Sandy Creek Central School
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Chris Ouderkirk
Cafeteria:
Cook Manager: Debbie Archibbee
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Transportation
Supervisor: Robin Cashel
Technology:
Coordinator: Paul Goulet
Athletics:
Coordinator: Mike Stevens
Testing:
Coordinator: Amy McCormack
Special Education:
Coordinator: Janice Burns

The Comet’s Tale

Seniors Share Some Thoughts

Each year towards the end of May and early June, I personally meet with small groups of graduating seniors to have lunch and a chat.

My goal; I want to know how they feel about their school and the education they have received. I am always amazed at what I hear. Teenagers are not shy when it comes to expressing their opinions, especially about school. This year I heard a common theme, “We appreciate the education we have received and are lucky we came from a small school.” I heard this comment over and over again. Others included, “Our teachers cared about us.” “We always felt safe and secure.” “The school is always clean and bright.” “I feel I am prepared for college.” “The cafeteria food is good and the lunch ladies are friendly.” “I really liked BOCES and I liked our small class sizes.” These comments might seem simple to most of us but to our students they are huge.

They are also not shy about giving me some suggestions for change. The BIG ONE; “We should be able to use our cell phones and ipods during study halls and lunch time.” Also, more course offerings, especially college level courses, and add another foreign language program such as German or Chinese. They also expressed their frustration by not having an outside running track.

No matter what they tell me, I try very hard to use this information as we plan for another school year and beyond. Their input is important to me — they’ve been here for 13 years.

Below is a recent group session.

PIZZA, SALAD, DRINKS AND DISCUSSION!
On behalf of the entire Board of Education, I would like to congratulate the Class of 2010 in achieving their latest milestone in life. Your families and the staff at SCCS have poured their hearts and souls into making you successful young adults. It is now up to you to show the world what and who you are. We also want to wish every student the best of luck on their regents and final exams.

I would like to take this time to extend my gratitude to Deanna Soule and Jean Bonhotal for their years of service to the Board of Education. Your insight, dedication and areas of expertise will be missed. I look forward to working with new Board of Education members Tammy Miller and John Shelmidine, who are no strangers to the SCCS Board of Education. For those that do not know, all Board of Education members volunteer their time to SCCS.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to thank the community for passing our budget and propositions last month. I can’t reiterate enough that the reason SCCS is not faced with the financial crisis that many other districts have is due to the dedicated Administration and Staff we have in our community. While Superintendent Amell and Business Administrator Fitzpatrick are directly responsible, it is a team effort by the District Office staff and Principals.

SCCS and upstate schools are not out of the woods yet. It is projected that reduced school aid and the state’s financial crisis will continue to decline and possibly get worse over the next two years. As the political circus in Albany continues, school funding is held hostage every year and as with most budget items, are controlled by downstate legislators. It is a well known fact that small rural and city schools are underfunded. However, funding is limited and those downstaters always insist that their rich districts receive additional aid. Central New York School Board Association has been testifying in Albany more this year than in the past. They can show where the funding is disproportional and if the existing aid were redistributed, upstate rural schools would benefit.

Congratulations to the 2010 inductees to SCCS Wall of Distinction. As a reminder, the induction ceremony will be held before the Alumni Banquet on Friday, June 25, 2010. I look forward to participating in the ceremonies at these events and meeting this year’s inductees.

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The Sandy Creek Central School District 2010 Valedictorian is
Megan E. Clark

Parents: John and Susan Clark
Plans after high school: Attend Syracuse University to major in Communications and continue cheerleading on the Syracuse Cheerleading Team.
Career Plan: I would like to get a job at a magazine or broadcasting.
My favorite extracurricular activities: Cheerleading.
What I do to relax: I feel like I don’t get to relax much, but when I do, it’s usually when I’m just hanging out with friends.
My advice to my graduating class: Always work hard doing something you love and of course, stay happy!
What I would like to be known for: Being a dedicated student, athlete and friend.

The Sandy Creek Central School District 2010 Salutatorian is
Koby D. Fowler

Parents: Bill and Valerie Fowler
Plans after high school: Attend college at Central Connecticut State University and play football.
Career plans: Become a Physical Therapist, Chiropractor, or do something with sports medicine.
My favorite extracurricular activities: Football.
What I do to relax: Play Xbox 360 or listen to my favorite Reggae.
My advice to my graduating class: Live life to the fullest and take chances. You don’t want to look back and say “what if”.
What I would like to be known for: Making people laugh and being a great friend.
It is June. This year has flown by! I work with the most amazing group of teachers. It has been a year of changes of curriculum and pacing to align with the new assessment calendar. Our eighth graders, perhaps most affected by the calendar changes, have handled the spring with a clear focus. It will likely be fall before we know the student results on those assessments. Academic Intervention Services will be assigned using the classroom assessments from the school year. Additional changes in schedules may occur once the state assessment results are released to the school.

As we did last summer, a sixth grade picnic will be held at the end of the summer for our incoming sixth grade students. This will reinforce some of the information the fifth graders heard at Moving Up day. You will receive more information in August.

It is with very mixed emotions that I must tell you that I will not be in the middle school come the fall. I have accepted the position of Superintendent of the Remsen Central School District. As excited as I am at the challenges I will face in that district, I leave Sandy Creek with a heavy heart. I have been blessed to work with wonderful parents, students, teachers, and staff. I have seen how our collaboration has resulted in the success of each child.

May you all have a safe and wonderful summer!

* * * * * * *

I am pleased to announce the Class of 2010 Top Ten. Congratulations! From ten to number one, they are:
- Francheska Felo
- Jordan Lehman
- Nichole Ginnan
- Kristopher Kwak
- Amanda Thomson
- Cody Reid
- Nicole Scheppard
- Eden Rudd
- Koby Fowler – Salutatorian
- Megan Clark – Valedictorian

I would also like to congratulate the rest of the senior class for their accomplishments and efforts. The senior class will be graduating on June 26, 2010 at 10:00 AM on the front lawn of the school or in the HS gym if raining. I would like to remind our alumni that the Alumni Dinner will be held Friday evening, June 25, 2010. These two events are perfect opportunities for alumni, parents and guests to view the traditional “Senior Sidewalk”.

2009 Wall of Excellence Awardees are Roy Hunt, Mary Maurer and Paul Sornborger. Shown here with Creg Ivison and Stewart Amell.

This is a recognition program for past and present faculty and staff who have exhibited unforgettable commitment and service to the children of our district. Nominations for 2010 will be accepted until June 30 and can be mailed or delivered to the Superintendent’s Office.
The final Family Reading Knights of the year was held on June 2nd with the theme Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds. With the goal of helping families have a healthy and safe summer, the theme brought to mind the important balance of mind and body for ultimate health.

Nearly thirty families gathered in the cafeteria for a healthy dinner of Arby’s Market Fresh sandwiches which were donated by the Arby’s in Pulaski. A special thank you to Arby’s for their contribution. Mrs. King was busy serving up popcorn to snack on as families finished dinner and learned about summer programming at the Ainsworth Memorial Library in Sandy Creek. With stomachs full the groups headed off to three different centers to continue with the theme of Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds.

One center, run by Mrs. Royle with the help of Mrs. C. Clark and Mrs. Klotz, challenged families to read nutrition labels on cereal boxes and answer questions about the nutrients in popular breakfast cereals. Families made visors at this center to protect their faces from the sun. Mrs. Farrand signed families up for library cards and handed out pencils and goodies. The glitter glue sparkled in the halls as they headed off to the next center.

Mrs. Hurne, with the help of Mrs. Hobbs and Mrs. Peterson, presented a healthy and delicious recipe for Nut-Free Trail Mix. Each family had a recipe to follow as they combined various ingredients into packable size baggies. This center also presented information on the amount of fat in many popular fast food items. Believe it or not, the all American cheeseburger has more fat than pizza, chicken nuggets, fried rice, french fries or hot dogs. It made everyone think twice about what to order next time, and to consider healthy alternatives!

With trail mix in hand, families went to “Hike the Hallways” run by Mrs. McCormack and Ms. Orr, where families embarked on a nature hike. Sixteen different Outposts were scattered throughout the Elementary hallways and courtyard that led to the complete telling of the story in the book Camping Day by Patricia Lakin. Parents and kids had roles to read and act out as they made their way on this great adventure!

This Reading Knight was a fantastic way to finish the year and prepare for the upcoming summer vacation. We hope families will keep their minds and bodies active through reading, cooking together and exploration of the great outdoors. Thank you to all of the staff who volunteered their time, and especially to the families who time out of their busy schedules to join us for dinner and fun.
Thank You to all the wonderful exhibitors, the staff who volunteered their time, and the families who came to enjoy our first-ever Elementary Health Fair! Coordinators, Buffy Peterson, Elementary School Counselor, and Claudia Hurne RN, School Nurse worked very hard to provide an evening full of information, with lots of giveaways, nutritious foods, and activities.
Preparations are underway for our Sandy Creek Elementary Summer Camp, which will run from July 12 through August 5, 2010. Camp is on Monday through Thursday of each week for children completing grades Kindergarten through fourth grade. Students will be invited to participate in the program if they meet certain qualifications. Parents will receive a letter home requesting information if they qualify. We ask for your prompt attention should you receive a letter, so that we can be sure our classes are full.

Whether your child is in camp or at home this summer, we ask that you include reading in each day’s activities. Twenty minutes per day of sustained reading will keep your child on track to being a successful student and adult. Magazines, newspapers, recipes, junk mail and cereal boxes all can be reading materials that you can incorporate into the day, in addition to any books your child reads for pleasure to him/herself or others. Please check with your child’s teacher if you need help choosing appropriate titles or reading materials. Reading lists and give-a-way opportunities for books will accompany your child’s report card. Please take advantage of these offerings.

We would like to congratulate our “graduating” fifth graders! You are a very special group of individuals! We wish you the best as you continue your education in middle and high school, and we want to remind you that we are watching from across the parking lot. We have fond memories of your years with us, and we wish you many more great years ahead. Good luck!

We would also like to congratulate Mrs. Sherry Glazier, who is retiring this June. Her influence on many generations will long be felt and appreciated. Whether she helped referee your game during recess, got the milk you forgot in the lunch line, guided your Student Council activities, made copies of your homework or laminated your award, we recognize how much she enriched your life and who you are today. Congratulations Mrs. Glazier and enjoy this next exciting phase of life. You certainly have earned it but you will be sorely missed!

Have a safe and happy summer!
Sue Ann Archibee and the Elementary Staff
387-3445 Ext. 1110, sarchibe@sccs.cnyric.org

The Central New York Association for Pupil Transportation Roadeo was held Saturday, May 22nd at the Oswego County Fairgrounds. Three drivers represented SCCS at this annual event, they were: Tracy Sullivan, Melissa Goodsell and Bethel Mothersell. Tracy Sullivan and Melissa Goodsell competed in the Special Needs Division of the Roadeo where they had to perform an emergency evacuation, a road course driving skills test, a pre-trip inspection and a written test. There were 5 teams competing in this division, our SCCS team finished 1st and will advance to compete at the state level in Saratoga Springs on July 10th. Bethel Mothersell competed in the Transit Division where she demonstrated such skills as a pre-trip inspection, a road course driving skills test and a written exam. Bethel finished 2nd only two points behind the 1st Place winner. Bethel also qualified to compete at the state level in July. Great job ladies!!

Nice weather has finally arrived please remind students to follow their drivers safe riding rules.

This year’s Bus Safety Poster Contest brought in many great posters, 232 to be exact, great job by all!!

Our winners are:

**Kindergarten:** 1st Place - Jordyn Lindsey; 2nd Place - Emma Halsey; 3rd Place - Ethan Ashby. **First Grade:** 1st Place - Annie Chen; 2nd Place - Ruby Scoville; 3rd Place - Emily Kampff. **Second Grade:** 1st Place - Madison Brown; 2nd Place - Dylan Hall; 3rd Place - Riley Dowlar. **Third Grade:** 1st Place - Violet Graf; 2nd Place - Alexus Guyette; 3rd Place - Sterling Cole. **Fourth Grade:** 1st Place - Carley Stoker; 2nd Place - Trace Clark; 3rd Place - Michela Sullivan. **5th Grade:** 1st Place - Sonny Grimes; 2nd Place - Jessica Lappien. **6th Grade:** 1st Place - Kali McClemons; 2nd Place - Emily Cheney; 3rd Place - Matthew Snyder. **7th Grade:** 1st Place - Rachel Yerdon
SCCS Recognition of Staff and Students

Each year we take time prior to our regular Board of Education meeting to recognize members of our staff and student body. These are some of the highlights:

Valedictorian Megan Clark

Salutatorian Koby Fowler

Maintenance & Operations

Tenure Recipients

Nurses & School Based Health Center

Administrative Professionals

Support Staff Aides
News from SCCS Book Club and Battle of the Books

Book Club and Battle of the Books’ members have had a very productive spring. We started the season with the county level Battle of the Books competition at the Phoenix High School in April. At this competition, three groups of students, grades 5-12 who had won at the school level competed against teams from other schools in our county. Sandy Creek students did very well.

After a very tough competition, our 5/6 grade team consisting of Zeke Durham, John McGrew and Rosie Morgan took 4th place, the 7/8 grade team Olivia Bauer, Rachel Yerden and Freya Sergis took 3rd place and the high school team Niki Scheppard, Linda Rudd and Rachael Walker took 2nd place. Congratulations to all who competed!

In early May, the Book Club members took a trip to the Scholastic Warehouse sale in East Syracuse. The mission of this trip was to purchase books to be donated to the SUNY Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital. Over 100 books were purchased for the Book Buddy Program which is a bedside reading service for all of the patients in the children’s hospital. The Book Club members had a great time filling up the shopping cart with books ranging from books for early readers to young adult novels. They look forward to delivering these books to the children’s hospital.

Our last event of the school year was the Teen Book Festival at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York. This all day event featured approximately 28 authors from all over the United States. The day consisted of an opening program in which all presenting authors spoke. Following that presentation the day was divided up into four sessions in which the students were able to listen to the following authors present: Lindsay Cibos and Jared Hodges, Holly Black, Ben Mikaelsen and Laurie Halse Anderson. The festival concluded with an autographing session with all of the authors. The students who attended greatly enjoyed the event and eagerly look forward to next year’s Teen Book Festival.
The New York State Athletic Association recognizes the academic accomplishments of athletic teams for each sport in each season. In order to be recognized, teams must achieve a certain standard of academic progress during their season's marking period. Each team has a minimum number of students required to have at least a combined average of 90% with each individual needing at least an 85% average. The NYSPHSAA will then award the top school (for each sport) as a State Champion.

We are very proud of our teams especially when they achieve academic success. It is a great reflection of our students, staff, parents and community.

Congratulations to the following teams for being recognized as New York State Scholar Athlete Teams for the 2009-2010 school year.

**FALL**— Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Girls Cross Country and Football Cheerleading

**WINTER**— Boys Basketball, Volleyball, Wrestling, and Basketball Cheerleading

Also Congratulations to the following:

*Frontier League Class C Winter Sportsmanship Awards*
Girls Basketball and Volleyball

*Spring Sports*
Varsity Baseball Frontier League Class C Co-Champions
Varsity Softball Frontier League Class C Playoff Tournament Champions

The Athletic Facilities will be open to athletes during the summer. Students should check with their coaches for days and times. Fall sports season begins August 16th for Varsity Football and August 23rd for all other JV and Varsity sports. Modified Football starts September 1st. All other Modified sports start the first day of school. Coaches will be notifying the students that signed up to play as to when they are having practice.

Summer’s coming and starting July 5th to August 5th we will be open on M, T, Th from 8:00 to 3:00. We are available for physical exams, college exams, sick visits, injuries, immunizations, allergy shots, etc. On the days that we are closed, patients can be seen at the Pulaski Health Center at 61 Delano St. in Pulaski.

The SBHC Dental Program will be open Thursdays July 5th through August 5th.

Call the School Based Health Center at 387-3620.

The Sandy Creek Central School District will once again participate in the Summer Food Service program (SFSP). Meals will be provided to all children 18 years and under without charge. Acceptance and participation requirements for the program and all activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at the site and times as follows:

Sandy Creek Central School Elementary Cafeteria
July 5th to August 5th, Monday through Thursday
Meals will be served as follows:
Breakfast from 8:00AM to 9:30 AM ONLY
Lunch from 10:45 AM to 12:30 PM ONLY
All meals must be consumed in the cafeteria

Persons interested in receiving more information should contact: Debbie Archibee at Sandy Creek Central School, 387-3445 Ext 1602
Sandy Creek Central School District is proud to introduce to you the 2010 Wall of Distinction Inductees. Throughout their lives, these extraordinary people have shown a high level of professionalism, distinction, and sufficient moral character as to represent a positive role model to students in the school district.

Alice Carnrite Teal  
Class of 1945
Has been editing publications dedicated to the history of genealogy of the nation’s Pilgrim and Revolutionary War ancestors. Worked for 27 years in the editorial/business office of Holstein-Friesian World. Continued her editing career and also Editor of several publications including: The Empire DAR News (Daughters of the American Revolution), The New Jersey Mayflower Society Newsletter, and the Mayflower Quarterly. Past Governor of the New Jersey Society of Mayflower Descendants, serves on the Board of the Board of Pilgrim John Howland Society, is a Trustee of Historic Cold Spring Village in Cape May County, NJ and is a past Regent of the Rhadamont Chapter New York Daughters of the American Revolution. Has received several awards for her ongoing service and dedication to America’s Pilgrim’s and Revolutionary War ancestors.

Dr. Michael Gilbert  
Class of 1985
Worked in human services since 1989, including foster care, group home, and hospital settings. He has worked as a school psychologist within Syracuse City Schools as well as adjunct professor at local colleges. In 2000, founded “It’s About Childhood & Family, Inc.” a not-for-profit clinical and resource center. In 2010, he opened the “Center for Change” designed to provide families an alternative to the traditional mental health system. Has given presentations to parents and professionals throughout NY State, as well as nationally. Advocated for and conducted research evaluating non-medication and non-labeling approaches for families with children exhibiting challenging behaviors. Has held numerous fundraisers and hosted many presentations by top selling authors including Dave Pelzer and Mitch Albom. Runs in his spare time and has completed 11 marathons to date, including NY City and Chicago.

The 2010 Wall of Distinction Ceremony will be held Friday, June 25th at 6:15 p.m. in the District Office lobby immediately preceding the 2010 Alumni Banquet at 7:00 p.m. Tours will begin at 5:00 p.m.
Dr. Scott Stern
Class of 1988
Attended SUNY Binghamton for undergraduate work. Graduate from SUNY Health Science Center in Syracuse for medical school. Completed his residency in Sayre, PA and is now practicing in Liverpool, NY as a Family Physician at North Medical Family Care. In his spare time he teaches Sunday school, plays racquetball and is a big fan of SU Basketball and the NY Yankees.

Peter Sprague
Class of 1948
Attorney (Williams & Sprague) and County Judge for Allegany County. Involved in many community activities including Boy Scout Master, Secretary to the local Chamber of Commerce, Cuba Circulating Library Board of Directors, member of the Cuba Methodist Church and Sunday School Teacher, member of the Board of Trustees, served on the Allegany County Board of Legislators, organized the Allegany County Area Charitable Foundation, active member of the Cuba-Friendship Masonic Lodge.

Ralph Albrecht
Class of 1984
Partner in a law firm. Intellectual property lawyer (patents). Past President of the Bar Association of District of Columbia. Previous positions held at other law offices and IBM Corporation. Worked on Avionic System Development including the V-22 Osprey Controls and Displays. Worked on Trident Submarine Command and control system development.
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 February 9, 2010 to June 18, 2010:

* 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 written 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)

Name: ___________________________________________ School Building

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
The Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC) is pleased to recognize the Facilities Department of Sandy Creek Central School for certifying 100 percent of their mechanical maintenance staff in the Building Operator Certification (BOC) program. Companies awarded this honor are noteworthy for their effectiveness and dedication to achieving greater levels of energy efficiency in their facilities through operator training. Accepting the award for the school was Chris Ouderkirk, Facilities Director.

Building Operator Certification (BOC) is a national certification program for building operators, offering improved job skills and more comfortable, energy efficient facilities. It is administered by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC), a non-profit trade association of the energy efficiency industry.

The Sandy Creek Central School graduates are technicians, Daniel Scheppard, Andrew Ridgeway and Chris Ouderkirk. They each completed over 135 hours of classroom training and facility project assignments in electrical and HVAC systems, energy conservation, operations for sustainable buildings, and indoor air quality to earn the BOC credential.

“Operators who earn BOC certification demonstrate commitment to their profession and to improving the performance and comfort of their facilities,” says Stan Price, NEEC’s Executive Director. BOC training gives operators the tools to help their employers save money on utility costs every day by properly maintaining equipment and optimizing operation of lighting and heating and cooling systems. The uniqueness of the Sandy Creek accomplishment is that these three men completed all requirements for both BOC courses. The BOC I course was geared to major component maintenance requiring the creation of an energy consumption profile. BOC II was focused on assessing the facility’s preventive maintenance program and optimizing equipment operation for energy efficiency.

“I spoke to an individual at the NEEC offices in Seattle, Washington. She informed me that we were the first New York State School to apply for and receive the 100% Building Operator Certification Award, and we were only the third school district nationally to obtain this honor.” “Dan and Andy have done a wonderful job overseeing the mechanical operations at Sandy Creek. To me this award is simply symbolic of the commitment and ownership these two gentlemen, as well as the other members of our facilities department, display every day,” said Ouderkirk who is also the president of the New York State Superintendents of Buildings and Grounds Association (NYSSBGA).

2010-2011 SCCS Budget

Thank you to the Sandy Creek Central School District community for the successful passage of our 2010-2011 budget, Capital Reserve Fund and Property Acquisition Resolution. These financial commitments will greatly enhance and insure the increased academic achievement of our students. We are also very grateful for our community members of the Budget Liaison Committee for their continued involvement in the process. In these changing times of great federal and state fiscal crisis, the children of our District truly appreciate your ongoing support.
The Sandy Creek Central School District Weight Room and Track will resume community activity with the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call the District Office at 387-3445, ext. 1510.