



THE COMET'S TALE

Sandy Creek Central School

Board of Education:

President: Brian MacVean
 Vice President: Shannon Akey
 Steven Haskins
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 Tammy Miller
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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
 High School: Maureen Shiel

Dean of Students:

Michael Stevens

Middle School Coordinator:

Carolyn Shirley

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

Oswego County BOCES Proposes A \$35.4 Million Renovation Project

The Oswego County BOCES Board of Education is proposing a \$35.4 million dollar renovation project vote for February 28th. The first \$20 million dollars of the project will focus on health and safety concerns which

include replacing the electrical and mechanical systems that are out-dated and desperately in need of upgrading. The plumbing and drainage systems will also be addressed.

The remaining \$15.4 million dollars will be used to improve program space such as classrooms and labs thus allowing the training center flexible space for future program needs. Added security measures, improvement in vehicular and pedestrian traffic patterns will also be addressed. The additional dollars will also be used to include green initiatives and technologies.

The nine county school districts, including SCCS, will be able to finance the project over 20 years with minimal impact to the taxpayers. Please see the estimated annual fiscal impact for each district resident in the table below.

Estimated Total Annual Tax Impact

The charts below represent the estimated yearly tax impact for a home assessed at \$85,000 and \$100,000 with either No STAR exemption, a Regular STAR exemption, or an Enhanced STAR exemption. NOTE: Each school district is comprised of several townships, resulting in the high/low range represented below.

	\$85,000			\$100,000		
	No STAR	Reg. STAR	Enh. STAR	No STAR	Reg. STAR	Enh. STAR
APW	\$9.05 \$12.57	\$5.47 \$9.37	\$2.27 \$6.17	\$10.84 \$14.78	\$7.07 \$11.59	\$3.87 \$8.39
CSQ	\$8.88 \$13.87	\$6.75 \$10.82	\$2.60 \$7.97	\$10.45 \$18.08	\$7.32 \$13.23	\$4.17 \$10.38
FUL	\$9.81 \$10.90	\$5.87 \$7.51	\$2.35 \$4.12	\$11.54 \$12.82	\$7.60 \$9.43	\$4.08 \$6.04
HAN	\$10.92 \$10.92	\$7.07 \$7.07	\$3.20 \$3.20	\$12.85 \$12.85	\$9.00 \$9.00	\$5.13 \$5.13
MEX	\$12.05 \$18.73	\$7.21 \$12.48	\$2.88 \$8.22	\$14.17 \$19.69	\$9.34 \$15.43	\$5.01 \$11.17
OSW	\$9.68 \$10.78	\$5.80 \$7.42	\$2.32 \$4.06	\$11.39 \$12.66	\$7.51 \$9.32	\$4.03 \$5.96
PHO	\$9.39 \$11.04	\$6.07 \$7.73	\$2.75 \$4.41	\$11.04 \$12.99	\$7.73 \$9.68	\$4.41 \$6.35
PUL	\$8.55 \$9.39	\$5.45 \$8.41	\$2.34 \$3.42	\$10.06 \$11.05	\$6.86 \$8.07	\$3.85 \$5.07
SCK	\$7.68 \$9.01	\$4.83 \$6.31	\$1.92 \$3.59	\$9.01 \$10.80	\$5.98 \$7.89	\$3.28 \$5.18

Referendum Amount: \$35.4M @ 20 years, 6% interest, 80% bond, incl. \$1.4M in Capital Fund.

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 \$30,000 approximately [10-11 ranges of \$25,500 - \$33,620 specific by town](full value) of assessment for school tax purposes

Note: Do not have to renew this annually

ENHANCED:

- * For homeowners 65+ years of age
- * 2011 Enhanced Exemption based on 2009 Income for STAR purposes less than \$79,050
- * Exempts first \$60,000 approximately [10-11 ranges of \$51,090 - \$63,640 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.

2011 Title I Rising Stars Early Reading and NYS Testing After School Programs

Thanks to Title I grant funds and transportation provided by the district, the Sandy Creek elementary/middle school was able to offer another year of the Rising Stars after school programs. The Rising Stars programs offer extended day opportunities for recommended students at grades 1-6 to receive additional instruction and support. The programs started on January 4th and operate on Tuesdays and Thursdays through the end of April.



Deb Klotz, Grade 1 Early Reading RS Teacher, works with students on comprehension.



Hailey Norton, Grade 1, uses Lexia Phonics as part of the RS Early Reading Program.

The Rising Stars Early Reading program targets students at grades one and two. Students who need additional instruction and practice with basic early literacy skills were invited to attend this program. The program is fully functional this year with almost twenty students attending on a regular basis. During this additional time, teachers work with children in small groups. Small group instruction includes skill work in the areas of phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

The Rising Stars English Language Arts and Math Test Preparation program is offered at grades 3-6. Students who were identified as needing help with test taking, reading, and/or math skills were invited to attend in preparation for the upcoming NYS May 2011 ELA and Math assessments. Over 50 students are attending this program on a regular basis, receiving small group instruction in the key areas that will help the children be successful on NYS exams.

These programs offer fulfilling opportunities for many of our students to receive instruction that targets individual needs. Additionally, all of the Rising Stars instructors are NYS certified teachers who are employed by the district. With this expert knowledge, these instructors are making a difference for these Rising Stars students.



Candice Clark, RS Coordinator and Grade 3 RS Teacher, works with T.J. Guarasce in the elementary computer lab.



Teresa Kehoe, Grade 5 RS Teacher, works with TJ Harding on key math concepts.



Scott Parish, Grade 4 RS Teachers, discusses math concepts with Courtney Burns (left) and Morgan Leighton (right).

PRE K AND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION AT SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL

Sandy Creek Elementary will be conducting registration for the PreK and Kindergarten classes of 2011 on Wednesday, March 30, 2011 from 12:00-6:00 PM in the Elementary Office area. This registration is for:

- ◆ Incoming PreK students, who must be four by December 1st
- ◆ Incoming Kindergarten students **who do not attend our PreK** program in our elementary building. Incoming Kindergarten candidates must be 5 years old by December 1st.

Students and parents/guardians must be residents of the district. Parents/guardians must provide a valid birth certificate and shot record for their child. Proof of residency or custody may be necessary if there is a question.

PreK registration on this day determines participation. If more than 40 students are registered on this day, all candidates enter a lottery and the first 40 drawn are those chosen to participate. If 40 or less register, all candidates can participate from the start. A waiting list is established if we exceed the maximum of 40 students.

Students currently enrolled in our PreK will bring home paperwork for kindergarten registration, which should be returned to Mrs. McNitt or our office. This begins the process for those students.

All students will be screened in separate sessions, and more information regarding that will follow.

Please call the office if you have questions. We look forward to meeting you at registration!

The Students in Mrs. Elkin's Grade 6 reading class have created some informative posters about the sea life and mammals included in the book, *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell. The students created these posters primarily in groups to present to the rest of the class. The standards that were used include researching, speaking, and writing skills. Students also discussed plagiarism as a review from earlier in the year and it was stressed that they need to remember to cite material used in any of their research. The children enjoyed this project as they love to work in groups, as well as present to an audience.



Students have also been working assuming the roles of connector, character captain, and discussion director. using these roles to discuss the chapters in times during this book, they have had a differentiate their learning. They have been concepts in a different format than a the valuable written parts of lessons. They



together in literature circles summarizer, artist, word finder, The children have been enjoying *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. Many chance to make choices of how to able to present their ideas and written test/quiz, without ignoring will have a written book report that

will be accompanied by a "paper bag book report", again digging deeper into the students' creative mind and making them show proof of their inference skills. A paper bag book report has students find 5-7 items that fit into a paper bag that connect to the story in some specific way. They then bring in their decorated bags and present their project to the class to prove their understanding of the book through their connections.



"A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step"

By Carolyn Shirley, Middle School Coordinator

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year. Already we are into the third quarter. This new quarter is an opportunity for students to start fresh with all of their grades. We are working hard to provide interventions and support for any student who struggles.

Our goal is for all of our students to learn and reach their highest potential. In order for that to happen, they must be at school. Research suggests that when students attend school on a regular basis, they are more successful in school than students who do not. When students miss school often, they lose out on lessons that are sequentially planned. They also miss out on specific experiences that teachers provide for learning, such as projects, experiments, participation in discussion groups, and opportunities to ask questions. We can work together to provide that first step for our students on their journey towards academic success by supporting consistent school attendance.

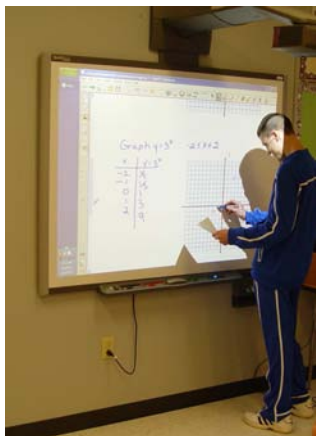
Elementary Art Work

Our elementary building was in the throes of the post-holiday blues for just a short couple of weeks, but our halls are colorful and vibrant again! Thanks to our resident artists and their dedicated teacher, Mrs. Abbott, we have snowmen, penguins and abstract designs brightening up the main hallways from our art



classes. Individual classrooms have several different and beautiful displays of poetry, science topics and social studies projects in the halls outside their rooms. A stroll through the halls is a feast for the eyes, and if you are not careful, you might learn something too! Congratulations to all contributors!

Smartboard Certification Training



A group of 14 teachers recently completed Smartboard certification training at SCCS. These teachers will use the knowledge they gained during the training to help other teachers become more proficient in the use of interactive whiteboard technology (smartboards).

Interactive whiteboards are transforming the way classrooms and boardrooms operate. At first glance they appear to be projections of a computer screen where the user can operate the computer by touching the screen or using a mobile pad. The associated software, however, is capable of so much more. Students are used to "touchable learning" when using a computer screen, cell phone, ipod, etc. and that is what whiteboard technology allows as well. When students or teachers come up to a properly configured interactive whiteboard lesson there is a long list of options that can be put into the lesson. Instead of simply writing notes the lessons can literally come alive.

Interactive whiteboards can provide instant feedback on questions or student responses. Teachers can use them to collect response data, embed sound, video or animation. Links can be generated that will instantly take students to notes, websites, or other sources of information. The possibilities are only limited by the imagination and skill level of the teacher when using the software. There are also large free libraries of lessons already created by other teachers on virtually every topic and subject.

The Sandy Creek Central School District has consistently stated its goal to bring advanced technology to every classroom. Students already have access to computers in every classroom and the installation and implementation of interactive whiteboards adds to the resources available. Creating stimulating, engaging lessons is vital to holding students interest in the classroom. By providing this type of training the SCCS district continues to demonstrate its commitment towards improving the educational environment and opportunities for our students.

8th Grade Happenings

The end of 2010 and Quarter 2 brought lots of excitement. 2010 ended with a bang on December 23rd when students participated in a large Circle Free event. All students who were Circle Free were first treated to a crock pot lunch with an assortment of delicious food prepared by their



Collin prepares to shoot rubber bands during the Rapid Fire portion of "Minute to Win It."

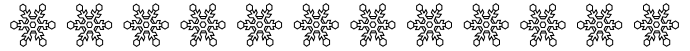


Devin balances cookies on his head while competing in Chocolate Unicorn

teachers. After lunch, students decorated holiday cookies and proceeded to compete in a "Minute to Win It" Olympics. The Circle Free students rotated through 6 different events complete with food, fun and friendly competition. Congratulations to all our students who continue to be Circle Free.

We are off and running in Quarter 3. Parents and students should be reminded of the grading policy change that comes along with the change in quarter. All late work will be accepted, however, assignments more than 5 days late will receive a 0. The 8th grade teachers are also becoming concerned with our students' attendance as of late. Every day is an important day in our classrooms. If a student misses class, they *ARE* missing something.

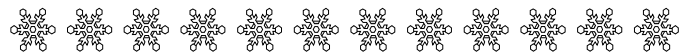
Please check your school calendar as May approaches. The state testing season is right around the corner. The schedule is tight this year, all students need to plan on being present on the day of the exams. Parents and students should also continue to check Teacher Web and student planners to monitor your child's progress during these last two quarters. And, as always, contact the 8th grade teachers with any questions, comments or concerns.



WE NEED SOME HELP!!

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD COMES TO SCHOOL APPROPRIATELY DRESSED FOR THE WINTER WEATHER. YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY IS IMPORTANT TO US. EXTREME COLD WEATHER CAN COMPROMISE YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY ESPECIALLY DURING EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILLS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!



Music in Our Schools Concert

The Sandy Creek Central School Music Department would like to invite the parents and community to our annual Music in Our Schools Celebration in the High School Gymnasium Complex on Thursday, March 3rd at 7pm. Students from 3rd grade through 12th grade will be performing. General music classes, chamber groups, bands and choruses will perform at this event.

Come and celebrate music with us at Sandy Creek Central School

Morning Program Hat and Mitten Drive



The Sandy Creek Elementary Morning Program is holding a hat and mitten drive. Students are donating hats and mittens to be given to those who do not have any. All donated items are displayed outside the gym in the Commons Area and our bulletin board is almost full! We will be distributing some soon, and will be accepting donations through early February. Please contact Jackie Hobbs or Patti King with questions. Congratulations to our generous and thoughtful students for doing such a nice thing for others!

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, 2010 to February 11, 2011:

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

Differentiated Instruction/Assessments

Students in Grade 6 English classes demonstrated their knowledge of the story *Woodsong* and their author study of Gary Paulsen through some spectacular projects. Students were given a "choice board" projects, with one "student choice". They contract for the up their own, had to written in the block teacher. The students choice of assignments their outcome. Mrs. Elkin was amazed at the understanding of the story and the author demonstrated through these projects, as well as the creativity of the students. Kudos to all the 6th graders!



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Casey Christian shows his scene from the story, *Woodsong*, even down to the tiny burn barrel that attracted the bear,



Scarhead. Elizabeth Hall demonstrates her knowledge of the story through needlepoint of one of the many dogs Paulsen owned. Addie Comins shows her knowledge of the story through a skit she made up with paper puppets and presented to the class. John McGrew made up a game of concentration where students were given a scene and John drew the scene to match up with the artwork. Abigail Widrig became so



excited that she chose eight of the projects to make up her one project, shown on a poster constructed by her. Many of the students decided to write a letter to Gary Paulsen, all of which will be sent out soon, with the students patiently waiting and hoping for a response from Mr. Paulsen.



**THURSDAY
MARCH 31, 2011**

5:30- 7:30 PM

***DISTRICT-WIDE
FAMILY HEALTH
AND WELLNESS
EXPO***

FREE DINNER

***DOZENS OF
EXHIBITORS FROM
MANY
ORGANIZATIONS***

***HEALTH
SCREENING***

***ACTIVITIES FOR
ELEMENTARY,
MIDDLE & HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS &
THEIR PARENTS!***

***LOTS OF GIVE-
AWAYS TOO!***

REMINDER

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

Family & Consumer Science Grades 9 – 12

Clothing & Textiles (Fashion Design)

Food & Nutrition

Housing & Environment (Interior Design)

Real World

Proposed New Courses

Gourmet Foods

Relationships & Parenting

Sandy Creek Food & Nutrition students have been making and donating pies to the North Country Salvation Army soup kitchen for the past 5 years. During this time, over 100 pies have been delivered to the site for the Thanksgiving holiday. Students also prepare and donate baked goods for local community fundraising events throughout the year.



Michaela Martin prepared Strawberry Chocolate Gateau for her Top Chef competition. The students prepare a dish to serve a student and faculty panel of judges as part of the Food & Nutrition class. The dishes are judged in 3 categories: Presentation, Taste, and Creativity.



At right: The Top Chef finalists for the January 2011 competition. Front row: Alyssa Snyder, Michaela Martin, (both tied for fourth place) and Brittany Valley second place. Back row: Phillip Miller third place and Patrick Williams first place Top Chef. Patrick prepared a hot beverage (Café Mocha) to win the Top Chef title.



Fashion Design students sew baby receiving blankets to donate to the Women's Crisis Center of the North Country. Students also create hand sewn and machine stitched garments and accessories as part of their course work.



7th and 8th grade Home & Careers students participate in childcare, money management & mock job interviews.

News From The School Based Health Center & The School Nurses

The Sandy Creek School Based Health Center was excited to sponsor a field trip to Albany on February 8th. The New York State School Based Health Centers Coalition held an Advocacy Day at the New York State Capitol. Seventeen senior students had the opportunity to participate in this event.

Hundreds of students from all over New York State shared their experiences with school based health at

this event. They were able to witness the award ceremony, during which legislators who have worked tirelessly in their efforts to insure health care is available for our students, were recognized and honored.



The students and chaperones then spent time meeting with Senator Patricia Ritchie's staff to lobby in support of school based health care. Then they had the honor of being introduced on the Assembly floor during the afternoon session by Assemblyman Blankenbush, Assemblyman Barclay and Assemblywoman Tenney. They warmly welcomed the students to the capitol building and educated them about the



legislative process about to occur in the Assembly chamber. The trip ended with a tour of the capitol building and a trip to the New York State Museum.



Calendar of Coming Events

March

- 3/3**, Music in Our Schools Concert @ 7:00pm - HS Gym
- 3/7**, MS/HS Progress Reports Mailed Home
- 3/8-11**, Pre-K Health Screening
- 3/10**, Board of Education Meeting @ 7:00pm
- 3/10**, First Grade Family Track Night @ 6:00pm
- 3/12**, SAT Test Date (register online or with Guidance)
- 3/15**, Dollars for Scholars applications for local awards due today.
- 3/18**, STAFF DEVELOPMENT ~ 1/2 DAY FOR STUDENTS
- 3/18-19**, Drama Club Production
- 3/22**, Booster Club Mtg. @ 6:30pm
- 3/24**, BOE Work Session @ 7:00pm
- 3/30**, Pre-K & Kindergarten Registration 12:00-6:00pm

April

- 4/1-2**, 7th-12th All-County Choral Festival @ Fulton
- 4/4**, 4th Quarter Begins
- 4/6**, MS/HS Report Cards Mailed Home
- 4/7**, 7th-12th Grade Spring Band Concert @ 7:00pm
- 4/8**, Elementary Report Cards Sent Home
- 4/8**, Rising Stars Program Ends
- 4/9**, ACT Test Date (register online or with Guidance)
- 4/14**, Board of Education Meeting @ 7:00pm
- 4/14**, Science Fair 8:00am-8:00pm
- 4/15**, 9th Grade Biology Trip to the MOST

Spanish 7 Students Spread Holiday Cheer

Spanish seven students participate in a yearly project before Christmas break as a way to say thank you to teachers that they feel inspire them. Their yearly task is to create a holiday card for a sixth or seventh grade teacher who they believe is special.



This year the students took that task very seriously and made sure that every sixth and seventh grade core teacher (and Mrs. Shirley as well) received a special dose of holiday cheer.

The students may not realize the impact that their cards had on their teachers. A quote from one middle school teacher:

“I seriously welled up about 3 times today when the cards kept flooding in...Whether they truly meant it, those cards mean the world to me.”

If a student did not have a specific teacher in mind, Mrs. Miller had arranged to deliver cards to local migrant workers who may have been feeling far from home during the holiday season.

Hooray to seventh grade! They are truly making a difference in our school community! ¡Buen Trabajo!

Coming Events Continued...

- 4/18-22**, SPRING RECESS ~ NO SCHOOL
- 4/25**, BOE Work Session @ 7:00pm
- 4/26**, Booster Club Mtg. @ 6:30pm
- May**
- 5/4-5** 3rd, 5th, 7th-8th NYS ELA Exam
- 5/4-6**, 4th & 6th NYS ELA Exam
- 5/5**, SCCS Budget Public Hearing & Board of Education Meeting @ 7:00pm
- 5/6**, Solo Festival @ Fulton MS
- 5/7**, SAT Test Date (register online or with Guidance)
- 5/7**, Solo Festival @ Fulton MS
- 5/9**, Fall Sports Sign-ups Begin
- 5/9-13**, Kindergarten Screening
- 5/12**, 3rd, 5th-8th NYS Math Exam
- 5/11-13**, 4th Grade NYS Math Exam
- 5/16**, MS/HS Progress Reports Mailed Home
- 5/16-19**, Elementary End-of-Year Testing
- 5/17**, 5th & 6th Grade Spring Band & Choral Concert @ 7:00pm
- 5/17**, Budget Vote and School Board Elections 12:00-8:00pm
- 5/19**, Fall Sports Sign-ups End
- 5/20**, STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY ~ NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- 5/20**, Kindergarten Screening for New Entrants not in our UPK
- 5/21**, Armed Forces Day
- 5/23-27**, Elementary End-of-Year Testing
- 5/24**, Booster Club Mtg. @ 6:30pm
- 5/26**, BOE Work Session @ 7:00pm
- 5/30**, Memorial Day, No School

SCCS Transportation Department

Our bus drivers train our students on bus safety on a day to day basis. They are also required to conduct Bus Safety Drills three times a year with more in-depth instruction. The most important safety tool for use on the bus is the SAFE CROSSING POSTER created by The New York State Education Department in 1984. Every school bus in the district displays a Safe Crossing Poster, for drivers to go over with students. There are four steps in the poster. They are:

Step #1 - “Check before you step” – Students should be looking out the door for passing motorists and a safe space to step before they exit the bus. **REASON:** Buses are sometimes passed on the right side by inattentive or impatient motorists. If students step off the bus without checking first, they could be hit by a passing motorist.

Step #2 – “I See the Driver, the Driver Sees Me” – Students should be looking at the driver’s face while waiting to cross in front of the bus. **REASON:** If a student can see the driver’s face, the driver should, therefore, be able to see the student, which means the child has moved out of the driver’s blind spot in front of the bus. No accident report ever indicated the driver could see the child he or she ran over.

Step #3 – “Wait For the Driver’s Signal to Cross” – Students cannot see through the school bus when looking back to see if cars are coming. The school bus driver, using all mirrors properly, is in a position to analyze what traffic is doing. It is only when the bus driver is convinced traffic is controlled that the driver gives the child the signal to cross the highway, using proper crossing procedures while doing so.

Step #4 – “Look Left, Right Then Left Again” – Students need to stop and look both ways as they cross in front of the bus. **REASON:** If students see a passing motorist early enough, they may be less likely to be hit and more likely to retreat to safety if properly taught to do so.

The Pursuit of Energy Savings Initiatives

By Chris Ouder Kirk, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds

Just a few short years ago, the Board of Education at SCCS decreed that this school district would expend time and resources to reduce overall energy usage. Since that time, the Facilities Department staff has made that end one of our top priorities. We fully understand that education is a people business and energy reduction is one of the few cost cutting opportunities that does not negatively impact people.

Energy savings opportunities are broken down into three categories: PROJECTS, PROCESS and PROCEDURE. We have completed a number of energy saving PROJECTS over the last few years. These include the addition of two new high efficiency boilers, day-lighting technology, T-5 lighting/occupancy sensors in our gymnasiums, T-8 lighting/occupancy sensors in our media center and an upgraded Energy Management System (EMS).

PROCESS improvements include things that take place during our normal maintenance activities. These can include such actions as replacing failed motors with high-efficiency/properly sized motors, replacing blown incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents and anything else that can be improved upon during our normal activities.

PROCEDURE opportunities for energy savings include the energy usage practices of all Sandy Creek school facility users and occupants. Are people turning off lights when leaving an area for more than five minutes? Do doors and windows remain closed during heating and cooling seasons? Are people turning off equipment (including computers) when not in use? Is energy use taken into account when scheduling school activities?

It was recently announced that Sandy Creek Central School, for the second year in a row, has qualified for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Energy Star Label Award. There are about forty school buildings in Oswego County. Of these, there is only one other building which has ever received this honor. More importantly, it was also announced that there was an energy use reduction at SCCS of 8.7% last year. This is a monetary savings of \$34,655.29. This is significant! We are just getting started!

With the financial situation we find ourselves in here in NYS, it is imperative that all of us be very conscious of our energy use habits. The Board of Education and our maintenance staff will continue to pursue avenues of opportunity to cut energy costs and conserve energy. We ask that everyone associated with the SCCS community do their part and contribute to this effort at every opportunity.

Finally, during this economy, energy efficiency and cost reduction efforts are a top priority all across our nation. Among the things that we have learned during our pursuits in this area, is the great shortage of energy control specialists that exists within the energy management arena. There are great opportunities for young people going into the field at this time. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me at 387-3445 x1535.



Congratulations to our teams!!

Fall Varsity New York State Scholar Athlete Teams

(combined average of 90% or better)

Football—Cheerleading—Girls Soccer—Boys Soccer—Girls Cross Country



GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER

Frontier League Sportsmanship Award Class C

GIRLS VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY

Frontier League Sportsmanship Award Class C



VARSITY CHEERLEADING

1st place at Heart of Champion Competition (JV took second place)

Frontier League C Division Champions and Section III Class C Champions,

Rachel Paige & Pat Williams Senior All-Stars at both

3d place at West Genesee Competition

Rachel Paige & Pat Williams All Stars

2d place at NYS CNY Championship



VARSITY WRESTLING

Frontier League C Champions

Individual Champions—Matt Shirley Jared Soule & Derek Pfluger

Section III Class D Champions—5th Year in a Row

Individual Champions—Jake Benedict, Matt Shirley, Derek Pfluger and Jared Soule

Section III Division II Team took Second Place — Derek Pfluger Champion



Ketch up with the Kitchen



We have plans for some new menu items coming soon in a kitchen near you. We will do samples for our students to try . Time to mix it up and try something different. I look forward to any and all comments.

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, 2011.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

Middle School Student Council has been at work already this year and raised \$245.50 from BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION, in the first half of the school year. We have also had an enormous food drive, in which we sent 14 full boxes of food to Orwell and Sandy Creek food pantries in time for Christmas to help out families, where money is tight. These events have been great and helped us and our community, but the school year is only half over and in the future we plan to keep collecting BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION. Collecting these box tops brings in a lot of money for the middle school to use. Also, we will be doing a magazine sale in the future. All these fundraisers will be great but the middle school students need some fun, right? Right, so in March, we will sponsor a middle school dance with free admission to middle school students. The date of the dance will be announced very soon. So, all in all we have had a pretty productive year and plan to be as productive, if not more productive in the second half of the school year. Submitted by your Middle School Student Council President, Zeke Durham

Dollars for Scholars

The Sandy Creek Dollars for Scholars Committee has been in existence for 26 years. The group, with help from wonderful donors, is responsible for the students of Sandy Creek Central School receiving \$10,000 in scholarships annually. There are several events that will take place throughout the spring. The general public is invited to each of these events.

The Dollars for Scholars Committee will be presenting a dessert night on March 18th at the conclusion of the Sandy Creek Drama Club musical. A portion of the proceeds from the admission to the musical will be donated to Dollars for Scholars that evening.

We are also planning our Annual phone-a-thon at the end of March. Students are volunteering to call homes and ask for assistance from our local residents. We hope you are able to give to such a good cause.

We also would like to remind people that Zumba comes to Sandy Creek Elementary Commons from 6:30-7:30pm every Tuesday and Thursday and Saturday from 9:30-10:30am. A portion of that money comes back to organizations in our school. We hope to see you at one of our events.

If you are interested in participating on the Dollars for Scholars Committee, we are always looking for more community members to help serve on our committee. Contact Jackie Hobbs, Dollars for Scholars Secretary at 232-4681 or jhobbs@sccs.cnyric.org.

**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, 2011

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!
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