



THE COMET'S TALE

Sandy Creek Central School

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Michael Stevens

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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

Character Education is Taking Shape at Sandy Creek Schools



Stewart R. Amell
Superintendent of
Schools

Character Education has always been a vital program at Sandy Creek Schools, but this year the students and staff have decided together to take the program to another level.

Character Education is a National Program that teaches and promotes attributes such as Responsibility, Tolerance, Honesty, Trustworthiness and Resourcefulness, just to name a few. Research shows that Character Education can reduce discipline problems, student absenteeism, drug abuse, teen pregnancy, and poor academic performance. The students and staff together have been participating in training since the summer months spending countless hours organizing their program.

During the month of September, over 50 students, several staff members, and administrators have participated in several hours of Leadership Training that provide them with a set of Value-based leadership skills that will be utilized to create a positive influence in the lives of others. Activities will be implemented in classrooms, during lunch hours, and during after-school times. Additional training is planned over the next several months.

Character Education also supports the academic mission of our School District; Studies have shown that a positive school community and climate is essential for academic success.

The most exciting part of this program to me personally is the team effort that is being displayed by both the students and staff members. They are truly working together to improve our School District. I'm confident that both parties will learn from each other and have a positive impact on each other.

IVISON'S INSIGHTS



Creg Ivison, President,
Board of Education

As I sit here on election night it appears that the United States will have a record turnout for this election. Several things come to my mind;

- ◆ Who won?
- ◆ Even though it may be a record turnout - the percentage of eligible voters will still probably be extremely poor.

My heart goes out to all the Veterans who served our country and protected our ability to vote freely.

I hope that every adult reading this newsletter exercised their right to vote. If not please take part in future elections.

In looking at the calendar, I dare say November is probably our most important month of the year. Besides Election Day:

- ◆ Tuesday, November 11 is Veterans day,
- ◆ Wednesday November 12 is the capital project vote for BOCES,
- ◆ We have Thanksgiving rounding out the end of the month.

In addition there are less significant events, for example:

- ◆ I think many of us were looking forward to an extra hour of sleep when daylight savings time ended
- ◆ Opening day of deer season for the southern zone
- ◆ There are a few masticates looking forward to Black Friday.

This makes me realize that I need to stop and take time to reflect on the things we are grateful for during this Holiday season. We need to appreciate the sacrifices our veterans have made, we need to be thankful for our family, and we just need to understand that not everyone in the world has the same abilities that we take for granted in the United States.

It's starting to be a busy month and winter for the District and the Board of Education (BOE). We are holding a joint BOE meeting with the Pulaski BOE. There are several purposes of the meeting, i.e. meet and greet, share positive, creative, and successful ideas or approaches that the Districts have completed, and brain storm ideas for continuing and expanding our efforts to shared items, positions, and services.

In addition to local issues, as you have heard the state of the state is not well due to the national fiscal crisis. We are anticipating that education will share in the budget cuts proposed by Governor Patterson. Thankfully the Administration has positioned SCCS to be able to weather the forecasted budget storm. We still remain concerned that Albany will once again shift spending to the local tax payers via additional unfunded mandates, or will develop state aid formulas to benefit down state districts (penalizing upstate rural districts), or by failing to trim excessive spending requirements. For this reason a "Tax Cap" alone will not work. If our State government leadership can demonstrate leadership and fiscal control then a tax cap could work and would be supported.

I would like to personally thank, on behalf of the SCCS BOE, John Shelmidine for representing us on the BOCES Board of Education. If you were not aware, John has served as the BOCES BOE President for the past few years. I could not imagine any of our existing SCCS BOE members or myself taking on this extra duty and providing the dedication that John has provided. I also want to take this opportunity to mention the BOCES capital project vote on November 12th. I suspect the results of the vote will be readily known by the time you read this. The BOCES renovation project is long overdue as they have several unusable buildings due to mold and structural problems created by heavy snow loads. Our BOCES students deserve a better facility. One of the reasons that the capital project is so large probably can be attributed to the lack of reinvestment in facilities due to tight school budgets in the past and the inability of some or many districts to be able to afford the increased debt service. This is still a valid concern of SCCS BOE and many other districts.

I wish you and your families the best in this Holiday Season.

Middle School Musings

This fall has been exciting in the middle school. First, the 8th grade held our first extended circle-free event in October. After lunch, students that were "circle-free" went outside for games and fun. Mrs. Soluri and Mrs. K. Johnson were the masters of ceremonies for several silly games that included piles of whip cream, donuts, and balloons. Quite a few students were caught up with their work and were able to participate in the fun. Ask your son or daughter to show you their planner. This circle-free system helps students keep track of assignments they owe.

Also, during Homecoming Spirit Week, students gathered in the gym for our middle school pre-game pep rally. Our modified sports teams were recognized and we held the annual toe-touch jumping and spirit contests. The 8th graders were able to pull off the "Most Spirited Class" title. Viki W. and A.J. W. were crowned as the most spirited girl and boy in the middle school. (Though, the competition was stiff as this just might have been the most enthusiastic group we've seen during Spirit Week! There were pirates, bees, ballerinas, and many other festive get-ups all week.)



8th Graders at the Middle School Pep Rally

The first of our 8th grade team awards were presented to students on Friday, October 3 during 5B in the auditorium. We meet monthly to recognize some outstanding students' accomplishments. The "Head in the Game" Award is presented to students showing excellent participation and attitude, as well as being prepared for class and performing to their potential. The "Caught'ya! Award" is given to students who perform a random act of kindness or who make their community a better place with their thoughtful actions. The award winners were presented with a certificate and a "firework shower" of applause from the 8th grade team. They are pictured below.



"Caught'ya" Award
Karintha M., Kira B., Andy C., Josh L.



"Head in the Game" Award
Front row: Cody M., Jesse L., Danielle W., Tyler V.; Second Row: Malykai D., Cori P., Karen C., Kendra V., Shelbe P., Ashley T., Ashley M.; Back Row: Ben S., Mitchell G., Izzy B., Kris D., Ivan G., David R., A. J. W., Anthony B.

News from the Elementary

Native American Projects

On October 24, our fourth grade students displayed their Native American Projects for the school to view. From their studies, students constructed long houses, traditional Native American toys and tools, and meals that Native Americans shared with the first settlers. They labeled the displays and provided background information for others to read. This was an amazing display of an interesting culture. Congratulations fourth grade on a job well done!



Freaky Friday and the Halloween Parade

Student Council sponsored a school spirit day on Friday, October 24th entitled "Freaky Friday". The fifth grade in particular took advantage of the occasion to show their creative side. Watch for more special occasion days to come, aimed at celebrating Sandy Creek Elementary School Spirit!

The annual Elementary Parade of Books took place on the following Friday, October 31st. The weather cooperated to allow an outdoor loop to be completed as well as the indoor route. Favorite books were brought to life in the characters in the parade. Thank you to all the parents, staff and students for making these both a huge success!



REMINDER

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

English Language Arts Rising Stars After School Program

Using 2008-2009 Title I funds, the Sandy Creek Central School District was able to expand the Rising Stars after school English Language Arts (ELA) Program. The Rising Stars ELA program started in the middle of October and will end at the beginning of January. Students at grades 3-6 are currently working with teachers to prepare for the ELA New York State assessments that will be administered during January 2009. As part of the program expansion, select students in Grades 1 and 2 were invited to attend after school sessions to target identified reading skills. With the addition of this early reading instruction, students will have more opportunities to reach proficiency on future state tests.



Nichole Maitland, reading teacher, works with first grade students (left to right – Alex Blaine, Austin King, and Gabriel Baird) on reading skills during the after school Early Reading program



Nancy Liszewski spends time with Connor Waggoner as part of the grade 4 Rising Stars ELA program



Kyle Valley, a fourth grade student, enjoys reading after school as part of the Rising Stars ELA program



Sarah Orr, reading teaching assistant, reviews ELA testing strategies with grade 3 students as part of the after school Rising Stars program



Ann Robbins, grade 4 teacher, reviews main idea concepts with students to prepare for the ELA assessment



Susan Gafner, reading teacher, shares reading strategies with fifth grader Alex Shumway as part of the Rising Stars after school program

What's New with NHS?

Members of the National Honor Society hit the floor running this school year. Community service projects are underway, the fundraising has begun and new members have been inducted.

Community Service: During the month of October, members of the National Honor Society worked with the Sandy Creek Food Pantry under the supervision of Mrs. Peggy Manchester serving at the Spaghetti Miracle dinner. The dinner is held annually to benefit the Food Pantry so they, in turn, can lend support to families in our community.

The NHS has also been working with the Coterie Club to collect recipes from club and community members in order to create our first ever 'Community Cookbook'. Recipes are being gathered from family and friends in a variety of categories. If you have a special recipe you would like included in the cookbook, please contact Mrs. Nancy Ridgeway (Coterie Club Representative) or Mrs. Teresa Crast (NHS Advisor) for a recipe form. We are hoping to make this an annual event.

On Saturday, November 8th, members of the Pulaski Wesleyan Church, SCCS staff, NHS members and various other community members provided service to the family of Bobby Ostman. Bobby is one of two of our seniors here at SCCS who are battling with cancer. Despite the rain, volunteers split and stacked wood and completed a variety of indoor renovations. There is still a lot of work to be done to help Bobby's family prepare for the cold winter months. Future work days are being planned. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mrs. Crast (387-3445 ext. 1934) or Mr. Creg Ivison (Board of Education President).



Naomi Glenister pinning Bobby Ostman

Fundraising: Each year, the members vote to "adopt" a charity for NHS. All proceeds from the year's fundraising events then go to the adopted charity. Over the past several years, we have worked with charities such as: American Red Cross, American Heart Association, Breast Cancer Awareness and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Last year, members overwhelmingly voted to adopt the Jonathan Cancer Fund – an organization that has provided financial support for families of children with cancer. It was decided then that the JCF would remain our adopted charity until both Bobby Ostman and Naomi Glenister have graduated from high school. Last year, NHS was able to send the JCF almost \$3,000 from our various fundraisers. Keep in mind, when you are purchasing items from any NHS member, your money is going to a worthy cause.

Once all recipes have been gathered, NHS will create and design a community cookbook. Cookbooks will be available for purchase through any National Honor Society member or Coterie Club member and all proceeds will go to the JCF. NHS has agreed to split the proceeds from the sales of the cookbooks with the Coterie Club; however, the Coterie Club would like NHS to apply their portion to the JCF as well Thank you ladies!! We will also begin our annual fruit sale just before Thanksgiving. We will be working with Russo Produce again this year to provide oranges, clementines, grapefruit, and assorted gift boxes.



Inductions: This year, current members of the National Honor Society inducted 17 new members to the society. The new members inducted on November 6th include: Eden Caufield, Megan Clark, Nicolette Clark, Lara Jean Collier, Amanda Cooper, Francheska Felo, Koby Fowler, Nichole Ginnan, Dustin Green, Nicole Miller, Robert Ostman, Samantha Pfluger, Stephany Quick, Cody Reid, Eden Rudd, Nicole Scheppard and Amanda Thomson. The evening began with a ham dinner for the new inductees and their family which was prepared by Debbie Archibee (Cafeteria Manager), Barb Pratt and Sally Nunez. Thank you to Mrs. Hobbs' light and sound crew and members of the National Junior Honor Society who assisted with hall traffic and handed out the evening's program to attendees, and Ms. Dayaisha Eldridge who

sang our National Anthem and led the group in singing the Alma Mater. Mrs. Crast and members of NHS look forward to working with the school and community to provide service to those in need.

News from the High School

On-Line Courses will be offered at Sandy Creek High School shortly. NovaNET offers high school credit recovery courses which are designed for students who have already taken a course for a year, failed it, and are repeating the course. This option will allow students the opportunity to re-take an entire course in a shorter period of time. Students will be granted high school credit if they complete the pre-determined course work and pass the required benchmark exams. All course work will be monitored by staff members. The credit recovery courses that we will offer will be in Regents English, science and social studies for 9-12 grade levels. NovaNET also offers ACT and SAT practice tests for any junior or senior attending our school.

National Junior Honor Society

Election of officers for the National Junior Honor Society was held on October 27, 2008.



National Junior Honor Society officers for 2008-09

(L to R) President-Isabel Bray, Vice President-Chelsea Claflin, Secretary- Karen Castor, Treasurer-Mackenzie LaVeck.



SCCS Transportation Department

The Transportation Department would like to thank Parents, Students and Drivers for their support and cooperation in making the transportation of our students much more efficient. Students are doing a great job being out and ready for the bus in the morning! Also thanks to everyone for the smooth transition of the elimination of one of our bus runs.

Staying Connected

The Sandy Creek School District is helping parents stay connected to their children's school by using three important web-based programs. These programs can help parents stay current with grades, class assignments, school closings and food purchases/lunch balances (new this year).

Teacherweb is a website controlled directly by the teachers at SCCS. On this site a teacher can post classroom assignments, homework and also student's grades (password protected). To access a particular classroom, go to the Sandy Creek Website www.sccs.cnyric.org, click on the staff directory link and then click the word LINK under website. This will take you to the teacher's webpage. You can browse the site and e-mail the teacher to obtain a username and password to obtain your child's grades. Posting grades is optional for the teachers and not all teachers have grades posted to the website.

Connect-Ed is the program we utilize for mass communication via phone and e-mail to notify parents about school cancellations, emergencies and important messages. The district is also considering using this service for extracurricular activities (athletics, music, etc...). This would allow coaches and supervisors to send calls to parents alerting them to sudden cancellations or changes to extracurricular events which their children are participating in.

The Food Service department at SCCS uses a program called WINSNAP to track food purchases and account balances for all students. We are in the process of creating a web accessible portal for parents to view their student's food purchases and also their account balances. Parents may also use this site to place money into their child's account (optional). More information will be distributed to district residents as this service becomes available.

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL NURSES

OUR STUDENTS KNOW HOW TO WASH THEIR HANDS!

Winter is just around the corner, and as you know, this means cold and flu season as well. **Hand washing is the single most important habit that your child can do to prevent the spread of germs!** Below are some of our very own students showing us how to wash properly!



*Anesha Risacher, Pre-K
Wets her hands*



*Morgan Leach, 2nd Grade
Scrubs her hands with soap for about 30 seconds*

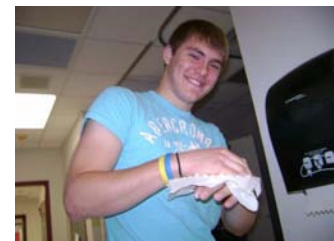


Rubbing hands together creates friction which helps get the germs off. Using soap changes the surface tension on the skin which really helps dirt and germs slide off and down the drain.

When she is done "soaping up", Jada Bachar, Grade 10, rinses with water



*And finally, dry thoroughly!
Even athletes like Devin Coon,
Grade 11, know what a great
idea it is to wash hands sev-
eral times a day!*



Students Explore Construction Careers ... Hands-on!



Allie Miller and Shelby Goodnough

On Thursday, October 16th students attended the Syracuse Area Construction Career Day held in the Pepsi International Building at the NYS Fairgrounds. The day was organized in a way that provided students with a number of



Shelby Goodnough

demonstrations relating to various industry. Activities included: Department on seatbelt safety, Metal Workers, brickmasons the students the opportunity to try and a variety of colleges and the construction fields were on hand to also given the opportunity to operate would typically be found on was open to all juniors and seniors and



Students who attended Career Day

career fields within the construction demonstrations from the NYS Police rope/knot tying by the Iron and /blockmasons /stonemasons allowed their hand at laying concrete blocks universities that offer degrees within answer questions. Students were some of the heavy equipment that construction job sites. The field trip



Michelle Collins and Sam McWilliams

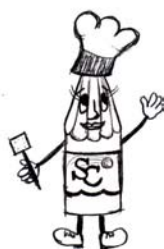
was coordinated through Mrs. Crast and the School-to-Work program. Future field trips are being planned to explore additional career fields. If your student is interested in learning about a career field, have him/her stop down to see Mrs. Crast or give her a call at 387-3445 ext. 1934. Field trips will be planned according to student interest.



Orrin Burnett & Marlo Kleinschmidt



Russell Monteith & Andy Blanding



Ketch up with the Kitchen

Parents will have a convenient, easy and secure way to check into your child's school meal account at any time. More information for parents will be arriving as we get closer to the start-up date.

Coming soon to our cafeteria, we will be offering MyLunchMoney.com as a new service to prepay for your child's school breakfast, lunch, and ala carte food items using your credit and debit card.

News From The School Based Health Center

Flu season is right around the corner. We'd like to take the opportunity to remind everyone about influenza or "flu" and the best ways to prevent getting it.

Influenza is a very contagious virus that causes illness. Symptoms of influenza include high fever, headache, severe fatigue, sudden onset of cough, sore throat, runny nose, and sore muscles.

The best way to prevent influenza is to get a flu shot. Flu shots are recommended for all children age 6 months and older. Flu shots will be available at the school based health center. Other ways to prevent flu are to avoid close contact with someone who is sick, stay home when you are sick, cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and most importantly wash your hands frequently.

If you should develop symptoms of the flu, see your health care provider right away. A swab of your nasal passages can tell us if you do have influenza, and you can start medicine that will minimize the symptoms of your illness.

To request a flu shot for your child or for any questions, please call the school based health center at 387-3620. You may find further information at www.cdc.gov/flu

Kathleen Spaman RN,MS,FNP-C
Nurse Practitioner

SCCS BOOK CLUB



Students Cast Their Vote for President

On October 28th, Middle School and High School students got a chance to voice their opinions.



The Social Studies Department sponsored a mock presidential election in which all students will choose either Barack Obama or John McCain.

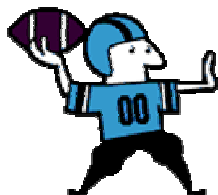


Students were able to sign in and utilize actual voting booths. Several volunteers were on staff to assist those through the process.



On Tuesday, October 21, students in the SCCS Book Club performed a community service project at the Sandy Creek Public Library. After having a tour of the facility and its beautiful new addition, students were given the task of brainstorming lists of books that are popular with teens and young adults in the hope that some of these books can be added to the public library's collection. In addition to creating these list of books, students also made activity recommendations that might draw in more of the teen and young adult crowd to the Sandy Creek Public Library.

SCCS Athletics



Congratulations to all Sports Teams. our ultimate goal, it's gain along the way



our Fall Athletes and Although winning is the experience we that really counts.



Congratulations to our Varsity Football the Section III Competition. Also to Allie Senior All-Star. Great Job Ladies!



Cheerleading Team for taking First Place at Miller for being selected as Section III

Winter sports have started and schedules are available.

We hope to see you at the games!!

THANK YOU!!

To Frank Hilliker, Jonny Hilliker and Frenchie LeBeau for taking time out from their busy schedules to help with the installation of our new scoreboard on our Athletic Fields!

SCCS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Guidance will be sending out instructions, your child's id number and a list of teachers who post student grades on Teacher Web. You will be able to access your child's grades online through the SCCS website using their student id number. This information will be sent out with the 10 week report cards on November 14th. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 387-3445 x1930.

Guidance is wrapping up the Junior-Senior planning meetings for next year. We will send out a letter inviting Sophomore, Freshman and 8th grade parents to meet with your child's counselor to discuss next year's schedule and 4 year plan.

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

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

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.

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