



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 Ouderkirk

Cafeteria:

Cook Manager: Debbie Archibee

Transportation:

Transportation Supervisor:
Robin Cashel

Technology:

Coordinator: Paul Goulet

Athletics:

Coordinator: Mike Stevens

Testing:

Coordinator: Amy McCormack

Special Education:

Coordinator: Janice Burns



Stewart R. Amell
Superintendent of Schools

School District Faces Budget Challenge and Declining Enrollment

This year's budget development process will be very challenging to say the least.

The Governor is trying to close a projected \$13.7 billion dollar gap with cuts, consolidations and an array of new and increased fees, surcharges and taxes. The Governor is proposing a cut in state aid to education by 700 million dollars compared to last year. For Sandy Creek, this means a 3.3% decrease in state aid which amounts to \$345,000. He also is proposing the elimination of the Middle-Class Star Rebate Program which helps homeowners defray the costs of school taxes.

The School District is also facing a decline in student enrollment. The Board of Education had a Cohort Enrollment Analysis done this fall and it indicated that we could experience a decline of 150 students over the next five years.

Each year the Board sets Budget Goals before the Budget Process begins. I would like to share those with you:

- The Board of Education will seek input from the Administrators, Department Coordinators, and the Community Liaison Committee.
- The Board of Education will keep the District's Educational Goals at the forefront when developing the budget.
- Staffing will be determined by student need and enrollment.
- The Board of Education will examine existing resources and reallocate when necessary.
- The Board of Education will examine reserve funds and discuss options for utilization if necessary.
- The Board of Education will target a 0% Tax Levy increase.
- The Board of Education will target a 0% increase in the 09-10 Expenditure Plan.
- The Board of Education will develop a 5 Year Financial Plan.

The Board of Education will consider the recommendations of the NYS Commission on Property Tax Relief.

The Budget Calendar is on page 9 of this newsletter. The public is welcome to all Budget Work Sessions.

IVISON'S INSIGHTS



Creg Ivison, President,
Board of Education

I sit here attempting to write something intelligent, informative, and down to earth, but I can not help but to reflect about the difficult times that our students and staff have experienced within the past month. On behalf of the Board of Education our hearts and prayers go out to the Coady Family due to the loss of their home, the Ostman family due to the death of Brandon, and to the Pottenburg / Lance families due to the deaths of Riely and Joey along with 6 other members of their family. The grieving process is different for everyone, but through these events it has reaffirmed my belief that the students and staff at SCCS are as much a family as they are a community. Some of the staff, students, and of course the families, will need our thoughts, prayers, and compassion to recover from these tragic times.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to our local EMS providers, religious leaders, and funeral directors as these events have been very difficult for them also.

The Board of Education and Administration have been developing the budget process for our 2009-2010 school year. The Board of Education encourages anyone with an interest to join the Budget Liaison committee to help us draft the budget and educate our community. Creating the budget will not be easy as the governor has proposed almost a \$350,000 cut in State Aid for SCCS due to the fiscal crisis and a our shrinking enrollment. The Board of Education has developed goals for the budget which Superintendent Amell has addressed. I would like to remind everyone that the above items are goals and in the end we may not be able to meet every item. Again if you are interested in participating in the budget liaison committee please contact the district office or a Board of Education member if you have questions. We will be having budget updates at each Board of Education meeting and work session, which are the 2nd and 4th Thursdays and are open to the public.

I would like to remind everyone of SCCS's website: <http://www.sccs.cnyric.org/> . The website contains a wealth of information and many valuable tools including but not limited to: my lunch money, weather bug, teacher web, sex offender notification, and staff directory. Enjoy your surfing !

In closing, I wish everyone a safe and wonderful winter.

REMINDER

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

Local Sportsmen Aim to Educate Kids

By Michael Cambareri Jr.

Thanks to the generous support of local organizations, the Sandy Creek Central School is now operating a school archery program for the first time in decades. Run by Mr. Trombley, our newly certified archery instructor, this program will offer students the opportunity to experience archery in a safe and structured environment.



In a casual interview, Mr. Trombley expressed his excitement about the program, heralding it as a chance to introduce a staggering number of students to archery. "It's a life long skill," said Trombley, "and an opportunity to put a bow in the hands of more than 900 students. This will also provide another indoor activity for the winter months, an important factor in Upstate New York."

Using the latest in Genesis bows supplied by many generous donors, gym teachers are now educating students in the skills and safety practices of the great sport of archery. This program has received enthusiastic community support. Local sportsmen's organizations have rallied behind the district, championing this program as teaching a "life skill", providing a hobby that can be enjoyed for a lifetime, far beyond regular school sports for which



there are almost no programs for anyone older than college age.

Once this program is established, students in grades 4-12 will be afforded the opportunity to compete at school, state, and even national level events at which competitors use the same



equipment used by the Sandy Creek program. Younger students have already participated in this enthusiastic, and older students will take part in it some time in January. This program received especially generous support from the Oswego County Sportsmen's Bowhunters, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Sandy Creek Community Park Booster Club, the Redfield Stillbrook Fish and Game Club, the Albion Fish and Game Club and Mr. Jamieson's Advanced Woodworking class.



From left (top) Michael Cambareri, Chuck Parker, Stewart Amell, Rick McDermott & Lou McNett. Second row: Ken Burd, Gerry Burd, Irene Mazzocchi & Herm Trombley.

Creek program. Younger students have already participated in this enthusiastic, and older students will take part in it some time in January.

This program received especially generous support from the Oswego County Sportsmen's Bowhunters, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Sandy Creek Community Park Booster Club, the Redfield Stillbrook Fish and Game Club, the Albion Fish and Game Club and Mr. Jamieson's Advanced Woodworking class.

PRE K REGISTRATION AT SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL

Sandy Creek Central School will hold Pre-K registration for the 2009-2010 class on **Wednesday, March 25, 2009** from **12:30 to 2:00 p.m.** and from **6:00 to 7:30 p.m.** at the Sandy Creek Elementary Lobby

Please understand that this is the first step in the application process. Space is limited, and you must have completed information returned by **the end of the day March 25th** to move ahead in this process. It is important to fill out all the information, especially the transportation form. This information is needed to determine the A. M. and P. M. classes and the timing for the bus routes.

We have two classes of Pre-K that both have AM and PM slots, so we are able to enroll up to 52 students in the program. If more than 52 students are signed up on March 25th, students will be picked from a lottery. If less than 52 students are signed up on March 25th, they will all be included at that time.

* * * *

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION AT SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL

Sandy Creek Central will hold Kindergarten registration for the 2009—2010 class on Wednesday, March 25, 2009. A child must be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2009 and must be a resident of the Sandy Creek Central School District to be eligible to enter Kindergarten in September.

Registration hours are as follows:

12:30 -- 2:00 P. M. **at the Sandy Creek Elementary**
6:00 -- 7:30 P. M. **School, in the Elementary Lobby.**

You may come in to register at the time convenient for you.

Your child does not need to attend registration with you. There will be visitation and testing dates for the incoming Kindergartners later in the spring.

Please bring your youngsters' birth certificate and immunization records to registration. Also, be ready to sign up for a testing date in May. If you are unable to join us on March 25, you may call the elementary office to make other arrangements [387-3445 Ext. 1110].

Questions about immunization requirements may be directed to the school nurse.

If you are new to the area and/or feel we may not have your child on our census list, please call the elementary office now [387-5626 Ext. 1110]. It is important that we have an accurate projection of kindergarten size for staffing and facility planning. Also, there are materials we would like to send you.

Middle School Musings —Joanne Shelmidine, Middle School Principal

As I write this, we are deep into the January freeze, looking toward NYS English Language Arts assessments. As you read this, ELAs are over and we are focused on the NYS Math assessments. This year, like every year, is flying by! The middle school will be taking the NYS Mathematics assessments on March 10 and 11 Please try not to schedule appointments during that time.

I am so proud of all of the hard work everyone puts forth everyday. More and more students are focused on academics, and also joining clubs and athletic teams.

We encourage everyone to get involved with activities outside the academic day. Clubs and sports are an important part of the school program and teach students valuable lessons about working together with a shared vision.

We welcome Ms. Jodi Whitney to the middle school team. She is teaching eighth grade English. Although it is difficult joining the school family mid year, she is doing a great job of fitting in to our program and working with our students. Please do not hesitate to contact her or me if you have any questions about her classes.

Elementary All-County Festival held at Sandy Creek Central School

The music department hosted an Elementary All-County Festival in our Athletic Facility on November 7th & 8th. We had over 250 students from across Oswego County come and rehearse for Friday, followed by more rehearsals and a performance on Saturday. The chorus conductor was Sylvia Walker from South Jefferson Central School. The band was conducted by Trevor Jorgenson from SUNY Oswego. We had several of our 6th graders participate in the event as well. Congratulations to these students who represented

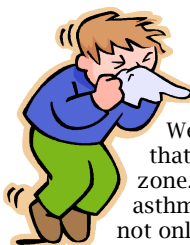


Back row: Zach Halsey, Jonathan Dana, Tyler McNitt, Autumn Darling, Marissa LaCelle, CodiAnne Salzman, Taylor Mullin, Tyesha Webb
Front row: Jay Ivison, Tyler Wood, Jacob Cornell, Madeline Yousey, Katie Austin, Lauren Bianco, and Caitlin Kleinschmidt. Absent from the photo was Lexi Goodnough.

Financial Aid for College Students

The 2009-10 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is now available for students who will be attending college. Students and their families are encouraged to complete the FAFSA as soon as possible so that they meet not only the federal deadline for student aid, but also state and institutional deadlines. The FAFSA determines your students' eligibility for most federal and state grant awards, work-study programs, institutional aid, and low-cost federal student loans.

The FAFSA is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If students/parents do not have computer access, they can request a paper FAFSA by calling 1-800-433-3243. Remember, the early bird gets the worm, so don't delay!



A NOTE FROM OUR NURSES

We have been asked to remind everyone that our school campus is a "perfume-free zone." We have students and staff with asthma and allergies that can be aggravated not only by perfumes, but by scented lotions as well. Even though we all need lotion at this time of year, please use unscented or very lightly scented lotions.

Character Education — Update from the High School

In August a group of SCCS students met to identify the key topics they wanted to address during the school year. A separate meeting was held with a volunteer group of staff members to assist students in coming up with activities/events that would address their issues. The three main topics students wanted to address were drugs and alcohol, bullying, and building positive relationships.

This past September, the staff and students underwent a ten hour leadership training designed to bring the group together as a cohesive unit and to help build the leadership skills within the student group. Students and staff have participated in a number of activities since then. The next activity is to host a forum for parents in February. A letter will be going out to parents in this community regarding a Drug and Alcohol Forum where panelist from county agencies will disclose what our children are being exposed to and what are the latest trends regarding drug and alcohol use. The tentative date is February 11, 2009. Please watch for that letter.

The leadership students will also be hosting an assembly for the middle school students sometime this Spring addressing the three main topics. We are hoping the assembly will spark interest for middle school students to join forces with the leadership group to add programs that trickle down to the elementary level next year.

Technology in Our School

I would like to share with you some of the technology changes that are taking place in the Sandy Creek School District. We strive to provide a quality educational experience for our students and technology integration is both required and necessary for their future success.

Remote Access: We have initiated a new method of remote entry for our students and staff to gain access to their home directory files stored on our servers. We previously used Citrix for remote access but some students had trouble downloading the programs required for this server environment. We have now switched to remote desktop which allows for up to 20 remote users at one time. To access this remote entry you need to visit the SCCS home page at www.sccs.cnyric.org and go to the technology link from the left hand menu. On the technology page click on the remote access link and remote desktop will automatically launch. You will need a valid SCCS log-in to access your home directory files.

Going Green and saving Money: During these tough economic times we are always reminded of the costs involved in technology purchases and use. One method of cost saving we have been pursuing over the last two years is the gradual phase-out of CRT monitors on our computers and replacing them with LCD monitors. LCD monitors use roughly 1/3 as much energy as a CRT and have a much lower heat output. All of our computers are also programmed to automatically shut down after a specified period of inactivity to help lower energy costs.

Software and subscription programs are also a significant cost to the district. We use bulk purchases through the various BOCES to obtain many of our software programs at discounted rates. Some of our licenses are available as "concurrent user" purchases meaning that we only purchase the number of licenses that we think will be used at any given time. This helps reduce the cost significantly yet the programs are still available on all district computers.

Distance Learning: The Distance Learning Room at SCCS is one of the most highly advanced DL centers in upstate New York. Fully equipped to send and receive high quality interactive digital audio and video signals to any similar location in the world it provides our students with some outstanding opportunities. Currently the room is used to provide distance learning classes to some of our students in subjects that are not available at SCCS. It also allows us to provide virtual field trips to locations all over the world where our students can see and interact with teachers, students and professionals at locations that would be virtually impossible to visit physically.



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 following pesticide applications took place in the Sandy Creek Central School from September 1, 2008 to February 6, 2009:

There have been no pesticide applications during the above stated period.

As a reminder, 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-hours 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 have not yet registered 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, Sandy Creek Central School District Business Administrator, 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: _____

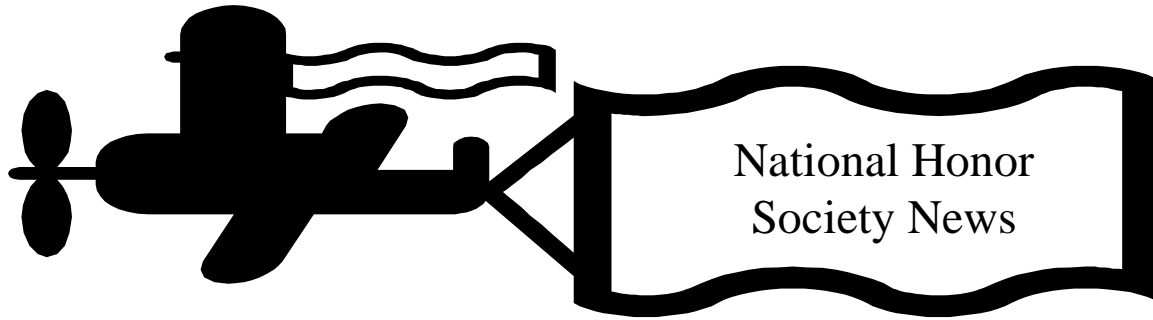
Address: _____

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.

Sincerely,

Shelley H. Fitzpatrick
Business Administrator



Members of the National Honor Society have been busy “wrapping” up some community service projects. In December, NHS members worked with the Friendship Thrift Shoppe in Sandy Creek to help provide Christmas dinner and gifts to families residing in the Sandy Creek School District. Members spent the whole day at the Methodist Church wrapping gifts, organizing boxes, and sorting and organizing food donations. This is an annual service project that we have participated in for the past several years and one the members look forward to every year.



In addition to helping families within our own community, NHS has provided assistance to children who are patients of the Golisano Children’s Hospital. Golisano provided us with a list of items that are typically used by patients. NHS members used their own personal funding to purchase items to be donated. We were hoping to deliver the items as a group to the children at the hospital, however, due to a number of factors (like infection-control), we were not able to visit and interact with the patients. Naomi Glenister (a NHS member) was kind enough to deliver the donations during one of her many treatment trips to the hospital.

NHS is winding down their annual fruit sale. The sale went very well and we thank everyone who was kind enough to purchase fruit. Now, we will begin concentrating on our 1st ever cookbook (which we are hoping will be an annual fundraiser). The cookbook committee is busy typing recipes and we are hoping to begin taking orders for the cookbooks shortly after the February break. The National Junior Honor Society is organizing a contest amongst middle school students to name the cookbook. All proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks and other fundraisers will go to the Jonathan Cancer Fund.



SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2009-2010 BUDGET CALENDAR

December

12/11/08 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

- ◆ Budget Considerations (Goals)
- ◆ Discussion of 2009-2010 Budget Calendar

January

1/08/09 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

- ◆ Approval of Budget Considerations (Goals)
- ◆ Approval of 2009-2010 Budget Calendar

1/22/09 Board of Education Work Session

- ◆ Budget Development Refresher

February

2/12/09 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education:

General Support, BOCES, Supplies & Materials, Transportation, & Debt Service

- ◆ Presentations by the Superintendent, Building Principals, Supervisors, and the Business Administrator (as necessary)

2/26/09 Board of Education Work Session:

- ◆ Joint meeting with Budget Liaison Members
- ◆ Review of General Support, BOCES, Supplies & Materials, Transportation, & Debt Service
- ◆ Introduction of Personnel & related benefits (as time allows)

March

3/12/09 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education:

Personnel and related benefits

- ◆ Presentations by the Superintendent, Building Principals, Supervisors, and Dept Coordinators/Liaisons (as necessary for program additions)

2009-2010 Revenues

- ◆ Presentation by the Superintendent and Business Administrator

3/26/09 Board of Education Work Session:

- ◆ Joint meeting with Budget Committee
- ◆ Review of Personnel and related benefits / Revenues
- ◆ Review of 2009-2010 Final Expenditure Plan

April

4/09/09 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education:

- ◆ 09-10 Formal Budget Final Expenditure Plan Adoption

May

5/7/09 Regular Board of Education Meeting

- ◆ Budget Hearing – 7:00 p.m. {7-14 days before annual meeting}

5/19/09 Annual Meeting/Budget Vote – 12:00 pm – 8:00 p.m.

SCCS Transportation Department

Bus Safety Poster Contest is coming up during the month of March for students in grades Pre-K through 8th Grade. Don't forget to do your Bus Safety Poster!



Don't forget your bus safety rules:

- ⇒ Follow your driver's directions the first time they are given
- ⇒ Stay in your seat while the bus is moving
- ⇒ Stay out of the bus aisle
- ⇒ No fighting, swearing, negative comments, etc.
- ⇒ No smoking, drugs or chewing tobacco

A REMINDER TO ALL

Do not pass through the flashing red lights of a school bus, not even in the school parking lot!

5th Grade Band Performs for the Soup Kitchen

Approximately 50 students from the 5th Grade Band had the opportunity to perform for staff and guests at the Soup Kitchen. The students very much enjoyed the experience and hope to be invited back again.



Ketch up with the Kitchen

MyLunchMoney.com is now available for your use. Get online and get your kids enrolled. Once your account is established, you can check balances, view the account and put money on the accounts from your computer, phone, or fax. Enrollment is free. If you need help you may call the customer support center at 1-800-479-3531 or you may e-mail at mlmsupport@sl-tech.net.

And that is food for thought!!

STAR Program May Lower Property Taxes: Have you filed your application?

Lower school taxes result from the homeowners who participate in the state's School Tax Relief (STAR) Program. STAR provides primary residence homeowners with a reduced assessment.

There are two STAR programs, as follows:

BASIC:

All eligible homeowners

Exempts first \$32,000 approximately *[08-09 ranges of \$27,370 - \$42,440 specific by town]* (full value) of assessment for school tax purposes

ENHANCED:

For homeowners 65+ years of age

2007 Income for STAR purposes less than \$73,000

Exempts first \$60,000 approximately *[08-09 ranges of \$51,820 - \$80,350 specific by town]* (full value) of assessment for school tax purposes

Must be renewed annually by MARCH 1ST

Cannot be combined with Basic STAR

Q. How do I get my Basic STAR tax cut?

A. You must file an application with your town assessor. The application has been made as simple as possible. Property owners who are granted the Basic STAR exemption generally will not need to reapply in subsequent years because the Basic STAR exemption is granted regardless of income. However, Basic STAR recipients will need to notify their assessor if their primary residence changes.

Q. Where do I get the STAR application?

A. Star applications are available from your town assessor, your county real property tax office, or on the internet: <http://www.orps.state.ny.us/ref/forms/pdf/rp425.pdf>. The Enhanced/Renewal Form: <http://www.orps.state.ny.us/ref/forms/pdf/rp425rnw.pdf>.

Q. Is there a deadline by which I must file the application form?

A. Yes. The deadline for applications is March 1st.

Q. Where do I file the STAR application form?

A. With your town assessor. The application is processed locally, not by the State. Do not file the application with the State Office of Real Property Services, the Governor's Office, your school district, or any other State agency.

Additional information on the STAR program can be obtained from your town assessor, county tax office, or on the internet at www.orps.state.ny.us/star.

8th Grade Happenings

On Friday, November 21, we had visitors from Oswego County Opportunities to lead us in some team-building activities. We spent most of the day playing games and getting to know each other better. The activities focused on building a sense of community and working as a team. Overall, it was a good day. Here are some pictures and quotes from the day.



Really it was great! ... I wanted to thank the teachers for giving us a day of fun and active activities." Caitlyn H.

"I think it was a pretty fun day." - Ben S.

"I thought that it was fun and exciting." Makenzie L.

"I thought it was fun and very tiring! But, I thought the instructors were really nice and they taught us really cool things and team work." - Natasha M.

"I thought it was fun. It kinda brought us all together like one big family. We got to get to know each other better." - Jesse L.

"I thought that it was fun cuz we got to move around and not sit around all day." -Kendra V.

"I thought it was fun because we worked together..." - Amber B.

"Team building was just a great experience of how we could all work together and get to know one another more." - Alicia M.



On December 11th we hosted our annual "Movie Night." All students were invited to watch "Fred Claus" in the auditorium and then we retired to Mrs. Johnson's room where the kids decorated cookies, ate brownies and drank hot cocoa. It was a really nice time to relax and have fun together without the stress of academics. The kids seemed to have a really great time. A couple of them serenaded us with a song about toast! We are planning a second Movie Night for some time during the 3rd quarter.

Quote Wall

By Tonya Trudell

When I returned from maternity leave I came back to kids who did not know me, and had no idea why I had a huge poster of a "bald guy with glasses" on the wall of my room, along with all these "good character" posters. I explained that the bald guy was Mahatma Gandhi, and that the words "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever" that are shown below his face, are the words he spoke. I went on further to explain that it was one of my favorite quotes. With that, I decided what better way to get to know the kids and to reconnect with the staff than to have all of them send me their favorite quotes. Over a few weeks, my Intern Wyatt Wells and I typed and decorated all the quotes I received and put together a quote wall. All of the kids and teachers quotes are displayed outside our social studies classroom 2603. In light of the events of the past few weeks and the never ending snowy season, many of us have needed to be cheered and inspired. The seventh grade students and I invite you to be inspired by our quote wall.

Circle Free ½ Celebration

We once again rewarded our students for homework completion by preparing a reward day for them Friday the 23rd of January. We started the morning with a movie, mum ball games and video games in the auditorium. As the morning progress and the temperature warmed, we took the kids outside for some winter fun. They slid down hill on sleds, saucers, and even an inflatable gecko. The favorite game of the day seemed to be King of the Mountain. What a sight to see over thirty kids on the huge snow pile by the bus garage battling for control of the top. They had a wonderful time. Our circle free initiative seems to be promoting a good work ethic, and allows us to reward those that always hand their homework in on time. For those that did not get a chance to join the fun, we provided an environment for them to get all the assignments completed and handed in before the end of the quarter which will help their overall averages. It is the goal of all the kids to be "circle free" for next reward day. We are very happy with the results thus far.

Great News!

Our Elementary Reading Program was just recently graded for its implementation of reading practices. We have worked hard and are proud to announce that we have received the score of 4 for the categories of Interventions, Classroom Materials and Leadership. This is the highest possible score you can receive and earns us a title of "model school". We received a score of 3 for all of the other areas of implementation which means that we are above average at implementing all of our requirements and have above average instructional practices.

Congratulations to our teams!!



VARSITY CHEERLEADING

Frontier League C Division Champions

—Senior All-Star

1st Place Section III Class C Championship

Allie Miller—Senior All-Star

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Frontier League C Division Champions




VARSITY WRESTLING

Congratulations to Sandy Creek Wrestlers


Logan McNitt & Derek Pfluger

on their 100th Career Win






Family Reading Night



Save the date! Our next Elementary Family Reading night is fast approaching. Come and join our Reading Knights on February 11th, as we celebrate another night of reading fun. Participants can look forward to dinner, swapping books, reading with each other, listening to a story, a yummy bake sale, and maybe a surprise or two. Please come and enjoy the fun!





Cross Country Skis



are available for the public to borrow for the weekends on a first come, first served basis.



You will be responsible for their safe return. You can sign them out on Friday by calling Mike Stevens at 387-3445 Ext. 3056.



All equipment must be returned by first thing Monday morning.







The School Base Health Center and the SCCS School Nurses Present Wellness Fair

for high school and middle school students during the lunch periods on March 26th.

Parents are welcome to attend!



WALL OF DISTINCTION

The Sandy Creek Central School District, will again be accepting nominees for the "Wall of Distinction". Graduates of distinction are those who have achieved a high level of prominence in their personal and professional lives and who represent a positive role model to our youth.

- Candidates for the Wall of Distinction must be recommended by a resident of the Sandy Creek Central School District. Candidates must meet the following criteria:
- Must have achieved a high level of professionalism and distinction.
- Must be of sufficient moral character as to represent a positive role model to students in the school district.
- Candidates must be graduates of the Sandy Creek Central School District.

An Advisory Committee will coordinate the program. The members of the Advisory Committee are non-graduates of Sandy Creek. Please complete the nomination form located on the opposite page and return it to Stewart R. Amell, Superintendent of Schools, Sandy Creek Central School District, PO Box 248, Sandy Creek, NY 13145. The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2009.

Announcing...myLunchMoney



Sandy Creek Central School makes paying for school lunches EASY!

With myLunchMoney, giving your kids lunch money couldn't be easier. The SERVICE is easy-to-use, convenient, private and secure. Simply go to www.mylunchmoney.com to enroll and start using the site to deposit funds into your child's lunch account.

Once your account is established, you can check balances and fund the account anytime from your home computer, phone or fax. Your child's information is safe — it stays at school. Your personal and payment card information is protected by the most advanced Internet security.

For more information about how to use this exciting new service, call 800-479-3531 or visit www.mylunchmoney.com.



**SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WALL OF DISTINCTION RECOGNITION PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM**

Date: _____

Nominee to the Wall of Distinction: _____

Present Address: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____

Year of Graduation: _____

Reasons for Nomination: _____

Nominated by: _____

Daytime Phone Number: (_____) _____

Mail to: Stewart R. Amell, Superintendent of Schools
 Sandy Creek Central School District
 PO Box 248
 Sandy Creek, NY 13145

Deadline: March 31, 2009

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 open for the community's use every evening that school is in session from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. 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.

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