



THE COMET'S TALE

Sandy Creek Central School

Board of Education:

President: Creg Ivison
Vice President: Brian MacVean
Jean Bonhotal
John Clark
Steven Haskins
Michael Hovey
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 Ouder Kirk

Cafeteria:

Cook Manager: Debbie Archibee

Transportation:

Interim/Acting 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 Board Reduces Tax Rate and Drafts Goals for the 08-09 School Year.

At its regular meeting in August, the School Board voted to reduce the property tax rate from \$17.89 per assessed thousand to \$16.61, a \$1.28 decrease. This decrease is attributed to a reduction in the tax levy by \$310,000, an increase in property assessments and a prudent budgeting process. The Sandy Creek Central School District now has the **lowest** property tax rate per thousand in Oswego County.

In 2004, the District's tax rate was \$20.31 per assessed thousand. The Administration and School Board will continue to investigate and implement strategies to keep School Taxes reasonable but at the same time, provide our children with a good education.

Each year for the past four years, the School Board has set Board Goals. These goals keep the Board focused on areas of improvement that will benefit the School District both financially and academically. This coming school year is no different. They have drafted Ten Goals and will be officially adopting these goals in September. They include:

- Continue to Study Health Insurance Costs with the District's Bargaining Unit Members.
- Continue the Implementation of the Capital Improvement Project (Excel).
- Complete Successful Contract Negotiations with the Support Staff and Administrators.
- Complete the District Energy Study in conjunction with the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority.
- Review the Board Policy on Retiree Health Insurance.
- Complete a Cohort Enrollment Analysis for the Basis of Future Staffing and Programming.
- Study the District's Second Language Program.
- Continue to Research/Implement Strategies to Improve the District's Graduation Rate.
- Continue to Research/Implement Strategies to Increase the Number of Graduates Attending Post-Secondary Schools.
- Review our Present Number of College Grants and Scholarships and Investigate Strategies to Increase those Opportunities for our Graduates.

The Sandy Creek Central School District Board of Education is committed to providing an excellent education for our children and is always searching for ways to do it at a reasonable cost to the taxpayers of our community.

IVISON'S INSIGHTS



Creg Ivison, President,
Board of Education

~~ WELCOME BACK ~~

Its State Fair time and that means school is just around the corner and probably started by the time you read this.

I hope your summer was as enjoyable as ours was. I know first hand that many of us are still completing or waiting for repairs to be completed from the June 10th storm. Thankfully there were very few injuries in the community.

For those that were not aware, just because school was out, SCCS did not close the doors for the summer. School remained open for Summer Recreation (a partnership with local towns and villages), summer reading and math camps, free breakfast and lunch programs for children, leadership workshops, and sporting events to mention a few. Summer time also allows the Buildings and Ground crews to complete an aggressive maintenance program. This is on top of all the required state reporting that the Administration has to complete for the past school year while getting ready for this school year.

Speaking of reporting, did you see that SCCS had the highest graduation rate (90% including individual education plan (IEP) diplomas) of all Oswego County schools in 2007. I would like to congratulate the entire SCCS staff and administration for this achievement and hard work. Their dedication to our children is paying off, as preliminary figures indicate SCCS's rate should increase for 2008. Wouldn't it be spectacular to have our graduation rate at 100%? It can be accomplished but the SCCS staff can not do it alone. We need the assistance of the entire community to encourage our students to stay in school, so they can be more successful in our ever changing global economy and a proud member of the SCCS Alumni.

The Board of Education has been working on agenda items for our work sessions (typically the 4th Thursday) and goals for 2008/2009. I would encourage all to visit our website at the following link: <http://www.sccs.cnyric.org/boe.php> so check for updates.

I wish the class of 2009 the best of luck and to all our students, a safe and wonderful school year.

Middle School Musings —Joanne Shelmidine, Middle School Principal***Welcome Back!***

Wow! This summer has flown by! I am excited to be welcoming back all of our students and teachers. We have a few new additions to our staff this year. Mr. Thadd Sohoski will be teaching 7th grade Science as well as Physics. Ms. Lyndaker will be teaching Mrs. Trudell's classes and Ms. Reid will be teaching Mrs. Hathway's classes as they take some time off with the birth of their children.

Our middle school is a dynamic and incredible place to be. Our focus, as always, is on student success. Our state scores are up, but they are just one part of the story. I am so proud of our teachers and students. They have worked very hard to make this a school that we can all be proud of. Our students are overwhelmingly well mannered and their classroom behavior continues to help everyone be successful. Our teachers make each lesson student focused and engaging and our students are the better for it.

If I had to name the one issue that can quickly get in the way of a child's success in school I would say it was homework. One of the simplest ways to help your child with homework is to show that you think it is important. Some of the ways to show that you care about the work that they do is to set a regular time to do homework. Some children work well right after school, some need a break and work best after dinner. Each situation is different, and is dependent on all the other responsibilities that your child faces. Along with setting a time for homework, another aspect is setting a place to do the homework. Much of the success behind homework is in the organization and routine that it allows. If there is a set time and place for homework, materials won't be lost and distractions will be minimal.

Middle school students are going through many changes. One of the ways to assist them in school is by helping to ensure that they are getting enough sleep. Between sports, increased responsibilities in school, and their friends, many students end up over extended and over tired. This has an immediate effect on their performance at school. By helping students plan their time, and get enough sleep, they are able to be more successful in all their endeavors.

Just a reminder that the student planners provide a clear communication between home and school. Feel free to ask your child for his/her planner. Assignments that are not done will be circled, with teachers' initials or a stamp when the assignments are complete. If there is ever a question about what your child is working on, feel free to call and talk to your child's teachers. We all want your child to be successful and by working together, we can help your child meet the goals that have been set.

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

Fall Reminders from the Elementary

As we wrap up the final days of summer there are several things we wish to remind you of for your PK-5 child.

- Start time is 8:15 AM every day. The earliest you can drop your child off at school is 8:00 AM. There is no supervision until that time. Your child will be marked tardy if he/she arrives after 8:30 AM.
- If you are bringing your child in after 8:30 AM or picking him/her up before 3:00 you must sign in/out by the office and notify office personnel. Children coming in late must have a pass from the office to take to their teacher upon arrival.
- All visitors must sign in and out by the office windows and secure a visitor pass from office personnel. Parents may not go to classrooms during the school day unless they have permission and are accompanied by office staff.
- Please mark your child's belongings with his/her name. Coats, lunch bags, sneakers and boots are some of the items that are easily left behind, and a first name and last initial goes a long way in helping us return items to their rightful owner. Check the lost and found outside the library doors for missing items.
- Bus changes must be to the office by 10:00 AM to be honored for that day. There are many people who need to be notified to ensure your child is safely dropped at the proper location, so we must adhere to this time deadline.
- Our drop off/pick up area is a busy place, so please use caution when driving through the side parking lot. If you are bringing/picking up your child, watch for Mrs. Waggoner. She is at the door each morning and night, from 8 until 8:30 AM and 2:55 until 3:15 PM to help your child move safely to and from the building.
- Read with your child for 20 minutes every day. This can be reading the cereal box, grocery list or any activity with the printed word. Research proves that consistent practice in reading develops lifelong skills that lead to success!

Sandy Creek High School Leads the County in Graduation Percentage

I would like to congratulate the Sandy Creek High School teachers and staff for their dedication to our students. Graduation rates were recently displayed in the Post Standard. Sandy Creek had the highest graduation rate in the County. I truly believe the reason for this is the strong academic expectation that starts in the elementary and continues through twelfth grade. I would like to specifically recognize the teachers and staff that work in the high school. Good student performance is the priority. This includes addressing the needs of all students regardless of their disabilities or current obstacles. In my opinion, our teachers and staff completely understand the old saying, "it takes a village to raise a child". Our teachers and counselors work very hard to address the issues of struggling students so they do not drop out. Sometimes our students need to go at a slower pace and we allow that and offer a fifth year for graduation. Even if the State does not recognize those students when graduation rates are posted, we do! The importance of a high school diploma is constantly emphasized to our students. I believe these are just a few of the reasons our students succeed and our graduation rate remains so high. Once again, I would like to thank our teachers and staff for all that they do.

ELEMENTARY

K-5 ALTERNATE MEAL

PBJ or Bologna and cheese sandwich in place of main

Entrée

3-5 have a choice of a chef salad or chicken Caesar in place of the menu item. Salad comes with crackers or bread.

Choose sensibly snacks range in price from \$.25 to \$.50

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

ALTERNATE MEAL FOR 6-12

Harvest salad

Chef salad or chicken Caesar w/ crackers or bread

Fruit plate, (cottage cheese, tuna or turkey and 2 fruits)

Tuna or Turkey pita pocket or wrap

Tuna, Turkey, egg, PBJ, bologna and cheese sandwich with soup of the day .

Soups are

Veggie, minestrone , chicken noodle, tomato, or homemade.

For snacks we offer choose sensibly ice cream , chips and Little Debbie treats.

BREAKFAST

Instant oatmeal

Hot breakfast available

Everyday

Cold breakfast consists of cereal, milk, juice, donut or pop tart

PRICES

BREAKFAST

K-12 \$.90

REDUCED \$.25

LUNCH

K-3 \$1.20

4-12 \$1.35

September menu 2008

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 LABOR DAY	2 TEACHER ORIENTATION	3 HAM or TURKEY SUB w/ cheese Lettuce & tomato Potato chips Fresh fruit <i>Welcome Back</i>	4 CHICKEN PATTY ON A BUN Cheesy potatoes Peas cookie	5 STUFFED CRUST PIZZA Garden salad Chilled fruit
8 TACO SALAD Taco meat on nacho chips Lettuce & tomato Cheese, salsa Corn	9 HOTDOG ON A BUN Baked beans Tater tots Fresh fruit	10 SPAGHETTI w meat sauce Italian bread Green beans Pineapple tidbits	11 CHEESY BREAD STICKS dipping sauce Carrots sticks peaches	12 CHICKEN TENDERS Buttered seasoned noodles California mix Assorted fruit
15 CHEESEBURGER ON A BUN French fries Pickle chips Fruit cocktail	16 HONEY RIB ON A BUN Salt potatoes Mixed vegetable Ice juicee	17 STUFFED CRUST PIZZA Garden salad Fresh fruit	18 <i>New</i> WING DINGS <small>(Boneless chicken wings)</small> Blue cheese dressing Celery sticks Cheesy potatoes	19 MAC & CHEESE Dinner roll Carrots Assorted fruit
22 TOASTED CHEESE SANDWICH Tomato soup or chili Crackers	23 PORK CHOPLET Potato or rice Gravy Broccoli Dinner roll	24 PERSONAL PAN PEPPERONI PIZZA Garden salad Fresh fruit	25 GOULASH Italian bread Green beans Apple crisp	26 FISH FILLET ON A BUN Tater tots Cole slaw Assorted fruit
29 CHICKEN PATTY ON A BUN Cheesy potatoes Peas Mandarin oranges	30 SLOPPY JOE ON A BUN Cole slaw Corn Fresh fruit	OCTOBER 1 ALL FREE AND REDUCED APPLICATIONS MUST BE IN TO-	IF YOU NEED HELP WITH YOU'RE APPLICATION PLEASE CALL ME AT	DEBBIE ARCHIBEE 387-3445 EXT 1602

Applications for free or reduced meals are available in the cafeteria or the main offices. Please have new application in before the end of the month.

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

View our menu on our website at www.sccs.cnyric.org

Our New Pre-Kindergarten Class

We have recently been approved to collaborate with Oswego County BOCES in the operation of an integrated Prekindergarten classroom at Sandy Creek Elementary. This is an exciting opportunity to expand our PreK model to 52 students and to expand our inclusion model to the PreK level.

We are also fortunate to have Mrs. Helen Perth as our collaborating teacher. Mrs. Perth has taught PreK for BOCES for many years, this last year being housed here at SCCS across from Miss DeLosh's PreK room. She holds both elementary and special education degrees, and is as excited as we are to work with this new model. She will join our UPK teacher, Miss Julie DeLosh, in employing the same instructional materials and methods in their delivery of New York State PreK curriculum.

As always, we would be happy to answer any questions you might have regarding this opportunity. We look forward to beginning this new initiative at Sandy Creek Elementary.

SCCS Transportation Department



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.

Parents and students please go over the following safety rules together:

1. Wait for the driver's signal before crossing the road or approaching the bus. All students must cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus so the driver can see them. They must also stay back at least 15 feet if they are loading the bus from the right hand side, then wait for the driver to signal them onto the bus.
2. Follow the driver's instructions the first time they are given.
3. Remain seated while on the bus, talking quietly. Keep aisle clear of hands, feet, book bags, etc.
4. Fighting, profanity, vandalism, negative comments, smoking or chewing tobacco will not be tolerated.
5. No talking when the interior lights are on.

Let's have another safe school year!

Elementary Staff Changes

This fall we welcome Jeremy Briggs to our elementary staff, replacing Jeff Torch as our School Psychologist. Jeremy has taken part in training this summer and is ready to meet the students and parents of our district. He is a north country resident and recent graduate of SUNY Oswego. Please stop in and introduce yourself to Mr. Briggs.

We also have two maternity leaves this fall, both at fourth grade and both Mrs. Nortons! Teira Norton will miss the first three weeks of school so Ms. Danae Rollins will be covering for her. Brandie Norton will be out from mid-September through mid-November and Mrs. Theresa Kehoe will be filling her position. Both Ms. Rollins and Mrs. Kehoe have worked in the district and have been working with their Mrs. Norton to provide a seamless transition for students. We welcome them to our staff!

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL NURSES

New School Year Brings New Legislative Requirements!

There are two new requirements that will affect your children this school year. These have to do with additional information that should be included with their mandated grade-level Health Appraisals (or Physicals). As you already know, in New York state, Physicals are **required** for students entering *Pre-Kindergarten (or Kindergarten if the child did not attend Pre-K), 2nd Grade, 4th Grade, 7th Grade, and 10th Grade*. All new students to a district are also required to have a physical, and annual physicals are required for sports participation.

♦ **The first piece of information that MUST be included on the Physical (Health Appraisal) is *Body Mass Index (BMI) and Weight Status Category based on BMI-for-age percentiles*.** Your doctor/health care provider must enter this information on the Physical Form. Our school district will then be required to participate in a survey to report the BMI numbers and Weight Status Categories from these Health Appraisals. **No specific student names or personal information of any kind from the physicals will be entered, just the BMI numbers and category percentiles.** You may of course, request in writing that your child's statistics (numbers) not be included in the survey. The State Dept. of Health is collecting this data to determine more clearly how obesity is affecting the youth of New York. There is a new Physical form that has a space for this information on the SCCS website, that you may download.

♦ **The second piece of information is REQUESTED to be included with the required Physicals (Health Appraisals) is a *Dental Certificate*.** Beginning September 1, 2008 and thereafter, schools are required to *request, or ask*, if a student has a dental health certificate at the same time that the physical is provided to the school. Students are permitted to attend school, however, even if they have not provided a dental health certificate. (The Health Appraisal/Physical is still required). The state DOH is developing a form for your dentist to use, and they are also creating a list of dentists who will provide examinations for free or at a reduced cost. We will post this information on the SCCS website, and via this newsletter as it becomes available.

AS ALWAYS, FEEL FREE TO CALL US AT 387-5626, EXTENSION 1501, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION ABOUT THIS OR ANYTHING ELSE HEALTH RELATED. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING FOR A HEALTHY SCHOOL YEAR FOR ALL OF OUR STUDENTS!

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 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-hour 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 would like 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 the Sandy Creek Central School District Business Administrator at: PO Box 248, Sandy Creek, NY 13145, Phone: 315-387-3445 x1510, Fax: 315-387-2196.

Sandy Creek Central School District
 REQUEST FOR PESTICIDE APPLICATION NOTIFICATION
 (Please Print)

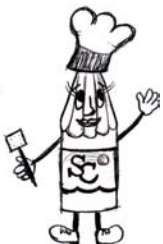
_____ School Building

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.



Ketch up with the
Kitchen

September is here and time to come back to school. Breakfast and lunch prices will be staying the same for this school year. Please be sure to have your lunch applications returned to us before the first of October. If you need help or have any questions, please give me a call at 387-3445 Ext 1602. We have some new menu items on in September. I hope everyone will give them a try. As always I am open for suggestions from the students. Check out our web page for the latest menu and alternatives at www.sccs.cnyric.org.

BUCKLEY AMENDMENT – ANNUAL NOTIFICATION DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Buckley Amendment is a Federal statute which imposes upon school districts receiving Federal funds the obligation to protect the records of students from inappropriate disclosure or review. Chapter 13 reviewed the procedures of the Buckley Amendment and also set forth a proposed bylaw pertaining to student records.

One of the requirements is to publish annually a notice of rights to the students and parents. Many districts do not do this. Further, many districts have been releasing information pertaining to students without parental consent. These items generally would be referred to as *directory information* but, before this information is released, it is necessary to publish a notice indicating that certain information would be released unless a parent objects. If a parent or an eligible student objects, it must be noted in the file that the information classified as directory information will not be released for that particular student.

Proposed Notice

We recommend, and the bylaw set forth in **Form 21** of the previous chapter states, that within the first three weeks of each school year the district publish in the legal section of a newspaper having general circulation in the school district, a notice to parents and eligible students of the rights under FERPA. If the district desires to designate certain information as directory information the school district also should publish this information at the same time. We advise that the notice of rights and directory information be combined into one form. **Form 22** is proposed.

Sandy Creek Central School District Annual Notification Notice to Parents and Eligible Students of Rights Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

To: Parents and Eligible Students Of Sandy Creek Central School District

You are notified that you have the following rights in relation to student records:

1. The right to inspect and review a student's education records.
2. The right of a student's parents or an eligible student to seek to correct parts of the student's education records which he or she believes to be inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's rights. These rights include the right to a hearing to present evidence that the records should be changed if the district decides not to alter it according to the parents' or an eligible student's request.

3. The right to report or file a complaint with the Department of Education if the school district violates FERPA.
4. The right to exercise a limited control over other people's access to the student's education records.
5. The right to seek and correct the student's education records, in a hearing if necessary.
6. The right to be informed about FERPA rights.

You are further advised:

- a. The school district shall limit the disclosure of information contained in the student's education records except: (a) by prior written consent of the student's parents or an eligible student, (b) directory information or (c) under certain limited circumstances, as permitted by FERPA.
- b. If either a student's parents or an eligible student desires to obtain copies of a policy pertaining to student records, notification should be presented to: Stewart R. Amell, Superintendent, Sandy Creek Central School District, PO Box 248, Sandy Creek, NY 13145.

All rights and protections given to parents under the FERPA and this policy transfer to the student when the student reaches age 18 or enrolls in a post-secondary school. The student then becomes an "eligible student."

Directory Information

The school district proposes to designate the following personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records as directory information, and it will disclose that information without prior written consent:

1. The student's name;
2. The student's address;
3. The student's telephone listing;
4. The student's date and place of birth;
5. The student's class designation (e.g., first grade, tenth grade, and the like);
6. The student's participation in officially recognized activities and sports;
7. The student's achievement awards or honors;
8. The student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team;
9. Dates of attendance;
10. The student's photograph; and
11. The most recent educational institution attended before the student enrolled in the school district.

You have two weeks to advise the school district in writing, directed to the office of the school superintendent, of any and all items which you refuse to permit the district to designate as directory information about the student. The district may disclose directory information about former students without following the procedure specified for directory information.

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. 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

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