has happened to the team.



Modified Football

Coach Bill Fowler led the young Comets' football team to a respectable four and three record. Captains Corey Sprague, Matt Shirley, Shane Scullen, Abe Robbins, and Jeremy Brennon did an excellent job on the field leading their team.

Highlights for the modified team included beating Thousand Island on their field in a shutout. The Comet's also managed to pummel Alex Bay to a fifty-four to nothing victory. The team did play tough teams, such as IHC and Watertown, which are primarily made up of ninth graders and performed exceptional.

Cheerleading

The Sandy Creek cheerleaders were coached by Tanya VanOrnum and led by spirited captains, Brittnea Bryden and Brittney Braley. The Comets' Squad hosted the Frontier League Championships this year and the event went over very smoothly. The young team struggled at times, but set high goals for themselves including putting together a competitive routine and placing in competitions. These goals were exceeded when the squad won second place at the tough Copenhagen Tournament.

Cross Country

Varsity

The boy's cross country team was led by Travis Donahue. Brent Curren also gained success this year by being named the most improved runner for the team. The "Blue Train," as the runners called it, worked very hard as the Comets worked as a unit within the trails. The team greatly improved as the season weathered on with better race times across the board. In finishing the season, the team was able to become much more competitive as a team rather than as individuals. The girl's team was led by returning cross country veteran, Tiffany Crandal. Even though the girl's team was incomplete, they attained success in other ways. A great inspiration was Amanda Carusone, a freshman who illustrated the determination and drive of an all star runner. The constant entertainment for the team came from the always funny, Heather Schad.

Modified

The boys did well this year. Front runner Conner Luberto ran extremely well, placing in the top ten in every race he competed. Cody Donahue, Ryan King, and Tristen Carusone also ran very consistently and should be a team to watch out for in upcoming seasons. The girls may have had a small team, but that did not hinder Allie Miller and Deb Joy from excelling in the events. Coach Pelton said, "both gave great effort for young runners." The team should look to mature and progress in next year's season.



Girls Soccer by Tricia Stevens

Varsity

The varsity girls' soccer team played well this season despite having only fifteen players, and being plagued by injuries. They had many close games which resulted into overtime. They played superbly against APW, South Jeff and other tough schools. Mercedes LaVeck and Fantasia Grossman received the 1st team All Star award while Emily Nellis received the 2nd team All Star award. Mercedes LaVeck and Emily Nellis also received MVP, and Tiffany Howlett received the Coaches Award. The team finished their season with a very intense game against South Lewis that

ended in a tie. Nice work ladies.

Junior Varsity

The JV girls' soccer team had an outstanding season, with an overall record of 11-5-2 . Out of the eleven wins, they managed to have six shut-outs. They out-scored their opponents forty-five to twenty-one. Chelsea Claflin was the team's leading scorer, with a total of eleven goals. Following close behind was Tayler Fravel with eight goals, and Rachel Pretory with six. Karlie Decarlos, Sam Densmore, Nickie Ginnan, Megan Clark and Nicki Clark were solid on defense all year, and Eden Rudd dominated in the net. The team accom-

plished their goal of defeating APW, not once, but twice. Great season ladies!

Modified

The modified girls' soccer team had a great season, with a final record of 5-1-2 . The team consisted of twenty-three girls, over half of which are in the 7th grade. The goalies for the comets were Breanna Warner and Izzy Bray, who did an exceptional job by only allowing eleven goals throughout the season. Every player worked hard to achieve a winning record.



Boys Soccer By Brittany McGrath

Varsity

The boy's varsity soccer team was coached by Mr. White. The team captains this year were Paul Kelly, Scott Luberto and Kevin Shirley. The Comets ended the year with two wins and one tie. This was impressive considering this is only the third year of the program and the boys managed to finish third in their division. Other achievements included greatly narrowing the gap against their opposition. Highlights for the boys' included a win over South Lewis and an unexpected win over Beaver River. From the words of Mr. White, "We were able to keep up with some of the teams who before would blow us

away." The boys had a great year and are expected to keep up the good work!

Modified

The modified boy's soccer team started the season with a tie against the Belleville Henderson. The captains Kyle Nellis, Phillip Yerdon, and Joey Cambareri supported the boys as the season went onward. By the end of there season the team was playing harder defense and getting more chances at scoring. Good work this year boys!



Current Events by Frannie Felo

Homecoming 2007

This year's homecoming was extremely awesome. Almost everybody participating during spirit week to show comets pride. During the high school pep rally, Travis Bartlett and Jared Worren tied in the jumping contest. The juniors won for their Monopoly themed

wall. We had an amazing victory over Beaver River at the homecoming game. The homecoming dance was definitely a magical one this year. Crowned king and queen were Aaron Pittman and Sabrina Howland. Prince and princess were Koby Fowler and Audrey Coon.



GO COMETS!!

Jokes

Compiled by Russell Levack

I tried to walk into Target, but I missed.
MITCH HEDBERG

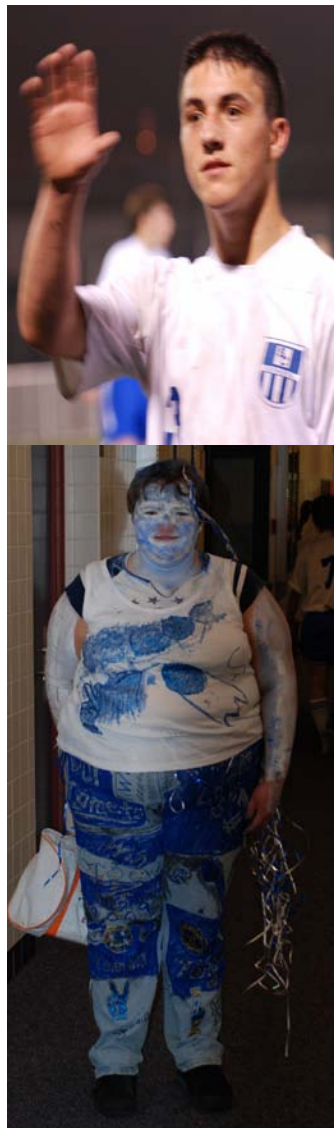
I constantly walk into a room and I don't remember why. But for some reason, I think there's going to be a clue in the fridge.
CAROLINE RHEA

Have you ever noticed that anybody going slower than you is an idiot and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?
GEORGE CARLIN

First the doctor told me the good news: I was going to have a disease named after me.
STEVE MARTIN

I called a discount exterminator. A guy came by with a rolled-up magazine.
WILL SHRINER

All taken from Readers Digest September 2007



Meet the Teacher by Caitlin Clark and Mercedes Laveck

Senora Presley

What high school did you attend?
Lowville Central School

What college(s) did you attend?
SUNY Potsdam for my undergraduate work and Syracuse University for my graduate work.

What is your favorite movie?
Transformers

What is your favorite television show?
Bones

What influenced you to become a Spanish teacher?
My high school teacher, Mrs. O'Conner.

Who influences you as a person?
My Aunt. She is a teacher in Lowville and an amazing person.

What are your hobbies?
Running, hiking, and horse back riding.

Have you traveled to any interesting places?
Mexico

What is your favorite quote?
"It's not only what you say, but what language you choose to say it in."
-Noam Chomski



Mr. Halsey

What high school did you attend?
Sandy Creek Central School

What college did you attend?
SUNY Oswego

What is your favorite movie?
Dead Poet Society and Forest Gump

Have you visited any interesting places?
China and the bottom of the Grand Canyon

What influenced you to become a Math teacher?
I desired the power to influence and teach students to persevere through the obstacles that school entails.

What people in your life influence you?
My wrestling coach, Roy Hunt, my drill instructor in the Air Force, and more presently, any students who walk through my door.

How did the Air Force shape the person you are today?
The Air Force taught me that anything worth achieving in life is worth working for.

What are your hobbies?
Running, reading, and feeling passion for wrestling.

Have you had any life changing experiences?
The time I spent in the Air Force was one experience. I saw people come and go, leave and never come back. I now see life from a different perspective.

What is the thing on the very top of your List?
Hiking to the bottom of the Grand Canyon was the top item on my List, but I have since accomplished that. Now, I would like to walk the Great Wall of China with my daughter, Emma, and explain her ancestry.

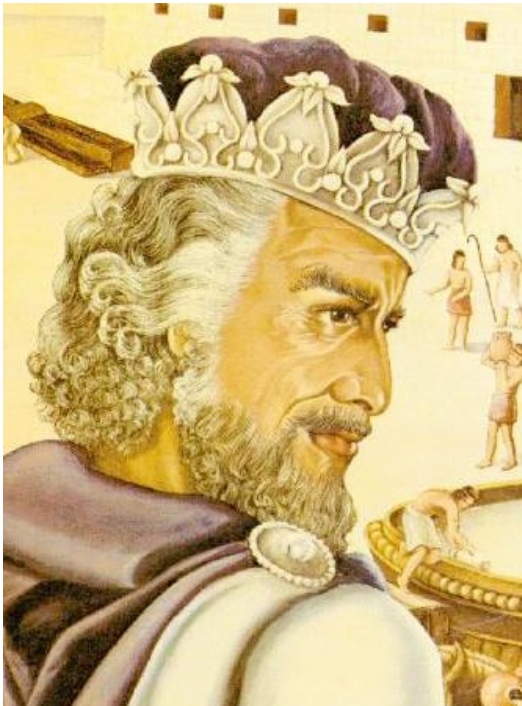
What is your favorite quote?
There are too many to name, but I truly believe that "life is measured not by the number of breaths you take, but by the number of moments that take your breath away. "



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

The Hollow King

By Jonnell Liebl

Hello slips the whispery call
Trickling down in one slow fall
Slipping down the sides of the ball
Which rolls alone like a ghost in the hall

The tap of your finger on the glass
The fog of breath outlining the past
Pressing softly till its last
Last breath of a ghost in chasms vast

Anyone listening? Vibrates the query
Sounds so doubting in the echoes eerie
Pulses so hard you can see it clearly
Among the thousands that expire yearly

Rise now, love, calls the king
Listen to how his voice does ring
You tremble, unable to do a thing
And listen to the lord of every dead being

The king descends the chasms girth
Looking for the dead which make his worth
To make anew and give to rebirth
Hello, you whisper to earth

Hello new bed of gravel and dust
Hello new scent of decay and rust
Hello new world, which appears as it must
Hello new need, my living lust

I reach my hand toward barren skies
I hear the whisper of the dead kings lies
He said our souls could finally rise
But instead he watches as my soul dies

I decline in silence, reflected in glass
Watch my breath trace future and past
Until I breath with the kings last
And so fall softly in the chasms vast
To sleep in peace and be safely cast
Into the chasms, chasms vast
To rest, to slumber, at last, at last