



The Comet's Tale



Cinderella's Closet

Do you, or someone you know, need a dress for prom this year, or do you have one in your closet that you no longer need? Cinderella's Closet is a community service project at Sandy Creek High School that collects gently used, clean prom dresses and distributes those dresses to area juniors and seniors for their proms. "We borrow dresses from our sisters, our cousins, our friends," said Kelly Caster who coordinates the program, "This is just a big dress swap."

The distribution will be held on March 23rd from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Make Sense Shop, located on North Jefferson Street in Pulaski. The dresses are available to any junior or senior girl, regardless of financial need or school district they attend.

Donations of prom dresses are needed to meet the anticipated demand and those interested in donating can contact Caster at the high school

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School Lunch Nutrition Transition: Fueling Up on Healthy Choices

What's on the menu this school year at the Sandy Creek Central School District? A combination of fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, protein, and low fat dairy products that aim to help students stay focused and ready to learn. The new combination of balanced menu options is part of a nationwide healthy-eating movement initiated through the National School Lunch Program at the start of this school year. School districts participating in this federal reimbursement program, including Sandy

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Amy Urquhart from the Sandy Creek Food Service Department serves a balanced lunch that follows federal nutrition guidelines to eighth grade students Jessica Leppien, left, and Lindsey Goodnough.

Cheerleaders Frontier League and Section III Champs

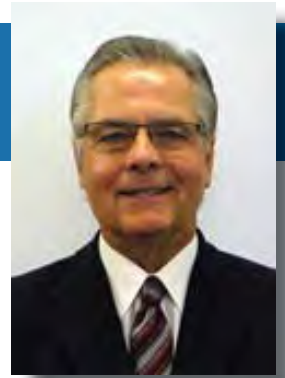
The Sandy Creek Central School District Varsity Cheerleaders have had a highly successful competition season this year. They were named Frontier League Winter Champions for Class C at the cheerleading championship held at Sandy Creek on January 12th, won the Section III Division C Championship at Oriskany High School on January 26th, and took first place in the Small Varsity Tumble Division at the CNY Empire Championship at Herkimer High School on February 2nd. The squad, coached by Tanya VanOrnum, has also received a Sportsmanship Award, an award for best jump incorporation into a routine and three seniors were named All Stars: Kendra Valley, Christina Saber and Emily Calabria. Coach Tanya VanOrnum was also named Coach of the Year Winter 2012/13 Division C & D. Members of the Sandy Creek Comets squad are: Emily Calabria, Sara Castor, Lexi Godnough, Lindsey Goodnough, Tara Huggins, Val Kampff, Bailey Lundre Sammi Pandolfi, Deanna Ruzs, Christina Saber, Clarice Thibault, Brittany Valley, Kendra Valley, Cait Williams, and Jasmyn Williams.





A Message From the District Superintendent

Mr. Stewart R. Amell



How Can Parents Keep Our School Safe?

As you know, the school district has made several changes to our School Safety Plan. They include: The high school/middle school and elementary entrance doors are manned and all exterior doors are locked during the school day. Both entrance doors have been equipped with a new buzzer/intercom system. Also, all security camera angles have been reviewed and adjustments made where necessary. Law enforcement personnel have reviewed our emergency plans and visit our campus on a regular basis. We have also had several visits this year from our contraband dog. We plan on more visits as the year progresses. We have tried very hard to beef up our security but at the same time, balance security with a culture that is inviting for students, parents, and community members.

What can parents do? I have a few suggestions that I came across from materials I recently read from the National Crime Prevention Council that are simple and easy to follow:

- Make it clear that you support school policies and rules that help create and sustain a safe place for all students to learn.

If we all work together on these suggestions, we can make our school a safe and secure place for our children.

Sincerely,

Stewart R. Amell
Superintendent of Schools



District officials reviewed the School Safety Plan before making changes to increase safety and security measures in the District.

- Be sure to securely lock your firearms away from children. Store ammunition separately from your firearms.
- Act as role models. Settle your own conflicts peaceably and manage anger without violence.
- Listen to and talk with your children on a regular basis. Create the opportunity to hear what's on their mind. Let them know what you are thinking also. Two-way communication between you and your children is productive.
- Set clear limits on behaviors in advance. Discuss punishments and rewards in advance, too.
- Communicate clearly on the issue of violence. Make it clear to your child that you will not tolerate violent behavior. Discuss what violence is and is not.
- Help your child learn how to solve problems on their own. Children who know how to approach a problem and resolve it effectively are less likely to be angry, frustrated, and violent.
- Discourage name calling and teasing. These behaviors often escalate. Whether the teaser is violent or not, the victim may see violence as the only way to stop it.
- Insist on knowing your children's friends, whereabouts, and activities. It's your right. Make your home a pleasant place and inviting place for your kids and their friends; it's easier to know what they're up to when they're around.



— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

- Feb. 18-22 Mid-Winter Recess - No School
- Feb. 26 Booster Club Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 28 BOE Work Session, 7 p.m.
- Mar. 1 High School Beauty Project
- Mar. 1 Staff Development 11:30 Early Dismissal
- Mar. 7 Music in Our Schools Concert, 7 p.m. HS gym
- Mar. 13 Family Health Expo, 6 p.m.
- Mar. 14 BOE Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Mar. 15-16 High School Musical Production
- Mar. 20 District Battle of the Books 6:30 p.m.
- Mar. 27 7th-12th Grade Spring Band Concert, 7 p.m.
- Mar. 29 Good Friday - No School
- Apr. 1-5 Spring Recess - No School
- Apr. 10 NJHS Induction Ceremony
- Apr. 11 BOE Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Apr. 16-18 Grades 3-8 NYS ELA Testing
- Apr. 24-26 Grades 3-8 NYS Math Testing
- Apr. 29 Staff Development Day - No school for students
- May 9 Elementary Science Fair 12-6 p.m.
- May 9 SCCS Budget Public Hearing, 7 p.m.
- May 14 5th & 6th Spring Band & Choral Concert, 7 p.m.
- May 15 Staff Development, 11:30 a.m. Dismissal
- May 21 Budget Vote & BOE Elections 12-8 p.m

Sandy Creek High School presents:

"Wonderland!"

March 15-16

High School Auditorium

The musical misadventures of a girl named Alice, based on the novel "Through the Looking Glass" by Lewis Carroll.

Admit One

Admit One



SAF educator talks about relationships in Sandy Creek classes



Sara Carmichael, SAF educator, asks students to determine whether the scenario “not saying your feelings” represents, passive, assertive or aggressive behavior.

Oswego County Opportunities’ Services to Aid Families (SAF) educator Sara Carmichael was a recent guest presenter in several classes at Sandy Creek’s Middle and High Schools. Carmichael presented separate age-appropriate presentations for eighth, tenth and twelfth graders about safe relationships during a recent week at the school.

For eighth graders, Carmichael talked about components of a healthy relationship, and on her last day in the class, talked about relationships that feature an unhealthy balance of power and control. She used several scenarios and asked the students to identify whether they represented an aggressive, passive or assertive position and students held up cards with their answer. They also played several games that further emphasized the importance of healthy components in relationships such as communication, respect, balance of power in decision making, compromise, and independence.

Carmichael also talked about the difference between tattling and reporting; where tattling is telling to get someone in trouble, and reporting is telling because someone could get hurt.

The students also watched a movie about unhealthy relationships and discussed the topic following the movie.

With the high school students, Carmichael discussed topics such as roles and responsibilities, dating, consent and myths surrounding sexual assault.

SAF staff members offer informational sessions on domestic

Left to right: sixth graders Kaleb Brown, Dakota Denny, Shelby Miller, Lexi Wolfe, Kalista Kimble, and Alec Balcom play a matching game of characteristics of a healthy relationship which includes independence, the cards Wolfe matched during her turn.



violence, sexual assault, child abuse, dating violence as well as intervention services provided by the OCO SAF program. For more information about these school-based educational programs, visit the OCO website at www.oco.org.

Morgan Bristol holds the card “assertive” for her answer to one of the scenarios presented by Sara Carmichael, SAF educator during her presentation on healthy relationships at Sandy Creek Middle and High School.



Sandy Creek’s Mock Trial team prepares for first competition



The Sandy Creek High School Mock Trial team is busy preparing their cases for the upcoming Oswego County Mock Trial Competition. The team, under the direction of advisor Jonna St. Croix and attorney advisor Tim McClusky, are gathering evidence and working on the case of Morgan Martin v. Cattaraugus Programming University. The team, consisting of 9th-12th graders, has to prepare their cases for both the defense and the prosecution and depending on whom they face and in what round, will need to present that case in the competition. Teams of “attorneys” conferred with their “witnesses” and others pertinent to the case during a recent meeting of the team. Pictured, left to right are: Rosie Morgan, Attorney Tim McClusky, Brigid McClusky, Allison Donahoe, Maggie King, Justin Haskins, Clarice Thibault, Jay Ivison, Zach Halsey, Josh Lococo, Earl Sandoy, Brett Wolfe, Sarah McDougal, Jake Benedict, Liz Sedore, and Teacher Advisor Jonna St. Croix. Missing from the photo are Rachel Yerden and Karinna Snyder. The team’s first competition is planned for the end of February. Four other county districts are participating in the Mock Trial coordinated by Thom Benedetto and the Oswego County Bar Association, and they include Mexico, Central Square and Phoenix.



Lunch Nutrition Transition: Fueling Up on Healthy Choices

(Continued from front)

Creek, now offer students healthy and balanced lunch options that are aligned with federal nutrition standards. These new standards include larger portion sizes of fresh fruits and vegetables; a wider variety of vegetables to include dark green, red or orange vegetables or legumes; leaner protein products; fat free or 1% milk; and also mandates that half of all grains served must be whole grain-rich. Through these standards the Sandy Creek Food Service Department

is working with a registered dietitian to right-size menu options and reduce students' fat, sugar and salt intake. Well over 600 lunches are served each day in the District with students enjoying new lunch menu options that fit the following grade-specific calorie caps: 650 for elementary school; 700 for middle school; and 850 for high school. For daily lunch menu options visit www.sccs.cnyric.org

Elementary mid-year review

by Sue Ann Archibee

This year sure has been a busy one in the elementary! New York State Common Core roll-outs in ELA and math are in full swing, and as you have seen from your child's math homework in particular, many things have changed. Our teachers have been diligent in learning about the new core requirements, continuing to learn innovative teaching strategies that help students reach the requirements, and are now investigating brand new teaching modules developed by our state and their consultants for these two subject areas at all grade levels. It has been a daunting process, but we are energized and ready to begin piloting the modules this year.

Much of our information and support have come through the website www.engageny.org. This website was created by our State Education Department, as a resource for all stakeholders in New York State. It has recently been updated and refined, making topics easier to locate. It holds a wealth of information regarding education at all levels, including the latest news from our state. Please take some time to visit it.

On another note, we would like to thank everyone for their attentiveness and understanding to our new security procedures, especially those who need to pick up or drop off students. Safety is our main concern, and your help in supporting that is appreciated.

At this mid-year mark, we remind you to check the lost and found for items that may have been misplaced. Students cannot borrow from this for activity period, so please be sure your child(ren) have their hats and mittens when they leave in the morning so they can enjoy a break outside as weather allows.

As we watch snow fly outside the window, we have already begun planning for next year. We have moved registration for Pre-K and Kindergarten to February to facilitate class and staffing assignments, which is well underway. We have begun the requisition process to plan purchases for equipment and supplies to take us into 2014. Most importantly, we pause while watching our students in action, to realize how much taller some seem to have gotten overnight, and we marvel at the new skills they demonstrate in their classwork and life at school. It is easy to forget to "stop and smell the roses", but in doing so we appreciate the fine young men and women we are lucky to work with each day. Many times we are amazed at what challenges our learners of all ages master, surpassing our hopes by leaps and bounds. We thank you for the partnership we have built in making this happen.

Feel free to call the office for an appointment or a return call if you have questions or concerns. Enjoy the rest of winter and "think spring"!

Hit the slopes with the Sandy Creek Ski Club



Sandy Creek students participating in Ski Club travel each Thursday to Dry Hill Ski Area in Watertown, NY for several hours of downhill skiing and snowboarding.

Students in fifth-twelfth grades are able to experience the great outdoors along with the feeling of freedom and enjoyment that comes from the sport of skiing. Melissa Williams is the Ski Club advisor. Pictured are students before and during a recent trip to the mountain.

Cinderella's Closet

(Continued from front)

at 387-3445, ext. 1910 or dresses can be dropped off at The Make Sense Shop or Sandy Creek High School during school hours. Last year more than 100 dresses were given away along with prizes donated by area businesses. Students from local schools can volunteer to assist in the distribution for community service credit by contacting Caster, if desired. Refreshments will be available and student "fairy godmothers" will assist shoppers with their selections.

For more information, contact Caster at the school, or by e-mail at kcaster@sccs.org.



Sandy Creek District earns Energy Star award for efficiency

In 2005-06, the Sandy Creek Central School District Board of Education set policy for the district that opened opportunities for Sandy Creek's Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, Chris Ouderkirk, and the facilities department to pursue initiatives to reduce energy consumption and make their facility more efficient. Since then, they have begun a myriad of energy saving initiatives that have earned the district the designation of one of the top five Energy Star schools in Central New York and most recently a rebate of more than \$33,000 from National Grid for their energy saving measures.

Among the energy efficiencies implemented in the district for which they were recognized are: lighting and controls, occupancy sensors, daylight controls and hallway sensors which determine the amount of energy used by assessing the amount of natural light available and powering down energy use to maximize natural light. There are currently 15 different areas where these sensors are in use in the district buildings, most notably the gymnasium, media center and hallways.

Changes to lighting in the gymnasium and media center included more efficient fixtures that maintain luminescence and are instant on and instant off, replacing older type fixtures which needed to warm up to full luminosity. This type of lighting is a big advantage and allows the district to use occupancy sensors in these areas to light them only when they are occupied. Older versions of lighting required the lights to remain on, even if not occupied because the fixtures took more than 15 minutes to "warm up" and cast enough light for use.

Other state of the art devices in use include carbon dioxide sensors that detect CO2 levels and adjust air intake to maintain clean air levels, while maximizing heating efficiency in larger occupied areas.

Sandy Creek students believe "Beauty is how you feel inside."

The students at Sandy Creek High School are taking a stand to show that people should not be judged by how they look. On March 1st, 50 students will wear t-shirts that proclaim their slogan: "Beauty is not something physical. Beauty is how you feel inside and it reflects in your eyes." The group, comprised of equal members male and female, heard about a similar project at Mexico High School last year. The Sandy Creek group hopes to expand their message of non-judgmental acceptance to other students, staff and middle school students in the coming weeks as they seek to raise awareness of this important issue for young people.

The students' light purple t-shirts were donated by the Sandy Creek District Office and staff members will have the opportunity to sponsor student shirts for those wishing to join the cause in the future.

For more information about the beauty project, contact Tanya VanOrnum and Mike Stevens, coordinators at Sandy Creek High School.



Chris Ouderkirk, left, and Andy Ridgeway, right, hold a plaque that designates the district as an Energy Star School, and a new energy efficient replacement light bulb that allowed the district to replace standard fluorescent bulbs with the highly efficient ones. The new T-5 bulbs include a ballast that makes them compatible with existing fluorescent fixtures. Sandy Creek is one of the first facilities to use this highly efficient bulb in their buildings.

Ouderkirk, has also kept apprised of energy efficient breakthroughs including a new T-5 adapter that allows the use of the T-5 energy efficient light bulbs to be used in existing fixtures. Sandy Creek is one of the first facilities to use this highly efficient bulb in their buildings. The bulb boasts 50% less energy usage over standard fluorescent bulbs, but the district has tracked their savings at closer to 57%.

The District has also qualified as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Energy Star building since the 2005-06 school year. The EPA compares and scores the facility on its energy efficiency, and in order to receive the designation, they must receive a score of 75 or greater. In 05-06, the district received a score of 76, this year the district has improved to a score of 92. Ouderkirk, admitted, "We have done a lot to meet the EPA benchmarks," he said, "and we are progressively getting better."

How do they afford all of these energy upgrades? Ouderkirk explained that the Sandy Creek District has an energy master plan, and most of the projects are what he calls net zero projects. They utilize money from rebates, and earlier energy cost savings, as well as previous year capital expenditure reimbursement from NYS. By utilizing these reimbursements and continuing to upgrade and improve energy efficiencies, the district qualifies for continued project reimbursement and receives an ever-growing energy savings benefit. The end result is that out of pocket costs to the district and its residents are near or at zero.

Ouderkirk is quick to share the recognition with his crew, who he says continue to pursue avenues of opportunity to cut energy costs and conserve energy. The rebate means a great deal to Ouderkirk, who pointed out that a savings of nearly \$34,000 is equivalent to saving a job, "Save energy, save a job," he said. "That savings is incredible."



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 [12-13 ranges of \$24,600 - \$33,690 specific by town] (full value) of assessment for school tax purposes (subject to a maximum cap of 2% of the previous years maximum savings).

ENHANCED:

- For homeowners 65+ years of age
- 2013 Enhanced Exemption will be based on 2011 Income for STAR purposes less than \$79,051
- Exempts first \$60,000 approximately [12-13 ranges of \$51,000 - \$69,860 specific by town] (full value) of assessment for school tax purposes (subject to a maximum cap of 2% of the previous years maximum savings).
- **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. Both the basic STAR application form and the enhanced/renewal form are available at: <http://www.tax.ny.gov/forms/orpts/star.htm> or from your town assessor.

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

A. Yes. **The DEADLINE for application including enhanced renewal 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: <http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/index.htm>.

Nomination Form:

Sandy Creek Central School District Wall of Distinction Recognition Program

Date: _____

NomineetotheWallofDistinction: _____

Present Address: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Year of Graduation: _____

Reasons for Nomination: _____

Nominated by: _____

Daytime Phone Number: (____) _____

Address: _____

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

Nominees for the 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 citizen 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. Use the nomination form to the left, or call Stewart R. Amell, Superintendent of Schools, 387-3445 ext. 1510. Deadline for nominations is April 1, 2013.



'Top Chefs' at Sandy Creek High School

A recent culinary competition at Sandy Creek High School had students vying for the esteemed honor of being named 'Top Chef.' Similar to the reality television show of the same name, the 'Top Chef' challenge featured students from the school's Food and Nutrition class showcasing their culinary expertise for a panel of judges.

'Top Chef' serves as the culminating project for students in the class, putting to test each student's knowledge of the principles of baking, cooking methods, menu planning, preparation, sanitation, and safety. Students work in pairs for the competition and start by selecting an appetizer, main dish, or dessert recipe that meets a strict standard of criteria including: less than 10 ingredients; no unfamiliar ingredients; no alcohol; must be able to prepare with standard equipment already in the classroom's kitchen; and it must be a new, untested creation (i.e.: nothing that was previously prepared as part of a classroom project). Food and Nutrition teacher Marsha Maxon pre-approves each recipe prepared for the 'Top Chef' panel of judges and each team is responsible for preparing a grocery list as well as coordinating a preparation schedule to ensure the most effective use of their allotted prep time.

The panel of judges, consisting of Sandy Creek High School faculty and former Food and Nutrition students, evaluates each culinary masterpiece on the overall presentation, taste, and creativity. High scores are awarded to the dishes that appeal to each judge's wow factor, that are a delightful blend of flavor and texture, and that are pleasing to the eye.

'Top Chefs' from this year's competition are Karintha Myslivecek and Alexis Donohoe who prepared an Apple Dapple Cake, and Jay Ivison and Kortney Steele who prepared Red Velvet Brownies.



The team of Matthew Ennist, right, and Cameron Hall, second from right, present their Creamy Tomato Chicken Spaghetti dish to the panel of 'Top Chef' judges. Assisting the team in serving the judges are fellow Sandy Creek High School Food and Nutrition classmates Josh Meizlik, far left, Adrian Ranieri, middle, and Nate Anderson. This dish earned Matthew and Cameron second place honors in the prestigious 'Top Chef' competition at the school.



Sandy Creek High School Food and Nutrition student Crystal Tibbles spreads a thin layer of melted semi-sweet chocolate over light and airy white chocolate mousse that she prepared with her teammate Skylar Stone. The delectable dessert was finished off with a dollop of fresh whipped cream and served to the 'Top Chef' panel of judges with homemade rose-shaped candies.

After school programs



Rising Stars, an after school program for students in grades three-six along with Early Literacy, for students in grades one-two are two groups that meet every Tuesday and Thursday to assist students in preparation for the reading and math skills New York State Assessment Tests in April. Students who qualify are invited to participate and work in small groups on reading and math skills in targeted areas. The after school programs are coordinated by Candice Clark, pictured here with a fifth grade group as they practice math skills. For more information about the after school programs, contact the elementary school at 387-3445.

Alexis Donohoe, left, and Karintha Myslivecek earned top honors in the fourth period 'Top Chef' competition of the Food and Nutrition Class at Sandy Creek High School. The pair prepared a moist and gooey Apple Dapple Cake for a panel of judges consisting of teacher and student volunteers.





Sandy Creek students teach in 'Real World' opportunity

Students at Sandy Creek High School participated in a recent project that gave them an opportunity to experience what parenting is all about – teaching.

Family and Consumer Science Teacher Marsha Maxon paired seniors in her Real World class with students in the District's Universal Pre-Kindergarten program for a play dough-making lesson.

While fun and engaging for the young UPK students, the unique activity gave Real World students an opportunity to see two very different perspectives - that of a parent or teacher and that of a student or child. Students experienced the pre-planning and preparation that goes into organizing an activity as well as gained a greater understanding of how to communicate and relate to young children.

The play dough activity was coordinated as part of a parenting unit in the Real World class. During this unit the students study key foundations of parenting and the role of serving as a child's most important and life-long teacher. Students participate in classroom discussions and activities that cover topics such as parent-child

communication, dealing with feelings of anger or frustration, disciplinary alternatives as well as modeling virtues of respect, honesty, and responsibility.



Sandy Creek High School student Tyler Reff and Universal Pre-Kindergarten student Emily Woods share a laugh together as they make fun shapes out of play dough. Reff and his classmates in the Real World class were paired with students in the District's UPK program for an activity that gave the high school students an opportunity to experience what parenting is all about – teaching.

Sandy Creek School Bus Drivers are the best in the BUSiness!



Head bus driver/trainer Mike Goessl, right, oversees trainee Tiffany Bort, as she goes through a pre-trip inspection during a recent training session at the transportation department. Sandy Creek bus drivers must complete a pre-trip inspection on each bus they use every day. New driver trainees must learn everything from the pre-trip inspection to driving the District's 35-foot buses in city traffic and on snow-covered roads as well as backing, parallel parking and loading and discharging students. Sandy Creek bus drivers and mechanics take safety very seriously and their department operates at the highest safety standards in the country. Drivers must comply with New York State Laws and Regulations and according to Robin Cashel, District Transportation Supervisor, "Our Sandy Creek Central School District drivers are the best in the business!"



Kendra Valley, a senior in the Sandy Creek Central School District, teaches Universal Pre-Kindergarten student Madilyn Norton how to make homemade play dough during a recent school day. Seniors in the Real World class at the school district planned and organized the teaching activity as part of the parenting unit in the class.



Pesticide Notice

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, 2012 to February 15, 2013:

- ***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 at:

**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.

Sandy Creek students compete in Spelling Bee



Pictured are the top three spellers from Sandy Creek Middle School determined at the building level spelling bee held on Dec. 3rd. Thirteen students in grades 5-8 participated after qualifying for the bee with a written test, before vying for the top spots in the competition. Pictured left to right are: Jodi Whitney, 8th grade English teacher and coordinator of the district bee; Oren McDougal, first place; McKenzie Kwak, third place; Conner Waggoner, second place; and Carolyn Shirley, Sandy Creek Middle School Principal.

Students at Sandy Creek Middle School in grades 5-8 competed on December 3rd in an early round of the Scripps Spelling Bee. The contest, whose purpose is to help students improve spelling, increase vocabulary and proper English language usage, is the nation's largest and longest-running spelling bee.

The middle school contest was coordinated by 8th grade English teacher Jodi Whitney and assisted by 7th grade English teacher Matt White and was used to determine who will represent the district as they advance to the next level of the spelling bee. To prepare, students used study guides and word lists provided by Scripps and their teachers. Thirteen students, who had qualified by first taking a written spelling test, took the stage in the auditorium in front of fellow students, teachers and family members to begin the challenge.

After each progressive round, the words became increasingly difficult and before long, only two students remained: Oren McDougal, 7th grade, and Conner Waggoner, eighth grade. The two went back and forth for several rounds before McDougal successfully spelled the word "succumb" after Waggoner had incorrectly attempted the word. McDougal then correctly spelled the winning word: "monumental." For McDougal, it was indeed a monumental moment as he was named Sandy Creek Middle School Spelling Champion. As the top speller, McDougal moved on to the Post Standard/WCNY Spelling Bee held in January where unfortunately, he did not advance as one of the finalists participating in the oral portion of the bee. Maja Canova, of Manlius-Pebble Hill was the winner in that competition, she will represent Central New York in the National Bee this summer.

For updated announcements and events visit the Sandy Creek Central School District website at:
www.sccs.cnyric.org



Sandy Creek Inclusive Schooling Model's success attracts the attention of statewide and global educators

Sandy Creek Central School District best practices are grabbing the attention of educators from across the state, across the continent, and around the globe. Since 1990, the District's general education teachers and special education teachers have been practicing the inclusion model for educating students with disabilities.

Sandy Creek Pupil Personnel Services Coordinator and Committee on Special Education Chairperson Janice Burns sums up the inclusive approach as "bringing the education to the student" instead of pulling a student out of a classroom or out of the district for his/her



The Sandy Creek Central School District welcomed educators and a board of education member from the Auburn City School District in early February to observe the district's inclusion educational practice for educating students with disabilities and the co-teaching model that the district utilizes to support this practice. Pictured above, seated left to right are: Special Education Teacher Hillary Puckett, Social Studies Teacher Tonya Trudell, and English Teacher Denise Elkin. Standing, left to right, are: Special Education Teacher Brandy VanRy, Middle School Principal Carolyn Shirley, Social Studies Teacher Kim Curley, Auburn City School District Assistant Principal Steve Dunn, Auburn Special Education Teacher Kim Granato, Auburn English Teacher, Marcella Didio, and Auburn Board of Education President Karol Soules.



Educators from the city of Thunder Bay in Ontario, Canada traveled to the Sandy Creek Central School District in mid-December to observe the district's inclusion educational practice model for educating students with disabilities. The guests are pictured above with the following Sandy Creek faculty members: Special Education Teacher Kim Manfredi, standing at left; High School Principal Maureen Shiel, standing second from left; Pupil Personnel Service/CSE Chairperson Janice Burns, standing third from left; and Superintendent of Schools Stewart Amell, standing in the middle.

education or related services. This model is supported at the middle school and high school level by a co-teaching method where special education teachers and general education teachers collaborate to deliver instruction.

The practices of the District were featured in an educational DVD for the New York State Education Department in 2011 and several school districts and educational institutions have set up visitations with District officials to observe the educational model in practice and speak with teachers about implementation strategies and their findings. During the 2011-2012 school year the District hosted 25 educational professionals from the country of Japan and thus far this school year the District has welcomed educators from a school district in the city of Thunder Bay in Ontario, Canada as well as the Auburn City School District.

Varsity Volleyball Team Frontier League Champs!



The Sandy Creek Girls' Varsity Volleyball team tied for Frontier League Class C Champions on Saturday, February 2nd. The team is coached by Dorianne Hathway and team members include: Viki White, Isabel Bray, Natasha Malik, Kylie Hanni, Grace Wallace, Kylee Martin, Michaela Martin, Shania Darling, Maddie Bush, McKenna Guarasce, Autumn Darling, and Maggie King. The team is pictured left following their successful win over the Fabius-Pompey Warriors on February 9th in the Section III Class C-II Quarter-Finals.



Seniors travel to Albany to see state government in action and lobby in support of school-based health centers

A group of 33 seniors from Sandy Creek High School traveled to the State Capitol in Albany along with School-Based Health Center Representative Kathy Creedon MS, FNP-C, to show their support during School-Based Health Center Advocacy Day, and witnessed government in action. They joined with hundreds of other students, parents and school based health care representatives from across New York State to lobby on behalf of school-based health centers.

While there, the group met with State Senator Patty Ritchie and State Assemblyman Will Barclay and seniors A.J. Wills, Cameron Goodsell and Alicia Mahaney gave statements of support on behalf of Sandy Creek's School-Based Health Center.

According to the New York State Coalition for School-Based Health Centers many children and families rely on SBHCs as their only source for counseling, health screening, dental care, reproductive care, physical exams, and immunizations. The group advocated to receive funding at last year's level to support the more than 200 SBHC and in-school health access for nearly 200,000 students across New York State.

School-Based Health Centers are a major component in the nation's healthcare safety net. They also promote healthier lifestyles, improve school attendance, and provide preventative health care to children and teens who might not otherwise receive those services. For students at Sandy Creek, the School-Based Health Center is an



Representatives from Sandy Creek High School traveled to Albany to advocate on behalf of School-Based Health Centers. Pictured, left to right are: Kathy Creedon MS, FNP-C, and students A.J. Wills and Kameron Goodsell who spoke in support of the school-based health centers while in Albany.

essential component of their school and one worthy of advocating for in Albany.

Sandy Creek Battle of the Books set for March 20th

Teams from Sandy Creek are busy practicing for the District Wide Battle of the Books Competition to be held on March 20th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. Elementary, middle school and high school teams will be testing their literary knowledge in the timed quiz bowl-type competition.

The Battle of the Books began as a statewide reading motivation in Alaska in the early 1980s with the goals to encourage and recognize students who enjoy reading, increase reading comprehension, promote academic excellence and broaden reading interests.

Each year, lists of books are chosen and questions written for all grade levels by a committee of Battle of the Books librarians for each specific grade level. Teams will be asked questions based on the books from the grade level book list and will have two minutes to write down their answer. The sixteen quiz show formatted questions all begin with "In which book..." and teams must identify the correct title and author, earning up to eight points for each question.

The District Battle of the Books is coordinated by Jacqueline Owens and coaches who are working to support and practice with the



Pictured, left to right, are Madison Brown, Sadie Lurcock, and Madison Bauer, all students in grade five, during a recent practice session in preparation for the District Battle of the Books Competition.

students include: Cynthia Rudd, Patricia King, Karin Nemier, Brandie Norton, Marjorie Yerdon and Jackie Gregg.

The top elementary, middle school and high school team will represent the Sandy Creek District at an upcoming county-wide Battle of the Books competition.

**Sandy Creek Central
School District**

P.O. Box 248
124 Salisbury St.
Sandy Creek, NY 13145

Non-Profit
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 7
Zip Code 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' Offices:
Elementary - Ext. 1503; HS - Ext. 1505
Transportation: Ext. 3330

Postal Patron



Sandy Creek Central School District

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School District Board
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- Principals:**
- Elementary:**
Sue Ann Archibee
 - Middle School:**
Carolyn Shirley
 - High School:**
Maureen Shiel



High School to present musical "Wonderland"

On March 15th and 16th, the Sandy Creek High School will present the musical "Wonderland". The show is based on the novel "Through the Looking Glass" by Lewis Carroll and follows the misadventures of a girl named Alice as she encounters strange people and creatures in a place called "Wonderland". The cast of 24 students in grades 8-12 are sure to delight and entertain you in a magical evening of music and theater. Directed by Sue Bitz, Valerie Marshall and Sandy Kinney, members of the ensemble cast are pictured above as they practice for the production. For show times and ticket prices visit the Sandy Creek District website at www.sccs.org or call the High School at 387-3445.



Sandy Creek National Honor Society Induction

The Sandy Creek Carpe Diem Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) inducted 18 new members at an Induction Ceremony held in the high school auditorium in December. Pictured following the ceremony are current members at left and new inductees, right. New inductees: William Benedict, Zachery Brown, Kristopher Burgmeier, Madison Bush, Gabriella Guarasce, Kylie Hanni, Molly Horth, Valarie Kampff, Kylee Martin, Michaela Martin, Courtney Plumley, Kerrie Ridgeway, Elizabeth Sedore, Karrina Snyder, Clarice Thibault, Brittany Valley, Hannah Walker, and Grace Wallace; they join current members Isabel Bray, Chelsea Clafin, Mitchell Garvin, Toni Gray, Justin Haskins, Olivia Ivison, Jesse Ladd, Mackenzie Laveck, Ashley McNitt, Cori Pandolfi, Ashley Taplin and Tyler VanRy.

