

Peek at the Creek

Mark Harvey Graces SCCS's Walls

By: Olivia Ivison

APRIL 2011

In July, 2010, Mark Harvey, a beloved father, grandfather, friend, and dedicated supporter of Sandy Creek athletics, passed away. Mr. Harvey was primarily a fan of Varsity Baseball, Varsity Boys Basketball, and Varsity Cheerleading. He would cheer on the Comets, from the same corner of the bleachers, at every home game or competition. The players always felt profound comfort in his presence, and this year, his absence has been difficult on many of these players.

Students and faculty have united to remember his devotion, and to dedicate the well-known seat on the bleachers to Mr. Harvey. The dedicated section is to be called, "Harvey Heights," and Mr. Scoville has drawn up a sketch of a mural, to paint on the wall. The memorial is hoped to be completed very

soon, and though this dedication cannot even begin to measure up to the everlasting support that Mark Harvey demonstrated to our school. It will however, reassure the players, family members, and friends of Mr. Harvey, that he is still looking down on them, playing their game.



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Wrestling by Marie Mason

The Sandy Creek Varsity wrestling team finished out their season with a Frontier League Championship in hand. Wrestlers that took home first place winnings in the league were Jared Soule, Derek Pfluger, Jacob Halsey, and Matt Shirley. The team finished with an overall league record of 8-3. They also won the Class D sectional tournament, and were second in section 3 overall. The team sent three wrestlers to con-

"The team sent three wrestlers to continue on to the State wrestling tournament including: Matt Shirley, Jared Soule, and Derek Pfluger."

tinue on to the State wrestling tournament including, Matt Shirley, Jared Soule, and Derek Pfluger. The team rounded out their season with an overall record of 17-7. Even though numerous seniors will need to be replaced, there are many young wrestlers who are ready to step up to ensure continued success

of the Sandy Creek Wrestling program.



Boys Basketball by Ryan King

The boy's basketball teams, Varsity and Junior Varsity, achieved great success this season, thanks to hard work and fortitude. Although often facing very talented schools, both teams had an impressive win-loss record. The Junior Varsity Team consisted of Dallas Miller, Tyler Swarouth, Reese Harding, Cameron Hall, Ivan Grossman, Corey Reff, and Shane Potter. The Varsity Team members were John Shirley, Alex Howland, John Worden, Jarrett Luberto, Jake Hanley, Abe Robbins, Shane Scullen, Josh Bradberry, Avery Barney, and Caleb Ward. The top scoring players were Shane Scullen, Jake Hanley, John Worden, and Josh Bradberry.

Girls Basketball by Ryan King

This season the girl's basketball teams used their motivation and perseverance to work their way closer to their first win. The Junior Varsity team consisted of Sierra Steele, Elizabeth Sedore, Mykayla Howlett, Hannah Caufield, Miranda Worns, Joelle LaRock and Peyton Miller. The Varsity team players were Amber Bonney, Ashley Bonney, Juliana Godfrey, Alyssa Akey, Toni Grey, Jordan Miller, and Danielle Carter. The top scoring players for the Varsity teams were Toni Grey and Julianna Godfrey.



Volleyball by Chelsea Claflin



The Sandy Creek girl's volleyball team finished their season strong with a record of 12 wins and 7 losses. The team pulled together and placed second in the Frontier League and lost a hard fought battle with Beaver River; finishing second in the Frontier playoffs also. Some of the season highlights were giving Beaver River their first loss of the season and beating the always tough Belleville-Henderson in 5 games. Next year looks promising for the girls; although the loss of the 4 seniors will have a great impact. Leaving the team will be both outside hitters Rachel Pretory and Marie Mason. Kaylin Switzer and Kelsey Darou are the other two seniors that we will be without next season; Switzer a setter and Darou a hitter. The team's Frontier League all-stars were Rachel Pretory, Marie Mason, and Victoria White. With the whole teams contribution the comets were able to finish their very long season in the semi-final sectional game at Herkimer College, the game was lost to the undefeated Dolgeville team for 2 seasons straight. None of this could have been done without the support of the parents and fans, and a special thanks to the Fantastic Five. Great job ladies, best of luck next year!

Cheerleading by Rachel Paige

Ms. VanOrnum coaches Varsity Basketball Cheerleading. The team had four seniors Tania Sergis, Brooke Thomas, Rachel Paige and Patrick Williams. Juniors were Michaela Mothersell, Karina DeCarolis, Torrie Edwards, Maria Rice, Sarah Tyrrell and Samantha Densmore. Sophomores were Emily Calabria, Karen Castor, and Cori Pandolfi. Freshmen were Val Kampff and Clarice Thibault. On eighth grade were Alicia Page and Sami Pandolfi and our only sixth grader was Jasmin Williams. The team competed at General Brown Heart of a Champion, the Frontier League

Competition, and Section 3 Competition; taking first place at all of them. They also competed at West Genesee's Sweet Heart Classic, taking 3rd place. They finished off the season at the NYS Championship taking 2nd by only one point. Senior All-stars at the Frontier League and Section 3 Competitions were Rachel Paige and Patrick Williams. Furthermore, senior all-stars were Rachel Paige and Patrick Williams, and a junior all-star was awarded to Torrie Edwards at the Sweet Heart Classic. The team would like to thank everyone for the great support through



Modified Wrestling by Jake Benedict

This year the Comets modified wrestling team underwent a coaching swap, returning to Sandy Creek was coaching legend Mr. Roy Hunt. There were many young men that joined the team with little or no wrestling experience, but by the end of the season, were able to learn the sport and be successful at the same time. Great job guys, keep up the hard work next year.

Modified Basketball by Jake Benedict

The boys modified basketball was coached by Bill Fowler. Under the coaching change the Comets had their sights on a successful season. Leading their season was 7th grader Zach Akey and 8th grader Tyler Doe. Congratulations on a strong season. The girls modified basketball was coached by Ben Archibee. This was a growing season for the girls. Although they weren't able to muster up a win, they further developed their game skills. Good luck next year ladies!

Nintendo By Russell Levack

The Gameboy, the DS, the Wii. Nintendo has certainly been responsible for some of the most revolutionary advances in the gaming industry, but just where did it all start? Nintendo's long standing career can be traced back to the Nintendo Entertainment System. Did you know that the Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) was first called the Famicon, but the name and appearance

were changed as the product came to the United States. Some of the games that you could play on this new system could be Metroid, The Legend of Zelda, or Super Mario Brothers. Another interesting fact about Nintendo was that the character Mario was first known as Jumpman, however, his name was changed to that of the landlord of the Nintendo American subsidiary, Mario. The trek of the NES was

finally brought to an end in 1995 when production was halted.

Information provided by "Nintendo Entertainment System Documentation Version 1.0 August 2004"-Patrick Diskin



3DS Creates a New Dimension in the Gaming World by Steven Radford

Nintendo has developed into one of the largest video game companies in the world by continually creating new, innovative ways people can play video games. One of these cutting-edge devices is the Nintendo DS, a handheld console that utilized a touchscreen to play games. Touchscreens have been placed in various technological gadgets like phones, cameras, and MP3 players. Now that touchscreen technology is more common, Nintendo once again finds a way to change the way we play videos games by announcing the Nintendo 3DS. Like the name implies, the 3DS allows the person playing to view 3D images on the screens; however, it does **not** require 3D glasses. This is an entirely new handheld console, meaning there will be games made specifically for the 3DS following its release; however, the 3DS is still compatible with all original Nintendo DS games. Some of the various new features of the system are a pair of cameras that can take 3D pictures. It also has an analog button to improve the movement in games; however, the directional pad is still present. A built-in motion sensor detects the motion of the system; therefore, players can move and rotate the 3DS and the game will respond (for example, controlling an aircraft in the game by rotating the 3DS). Additionally, the 3DS will have improved Wi-Fi and internet connection, which leads to the creation of a marketplace on the 3DS where you can buy and download classic Game Boy and Game Boy Color games. The final product is expected to be released on March 27 at \$250. More information about the 3DS will be released as we get closer to the launch of the new system. Source: www.kotaku.com & www.nintendo.com

Super Capacitors by Russell Levack

Have you ever forgot to charge your phone so when you go to turn it on later, the battery is dead? In the future, such fate may not even be an inconvenience, with the use of super capacitors. The batteries which we use now run on the idea of changing chemical energy from batteries into electrical energy, which we use to run our electronics. When we charge our batteries, we are changing the electrical energy from a power outlet into chemical energy in the battery, to be used later. Super capacitors, however, hold their energy through the use of nano diamonds and conductive plates. What essentially happens is that scientists take nanodiamonds and layer them until they can function as an insulating barrier between two plates, which can be used to hold a charge. The jist of it is that super capacitors will be able to hold much more electricity than conventional chemical batteries and will be able to charge up extremely fast.

Article from Discovery News,

Written By: Eric Bland



Apple by Steven Radford



On September 1, 2010, Steve Jobs, co-founder and chief executive officer of Apple, unveiled the new line of Apple iPods and other Apple products such as an improved Apple TV and Ping, the iTunes version of social networking, where you can be friends with other users who display their music tastes, what concerts they are going to, and the music they have purchased on iTunes. Ping is similar to Facebook in that there are status updates based on what you do in the iTunes Store. You must have iTunes 10 in order to use Ping. Among the new iPod models was the iPod Touch 4, an enhanced version of the old iPod Touch that includes two cameras. One for recording video and taking photos and the other for FaceTime, a feature that allows iPhone and iPod Touch 4 users to make video calls. The new iPod Touch also has a higher resolution display, meaning pictures and words can be viewed in higher quality. The prices of the iPod Touch range between \$229 and \$399. Another model shown was the touch-screen iPod Nano 6; the click-wheel has been removed. This iPod Nano is nearly half the size of its predecessor. It has FM-radio and photo display; however, unlike the iPod Nano 5, the new model does not take videos, view videos, have a built-in speaker, or record audio. Although videos cannot be viewed on the new model, audio from music videos and video podcasts can still be listened to. The 8 GB model is \$149 and the 16 GB model is \$179. The new iPod Shuffle 4 combines the features of both the first and second generation models of the Shuffle. Plus, the new model is much smaller than its predecessor. The 2 GB version is \$49..

Source: www.apple.com

Opinion by Rachel Pretory

When in search of a topic for my first opinion article of the year, I struggled to find an idea to discuss that I found both intriguing and appropriate. As a result, I turned to an area that involves both students and staff directly. Therefore, for this edition the question is, “Is too much emphasis placed on grades in today’s educational system?” It is in my opinion, that often time’s grades are weighted too heavily on determining a student’s success or failure. For example, it seems that everything from scholarships to privileges, passing and failing a class, and extra mandatory study sessions are based merely upon a number grade. While there are many arguments in favor of strict grade determining success, some simple student behaviors are often forgotten. I offer the idea of a student’s success involving more than a grade, perhaps room for attitude, participation, attendance, and overall work ethic. In response to some critics of this idea, I bring some actual examples to the table. I begin to take into account the student who is placed in a required study period because they achieved a 74.4 rather than a 74.5, a difference that would land them among the students who got to enjoy a relaxed study hall instead. I believe that a simple number divide such as this, can hinder a student who only earned a fraction of a point lower than another. Also, I would like to shed light on another area. While in our district a “passing grade” is a 65, should a student who does all of their work and consistently seeks help only to come up just shy with a 64.4 fail, while another who does the bare minimum and earns far less than they are capable of pass? Unfortunately, this is more commonly than not the case in our grading system. It is with these ideas in mind, that I can firmly answer the question with a yes, I believe too much emphasis is placed on grades. Now, I leave you with my opinion and encourage all to reevaluate your idea of a student’s success and whether or not a simple grade can be the determining factor.

Talent Show By Jessica Pedersen

February 12th, 2011, Sandy Creek held one of the greatest nights of the year, the talent show. Everyone that participated in the talent show did very well. In the end, the ballots read, Jona Maloof in third with her fantastic voice, Marie Mason in second place with an Irish dance, and in first place the band, A.E.D consisting of Chad Lyons, Zac Birdslow, Ethan Birdslow, and Patrick Youker. Everyone in the talent show put forth great effort, it would not have been the same without their time and help. Congratulations to all who participated and keep your talents practiced for next year!



Chorus by Amelia Yousey



As many of you know, we at Sandy Creek have a new chorus teacher, Mrs. Kinney. Mrs. Kinney was talking to the chorus the other day, because we realized that in our high school chorus, every single one of our extremely talented boy singers is a senior, except for maybe 3, tops, lonely sophomores. Ah! That means next year, we will have very few experienced singers. The only other male singers would be any current 8th grade singer, which are illusive and rare. So, anyone reading this should really consider joining chorus. Perhaps you think chorus is just singing boring group songs. Well, I won't lie to you, we sing boring Christmas songs for the Christmas concert. It is simply necessary. However, for our spring concert, we will have much more variety. Beyond that, our high school has a Show Choir! Our Show Choir performs an even wider variety of music, which is often a bit more complex. We are even performing some modern songs, for example, songs from the popular show Glee! Maybe you think that you're just too talented for our little school choir. Well, first off, you are mistaken. Secondly, you can use high school choir as an opportunity to attempt to make it into higher choruses, county and even state wide. At any age, you can audition for All-State Chorus, and if you make it, the director mails the music to every other student who auditioned and was qualified to be a part of the choir. Then, with the music teacher, you and any other student who made it practices the music whenever you have time. The day before the concert, you go to the school were the concert is being held (sometimes you get out of school!) and work for several hours with the conductor and every other talented musician who's in All County with you. The next day, you rehearse some more, and then give the concert. The shows are always amazing, and extremely fun!! And All State is just the beginning! If you wish, and it's highly recommended by myself, you can perform a NYSSMA solo. (NYSSMA stands for New York State School Music Association). When you are a level 1 through 4, you sing mainly for practice and personal accomplishment. However, when you sing a level 5 or 6, you are auditioning for All State Chorus! Every NYSSMA is the same, you perform your song for a judge, who writes on paper constructive criticism, and sight sing a short line of music. Levels 1 through 4 are on a scale of 1 to 28, and levels 5 and 6 and scored up to 100. If you perform well on your level 5 or 6 solo, you may make it into Area All State Chorus, which is similar to All County, except the singers are more talented and the music is more challenging. The singers are also from several counties. If you perform outstandingly, you may make it into Concert All State, which is every single amazing musician from the entire state! If you are super amazing, you may make it into East Coast State! Every single choir is very competitive and difficult to get into. So, if you'd like a challenge, I recommended auditioning for the talented groups. In conclusion, I would really like to ask each and every person who was dedicated to continue reading to the end of my article to consider joining chorus. All you would give up is a study hall, every other day, and the benefits far outweigh that small sacrifice. Music helps people express themselves, and just the other day my math teacher and I were commenting about the links between music and math. Furthermore, if you are one who likes a physical challenge, then take it from me- singing is exhausting!

Drama Production by Joe Lupa

This year's Sandy Creek Drama Production is flashing back to the Fifties. Thanks to the new chorus director, Mrs. Sandy Kinney, the choreographer, Jason Bumpus, the directors Ms. Sue Bitz and Mrs. Valerie Marshall, and the determination of the students, the musical impressed even the most critical people. The performance took place on March 18th and 19th. Both nights the cast put on great performances and were greeted by applause for the inventive choreography and the moving vocal harmonies that accompanied the play. Many people were heard humming the music days after the performance was over. The lead roles in the play were Kelsey Darou as Gracie Stanley, Jacob Halsey as George Bullock, Sarah Tyrrell as Muffin Mansfield, Zach Lehman as Sinbad and his beatniks Roxie and Misty, Amelia Yousey and Eloise Thibault, and Dylan Gilman as the rock-and-roll star Ziggy Springer. Great job to everyone involved! Thank you to Ms. Bitz for allowing the use of her room, as well as the make-up ladies for getting everyone putting on such a great performance.



The Roots of Music by Joey Cambareri

Do you enjoy listening to music? Well you are not the only one. Your flowers may find it even more stimulating than you. If you have ever watched Mythbusters then you may know just what I'm referring to. Different studies have shown that some music can not only help plants to grow faster, but also can keep away insects that are harmful to the plants. Do plants really have a taste of music? While odd, it may be the truth. Plants show increased growth when exposed to classical music, but are adversely affected when rock music is played. So just how does this work? Scientists have not found the exact answer to this, but think it may have to do with sound waves stimulating the plant. So the next time you're out pruning your petunias maybe think about listening to a little Beethoven, or Bach.

Courtesy of Mythbusters, Discovery.com



Mrs. Shirley **by Brett Wolfe**



The Middle School has welcomed a new Principal this year, Mrs. Shirley. Our own Brett Wolfe sat down with her and this is what she had to say:

“I decided to become the middle school coordinator after our principal, Mrs. Shelmidine, left. I had just finished my Administrative Degree at LeMoyne College and it was important to me and other teachers that we keep the middle school concept going strong. It is going well so far this year. I learn something new every day. The transition into this new position has been very smooth due to the support of wonderful administrators and staff. The students and their families here at Sandy Creek are great to work with.

I started here at Sandy Creek in 1984 as a special education teacher. I went into this field because I wanted to work with children, especially those with disabilities. After working in both elementary and middle school, I felt that I truly enjoyed middle school the most. During the past fifteen years I have worked very closely with Mrs. Burns and others to promote inclusion of all students with disabilities. I have also enjoyed co-teaching at both the 6th and 7th grade levels.

My favorite part of my job is the students. I've had the privilege of getting to know so many students and have found something special and unique about each one.”

.Meet the Artist by Elizabeth Houck and Elosie Thibault

Many of you know him as that kid who break-dances, runs really fast, and is a crazy good artist, but who is this artist, and what exactly does an artist do? A recent interview shows insight to the life of our very own student artist, Cody Lee Donahue, a junior here at Sandy Creek.

Age: 16

Do you have a favorite subject to draw?

“Not really, I like to draw anything that is inspiring or means something to me.”

What inspires many of your artworks?

“My biggest inspiration is my brother (Shane M. Donohue). I try to stay inside the boundaries of what is happening in my life.”

What type of artwork do you enjoy doing?

“I love to draw with pencil, but also love to paint. Some of my work is mixed media, including many mediums.”

What is your favorite color?

“Blue.”

Do you have any recent projects?

“In my recent projects, I have been experimenting with things that are going on in my life. Recently, I have been making my artwork very rendered (very detailed).”

Do you have any plans in a future in art?

“Yes, I am planning on pursuing art by going to college, hopefully Cooper Union, and then do art until I die.”

Cody says, “Whatever your dream is, don’t let anyone stop you.” One of his inspiring quotes is, “The only one stopping you is you.”



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Quotes of Benjamin Franklin:

- ~Admiration is the daughter of ignorance.
- ~Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain and most fools do.
- ~Eat to please thyself, but dress to please others.
- ~I guess I don't mind being old, as I mind being fat and old.
- ~I wake up every morning at nine and grab for the morning paper. Then I look at the obituary page. If my name is not on it, I get up.
- ~Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late.

Found by Zach Lehman

Correction, *Our sincerest apologies:*

In our 2007 Senior Edition of "Peek at the Creek", the editorial staff made an error. The front cover of the newspaper featured a send-off by the editors. In this send-off, they included a poem called "The Dash". Unfortunately, this poem was mistakenly considered an anonymously authored poem. The fact of the matter is that it does have an author, Ms. Linda Ellis. The staff of "Peek at the Creek" wishes to extend our sincerest apologies to Ms. Ellis for this oversight and fully credit her for her work.