

PEEK AT THE CREEK

● SPRING 2011

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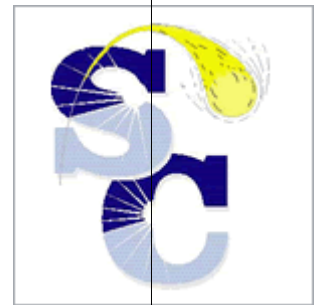
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A Letter from the Editors:

For this edition we worked very diligently to produce this work. We hope everyone greatly enjoys this paper, and is inspired to write and learn more. As summer quickly approaches, it's easy to catch a case of senioritis or slack on work. We just want to give you a positive push towards surviving until the end of the year!



MODIFIED BASEBALL BY JAKE BENEDICT

With a season opener victory in extra innings the outlook for the modified baseball team was very promising. This was nothing new, in his 8 years coaching, Mr. Benedict has coached two undefeated teams, including last years teams.



Coach Benedict plans to improve the baseball program by getting more involvement in the off season with camps and clinics.

The boys are led by captains Zach Halsey, Matt Ennist, Tyler Doe, and Kyle Fayette. Short term goals for the team are to develop fundamental skills, help each individual become a better

baseball player, keep players academically eligible, and most importantly, make sure the players have a positive experience in modified baseball. In the future,

MODIFIED SOFTBALL BY JAKE BENEDICT

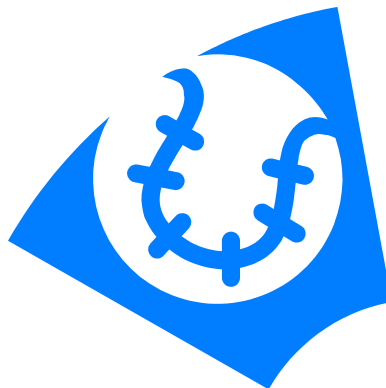
An accurate way to describe our modified softball team is how Coach Trudell stated it, "We have an impressive group of young female athletes." This is no surprise, seeing as Sandy Creek Softball has been, and will continue to be a well known powerhouse in New York State. This success stems from fundamental skills that are taught at the modified level.

The Comets lost there season opener in a very close game, the score being 16-13, but the girls will pile up the wins as they continue to improve throughout the season.

This is one major rea-

son that Coach Trudell enjoys coaching, especially at the modified level. She also focuses on positive character traits, team building, and good sportsmanship. This will be her first and last year officially coaching modified softball because she does not want to miss out on her son's sporting

events. But don't worry, she will undoubtedly be seen at the softball fields putting her two cents in to help out the girls.



MODIFIED BOYS TRACK BY JAKE BENEDICT

The modified boys track team is small this year, having only 7 boys on the team. Jacob O'Grady is the only 9th grader, and Jacob Cornell is the only 8th grader. 7th graders include Zeke Durham, Alex Vanry, Christian Luszczynski, Donavan Smith, and Troi Harrington. Their first was on May 2nd.

"The boys are excited to finally get on a track and test their skills. Jacob Cornell and Jacob O'Grady are the only return runners. The sea-

son should be fun, although the team will not score well against the other teams seeing as we just don't have enough boys to enter all the events. We should do well in the high jump, long jump, 100 meter dash, disc, and the 1500 meter run." stated Coach Pelton.



MODIFIED GIRLS TRACK BY JAKE BENEDICT

The girls had their season opener on May 5th. Modified Track includes grades 7-9 because of the fact that there is not a JV team for this sport. The standout leaders are Liz Sedore, Richelle Ranieri and Shanli Weir. Jami Perkins will also be an athlete to watch. Jami is a 7th grader who ran the mile in under 6 minutes, 5:59 to be exact! That is really fast!

This is Coach Presleys 4th season developing talent at the modified level in order to build a successful varsity squad. She has planned out a strong season, especially in the long distance runs. In the



future her goal is to expand the team to be able to compete in all 15 events. Good luck ladies, run fast and keep up the hard work!

MEET THE TEACHER BY ELOISE THIBAUT AND ELIZABETH HOUCK

Mrs. Kinney teaches both chorus and music in middle and high school, and since she is new to Sandy Creek as of this year, there are still many things that people don't know about her. That's why we came up with a variety of questions in an interview that may help you get to know Mrs. Kinney:

Where did you go to school?

-Oswego High School and Ithaca College.

What made you decide to go into the music field?

-My father played trumpet, my mother played clarinet, my brother played trumpet, my sister played clarinet, and my brother told me to play saxophone. It was destined to be.



How many years have you been teaching?

-I stopped counting after 14. Over 14.

What is your favorite thing about teaching?

-Everything!

What is your favorite thing about Sandy Creek?

-I love the fact that this is a small community that comes together in times of need.

What are some of your interests and hobbies outside of school?

-Cooking, gardening, and kick-ball games with my family.

What is your favorite song/artist?

-Michael Bublé, for the time being. This frequently changes.

What is your favorite color?

-Red.

What is your favorite animal?

-Cats are my favorite animal, but I do not have any. (My husband is allergic.)

What is your favorite sport?

-Baseball. NY Yankees!

What is your greatest inspiration?

-My parents – they always pushed me to do better. Now I live by that "rule".

What is your favorite quote?

-“Just keep going straight.” – Dylan



Gilman

What are your goals in life?

-To raise two amazing kids and have a positive effect on thousands of students.

Is there anything else that people should know about you?

-I have a very dry, sarcastic type of humor. Also, I have performed with the "Four Tops" and the "Temptations". (Saxophone – Harborfest)

We hope this helps to give you more background on our new teacher! Mrs. Kinney has been doing a fantastic job, and we all hope that she feels happy and welcome working here at Sandy Creek. She's already made a huge impact on the students here, and is sure to reach her goal of influencing many more over the years.

MEET THE STUDENT BY OLIVIA IVISON AND CHELSEA CLAFLIN

Henrik Söderström, this year's foreign exchange student from Sweden, is a tall and rather quiet 19 year-old, who I'm sure many of you have seen walking through our halls. Others may have recognized him out on the soccer field, as one of our all-stars on the Boys Varsity Soccer team this past fall. Our recent interview with Henrik revealed stories of his life back home in Sweden, his opinions of Sandy Creek, and details of the transitions he had to make when coming to our country.

Do you like living here in Sandy Creek?

-Yes, it has been very fun. I've made a lot of friends. It's so much different though because I lived in a big city at home, and there is nothing here. *chuckles*

If you lived in a big city, I'm guessing the school is also very large. How much bigger is it in comparison to the size of Sandy Creek?

-My school has about 800 people in each grade. So much, much bigger.

How else is our school different than your school in Sweden?

-Honestly, at my school at home we could leave whenever we wanted. There are not so many rules. *laughs*

Was it hard to transition?

-Yes, very. It was hard to learn the language, and I didn't know what anyone was saying the first couple months I was here. We take English



Henrick and his friend Tim.

in school in Sweden, but that's not nearly enough to come here and immediately pick it up.

Were you scared coming to a different country not even knowing much of the native language?

-I was really nervous.

How is soccer different here than in Sweden?

-There aren't any school sports at my school. If you want to play, you join a community team. And the game is more advanced; we play constantly year round. I have been playing soccer since I was 6 years old.

Who are your favorite teachers?

-I really like Ms. Bitz and Mr. Halsey. Fergie is really funny, too.

What is your favorite thing about America?

-The fast food. I'm gaining weight in this country. *laughs*

And last, but not least because I'm sure everyone is wondering. Is it true that there are not Swedish Fish in Sweden?

-Yes, I've never seen them before I came here.

BAND WANTS YOU! BY JOE CAMBARERI AND DEANNA BULEY

With another school year coming to a close, you are probably wondering about next year's schedule. If you have too many study halls, a healthy dose of musical ability, and not enough fun, then joining band is the thing to do! Not only do you get into B-Lunch, with all the cool kids, but you also get the rewarding experience of being directed by Mr. Thomas Artini.

By joining band, you can not only get your fine art credits, **NEEDED** to graduate, but also the chance to express yourself through music. There are many different instruments to choose from, but by far the best, from a completely unbiased standpoint, is the brass section. This includes, trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, and tuba. If those don't suit your taste, do not fret, there are other choices for you! Another spectacular option is the woodwind section, which consists of flutes, clarinets, and saxophones. If, heaven forbid, these instruments still do not appeal to your interests, we have one more section just for you! If you like to bash things together loudly, then you may fit in with the rest of our already amazing percussion section.

What other benefits are there from joining band? Well, you don't have to do just concert band. You can also join fusion band, marching band, and different instrument ensembles. Besides those things, if you want to show off your musical talents even more, then you can audition for All County, All State, or even perfect a solo by yourself for NYSSMA.

When you participate in marching band or color guard, this also makes you eligible to go on an annual 2-day trip to various cities and theme parks around the country. Such exciting adventures include trips to Cedar Point, which contains the fastest rollercoaster in the U.S., a trip to Salem where witches were eliminated and Hershey Park, where you can buy a 5 pound bar of chocolate. So if any of this interests in anyway, then maybe band is just the thing for you!



Google SAVES THE DAY! BY AMELIA YOUSEY

As many of you have heard, Egypt is in a state of turmoil. Thousands of people were protesting the oppressive government that was in power. The protest was set in Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt, and remained peaceful when the government sent in secret police disguised as thugs to attempt to turn the protest violent. At the end of January, the government shut down the internet, cell phone service was turned off, the television showed mainly propaganda, and there was no news informing the public about the protesters.

This was all because the

government did not want people to know about the upheaval that were going on. Google, Twitter, and a company Google owns called SayNow, conceived an imaginative plan to help the protesters spread the word about their actions. Google's blog informed the public that anyone can compose a tweet without connection to the internet, by using a phone (landlines included) to dial one of several international phone numbers and leave a voicemail. That voicemail was immediately transposed into a tweet (using the hashtag #egypt). The protesters used the landlines to tweet about the protests, (internet and cell phones were shut off, and

the television was controlled by the government), and word quickly spread all over Egypt and across the world!

This is a perfect example of why freedom of the press so important. If not for the ingenious people who, first off made tweeting possible without internet and secondly, for the people who used the resources to spread the word, it's highly possible nobody would have known about what happened at Tahrir Square. Egypt is changing, hopefully for the better, and it is all thanks to the world wide web. Thank you, Google, Twitter, and SayNow.

Information courtesy of Larry Magid at www.huffingtonpost.com.
Image courtesy of <http://www.google.com>

JUDGMENT BY JOE LUPA

Everyone makes judgments. We all look at people and say, "Eww, he or she's different!". We all wonder, "What is with the way they dress?". Everyone complains about the sound of someone's voice, or hate on a friends skin problems. Sadly, it's typical for the average teenager to say hateful things about their peers. Please try to note that it does come to the point were we, as a community, need to stop judging people for what they look or sound like, and accept them for who they are.

Please know that this is not another mushy 'Don't Judge A Book By Its' Cover' rant. Look around at your classmates. Right now. Tell me, what do you see? Are you grouping peers by how you perceive them? Judging people on their 'intelligence', determined by the

grades for that class? Rating them in any way?

We all do it, even if you don't notice. There is nothing majorly wrong with the fact that you do it, however, it is wrong to act upon those thoughts, to hurt people, separate or ignore them for differences that make them unique, use words and crude names to exponentiate their differences as an insult. It's true that some names are good for a laugh, but most are just plain hurtful.

I will not be a hypocrite, I will tell you right now, I myself have judged people. I admit it. I am sorry to anyone I have ever offended. Even more so, I am sorry for those that passed judgment and never realized how great people are for their differences. I am sorry for those

who never apologized. I realize that most people reading this will finish and think, "Wow, what a crock!". However, to those of you that read this and apologize to someone, or perhaps next time think before judging, I thank you. I thank you for trying to make SCCS a school that people will want to visit, live, and realize what we have to offer.

THE TECH DEPARTMENT BY RUSSELL LEVACK

Have you ever had any pressing questions regarding the school's technology division, such as what they do, or what they have planned? Thanks to the folks at the tech department we can hopefully shed a little light on those inquiries. To begin with, one might wonder what the most common problem they get called on to fix. According to Chas Worden the most common problem they have to fix is changing out the ink cartridges in printers.

Speaking of getting called on to fix things, Chas stated that about 75 percent of his day is spent going around fixing peoples' computer errors. That sounds like a lot of walking! Of course it depends on the day. The largest problem that they have had to fix in the past was a main server failure. It occurred just last summer and wreaked havoc

for a couple of weeks. "Main server failure", that just sounds nasty! Thankfully they were not only able to solve the problem, but even keep the network running during that time! That is impressive. Now here is some universal advice from the tech department. First, make sure you read things before you click on them. Second, don't run more than one anti-virus program at the same time, and

lastly, beware of emails from unknown senders. All good advice, which I hope everyone heeds.

When asked about any new upgrades for the school, I was told that we actually run on a three year rotation with BOCES, and that we are going to replace printers, monitors, computers, etc., totaling around 350 machines! That's a lot of technology. In conclusion, after learning about what happens behind the doors of the tech department, I hope we are all more appreciative of what they do for us, and more confident in their abilities.



Chas: The man, the myth, the legend.

Information courtesy of the Tech Department.

TECH GEAR FOR COLLEGE BY STEVEN RADFORD

College is the next step forward for most of you seniors. While these gadgets aren't necessary for college, they sure are helpful.

Noise-Cancelling/Closed Headphones

If you're living in a dorm, the chances of you studying in peace and quiet are slim to none. Many college students will be blasting their speakers and doing their business in a rambunctious fashion. Noise-cancelling and closed headphones help isolate you from outside interference so that you don't have to deal with the annoyance of your surroundings. Looking online, you'd be shocked to see headphones that are out of your price range. However, you don't need to shell out hundreds of dollars for good blockage of noise, because if music is playing, any noise-cancelling or closed headphones should suffice without the need to increase the volume of your music.

Image: <http://c1.adoctane.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Sennheiser-HD-202-II-Professional-Closed-Dynamic-Bass-Headphones-650x775.jpg>



Pulse Smartpen

This is not just a pen; oh, it's much more than that. This pen can record over 400 hours of audio, depending on its memory, which can be useful for recording lectures. The infrared camera on the pen actually records the notes you've written or drawn. It also has an LED screen to view the Smartpen's applications and the runtime of the recordings you've saved. Additionally, with the Smartpen package, you get a notebook specifically designed for it. Its USB connector also allows you to transfer recordings and notes to your computer.



Information courtesy of <http://www.livescribe.com/en-us/> Image: <http://www.psfk.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/07/pulse-smartpen.jpg>

Sonic Bomb Alarm Clock with Bed Shaker

Yes, you read the title correctly; this actually shakes your bed. But that's not the only exceptional thing about it. You can change the volume on the alarm to over 100 decibels, which is about as loud as a jackhammer! If you don't need this rude awakening every morning though, you can change the settings on the alarm to only buzz, only shake the bed, or a combination the two.

Information courtesy of <http://www.thinkgeek.com/homeoffice/lights/8f1a/>
Image: http://www.thinkgeek.com/images/products/zoom/sonic_boom_clock.jpg



MS. MILLER'S BUSINESS CLASSES BY ALICIA MAHANEY

Next year, Ms. Miller will be offering the class of Math 4 Success a course that will teach and prepare students for real world interactions, such as checking, investing, credit, loans, taxes, college, purchasing a house car, and insurance.

Do you want excitement and pure fun? Video Game Design I is a class that teaches students about video game development and what goes into making different games for various systems. This class will also give students the chance to design their own game and create levels for it. Video Game Design II is a course that goes more in depth of how to create 3-D animation and graphics. To take this class, you must take Video Game Design I first.

Another class being offered is Career and Financial Management. This class will assist students in figuring out where they see

themselves in the near future. This class will also lay out the process of setting goals and how to achieve those goals.

Additionally, another course offered is Web Page Design and Development I. This class will teach students the 'do's and don'ts' of creating a web page all of your own.

If you are interested in owning your business in the near future, then So You Want to Own a Business is the class for you. In this class, students will learn how to manage money, advertising, employee issues, short and long term planning, and promotions.

The last class being offered is Technology & Multimedia Communications. Students in this class will learn the skills of being a dynamic communicator. Students will also learn how to use the different

software programs, including Power Point, Desktop Publishing, Adobe Photoshop, and Moviemaker. This class could potentially assist with you classes for high school, college, employment, or a business you own.

So if any of these classes interest you and you'd like to take one, see your guidance counselor, and make sure to sign up right away!



THE SCIENCE FAIR BY LIZ SEDORE

On April 14th, Sandy Creek's elementary students showed off their scientific knowledge in the elementary commons area. Many students buzzed around excitedly as volcanoes exploded, chicks peeped, and bats slept during the light of day. There were numerous hands-on exhibits where you could touch or create things. For example, there was a station where you could make Elmer's slime! On top of this excitement, there were also pumpkins growing, a hamster or two, and a second grade teacher in a chicken costume! Our



own Science Olympiad Team had a few exhibits, one of them was even about the science of music! The Science Olympiad Team also helped out where hands were short, which the Science Fair's helpers greatly ap-

preciated. The Science Fair's organizers were overjoyed with the turnout of all of the exhibits, and would like to thank everyone who participated. They hope to see you next year!

MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS BY BRETT WOLFE

For this school year, the middle school has gone a variety of different interesting field trips. The 7th graders recently attended Dune Fest, a program put on by the Ontario Dune Coalition to educate middle school classes about dune conservation and preservation. The students spent the day at Southwick Beach State Park to gain firsthand knowledge about the dunes.

Apart from Dune Fest, the 8th graders are going on their annu-



al trip to the Seabreeze amusement park in Rochester NY. There the students will get their thrills on everything from roller coasters to water slides. Because of the students' diligent fundraising, the trip will be completely free to attend. The 8th graders have been fundraising all the way from 6th grade to pay for the trip.

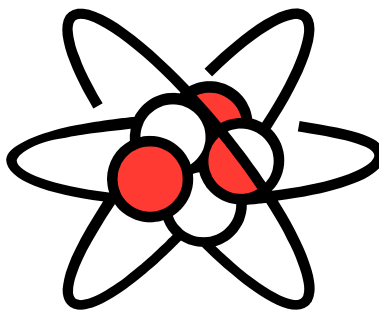
Information courtesy of <http://www.co.oswego.ny.us/planning/emc/2010%20state%20of%20the%20environment.pdf>

PHYSICS BY AMELIA YOUSEY

Hello, my fellow students! Has anyone ever considered taking physics? Personally, I consider it a very enriching choice, mainly because we are taking an educational field trip to Darien Lake soon. Why would one take an educational trip to an amusement park? Well, because roller coasters would not exist without physics!

Other reasons to take physics as a science is that it will greatly help you understand math because math suddenly becomes more applicable. Also, it will help prepare you for any physics classes you must take in college. Of course, it's a credit towards graduating. It aids you in understanding how the world works. Simple formulas that seem to mean nothing will all of a sudden help you realize why if you were to drop a piano and a pebble from a window, they'd land on the ground at the exact same time, if you negate friction due to air re-

sistance that is. That's the best part about physics from an academic viewpoint, the fact that if there's something annoying in your work, you can just ignore it. For example, if you're dealing with circles and need to use pi, why actually use 3.14159265(etc)? You can round it to three! Genius! Or if there are things that complicate your life, just make them nice easy numbers, such as 10 or 0. It's great!



Now I understand that this article is flamboyantly nerdy, how-

ever, I hope that each and every one of you at least takes a moment to weigh the benefits of taking physics as a science class (if you're going to be a senior next year, or perhaps some juniors). The pros are: roller coasters, graduation credits, preparation for college learning, nice math, and random outbursts of knowledge that make you sound either very intelligent or very nerdy... The cons: taking another class, occasional homework, random outbursts of knowledge that make you sound either very intelligent or very nerdy. So please, consider it at least for a moment.

POEMS AND QUOTES

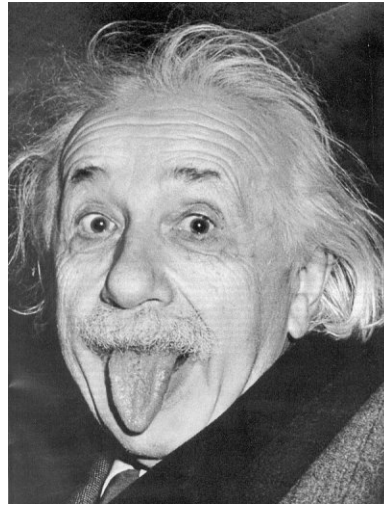
Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein

There is a place where the sidewalk ends
And before the street begins,
And there the grass grows soft and white,
And there the sun burns crimson bright,
And there the moon-bird rests from his flight
To cool in the peppermint wind.

Let us leave this place where the smoke blows black
And the dark street winds and bends.
Past the pits where the asphalt flowers grow
We shall walk with a walk that is measured and slow,
And watch where the chalk-white arrows go
To the place where the sidewalk ends.

Yes we'll walk with a walk that is measured and slow,
And we'll go where the chalk-white arrows go,
For the children, they mark, and the children, they
know

The place where the sidewalk ends.



*A person who never made a mistake
never tried anything new.
-Albert Einstein*

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*A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportuni-
ty; an optimist sees the opportunity in every diffi-
culty.
-Winston Churchill*

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