

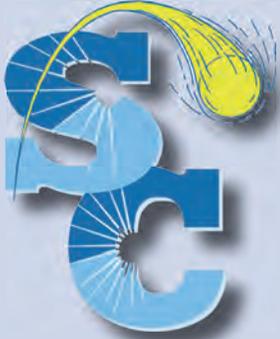
# Sandy Creek

Central School  
District  
Newsletter



September 2013

## The Comet's Tale



## Energy Star Resolution



The Sandy Creek School District was congratulated by New York State Senator Patty Ritchie recently for being named one of the top five "Energy STAR" schools in Central New York. The district was recognized for improving its energy performance, their strategic management of resources across the district and making cost-effective, and energy saving improvements. Pictured above, left to right, for the presentation are: Chris Ouder Kirk, SCCS superintendent of buildings and grounds; NYS Senator Ritchie; and Andy Ridgeway, maintenance coordinator for SCCS.

## New Faces in the Sandy Creek District

Sandy Creek Central School District students heading back to school on Sept. 4 will see some new faces at the elementary, middle and high school. The district welcomed this summer new teaching staff members John DeGone, Elise Lofaro, and Marissa Paquin.

John DeGone is the new middle school and high school technology teacher.

He graduated from SUNY Oswego in 2008. He has five years of teaching experience that includes one year at the collegiate level at SUNY Oswego and four years at the General Brown Central School District.

Elise Lofaro is the new speech-language therapist for students in kindergarten through grade three.

She has an undergraduate degree in Communication Disorders and Sciences and a master's degree in speech-language pathology. Prior to coming to SCCS, she worked with low-income elementary school children, implementing a language and literacy program.

Marissa Paquin is the new middle school and high school family and consumer science teacher.

She has a bachelor's degree from SUNY Oneonta



New faces at the Sandy Creek Central School District include, left to right: Elise Lofaro, speech-language therapist; Marissa Paquin, family and consumer science teacher; and John DeGone, technology teacher.

and a master's degree from SUNY Cortland. She has 10 years of teaching experience including four years at the APW Central School District and six years at the General Brown Central School District.

## Wall of Excellence Inductees Announced

The Sandy Creek Central School District is pleased to announce four new inductees will be added to the Sandy Creek Central School District's "Wall of Excellence" on October 10th at 5:45 p.m. in a special recognition ceremony.

Margaret Chase, Kirk Ellis, Barbara Orr, and Mike Stevens were selected from nominations submitted for the recognition. The four, all long-time employees of the district were described by those who nominated them for the honor as loyal, dedicated, caring and compassionate, and someone who inspired their students to be successful.

The Wall of Excellence appreciation program recognizes past and present faculty and staff members who have exhibited unforgettable commitment and service to the children of the Sandy Creek School District. Criteria for consideration to the Wall of Excellence included:

- Must have achieved a high level of professionalism and dedication while employed by the Sandy Creek Central School District;
- Displayed a true commitment to the mission of the district; and

- During their service with the district, demonstrated an extra-ordinary level of performance for the benefit of students, staff and the community.

A special committee appointed by the Board of Education selected the inductees from the applications submitted. The public is invited to attend the induction ceremony in October.

## Elementary Open House Set for Sept. 3

Sandy Creek Elementary School is scheduled to hold their Open House on Tuesday, Sept. 3 from 6 to 7 p.m. The open house is scheduled the day before the 2013-2014 school year starts.

The first day of school for students in grades kindergarten through 12th is Wednesday, Sept. 4. The first day of school for pre-k students is Monday, Sept. 9.

For more information, contact the elementary school office at (315) 387-3445, ext. 1110.

Sandy Creek Central School District





# A Message From the District Superintendent

*Mr. Stewart R. Amell*



## District Begins Discussion on Future Capital Project

This past spring, the Board of Education heard a presentation from the district's architect on the conditions of the campus. The State Department of Education requires each school district in NYS to complete a five year building conditions survey. The intent of the five year plan is to identify the current condition of the district's facilities, and to serve as a tool for the district to actively manage its capital needs. The goal of the survey is to collect, coordinate, analyze and prioritize facility infrastructure and building program needs on a district-wide basis with a focus on solving health and safety issues.

The Board Facilities and Operations Sub Committee met on July 30th to begin discussions and planning for a future project. Some of the highlights mentioned in the report from the architects are as follows:

- › Some Unit Ventilators as well as rooftop units need to be replaced.
- › Kitchen Equipment such as coolers, freezers and ovens are also deteriorating.
- The Bus Garage is in need of some drastic repair. Metal siding is damaged and starting to corrode, the overhead doors need to be replaced, metal roofing needs to be replaced, and the bus lift compliance is in question.
- The Fuel Tanks we utilize to run our buses and share with local municipalities need to be replaced. They do not meet current DEC code/standards (however are currently grandfathered). Additionally, the tanks are underground and are reaching the end of their 30 year warranty life as well.
- The bus garage also needs extensive exhaust and heating/ electrical upgrades.

- As a general theme, our large capital was from the 2001-2003 era. This makes a majority of our mechanical equipment 10 – 15 years of age. We have started to experience failures in some of these areas.

- › Heating and Cooling Units throughout the campus are reaching the end of their useful life.

These are just a few items that need to be addressed in the very near future.

The Board of Education is committed to making sure our campus is up to date and safe for our students. The Board will keep the community informed as it moves through the capital improvement process.

Sincerely,

**Stewart R. Amell**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

## Stuff-A-Bus Gets SCCS Students 'Geared Up' for School

The Sandy Creek Central School District in cooperation with the United Way and with the support of donations from community members, businesses and the Red Kettle Campaign helped 89 students in the community get



'geared up' for the school year. Through the annual Stuff-A-Bus campaign the district distributed back packs filled with crayons, pencils, and other school supplies to families in the community that find it challenging to purchase the supplies that their child/children need for school. SCCS Stuff-A-Bus Coordinator Brandie Norton, staff member volunteers Kelly Caster, Kathy Walter, Deb Klotz, Kathy Heck, and Suzanne Bartlett along student volunteers Rosie Walter and Sophie Walter are pictured above with just a handful of the backpacks and supplies prepared for the distribution. The eight volunteers assisted with the distribution to ensure each student received the supplies he/she will need for the year.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 2	Labor Day - School Closed
Sept. 3	Teacher Orientation - No School for Students
Sept. 3	Elementary Open House, 6-7 p.m.
Sept. 3-6	Pre-K Parent Visits
Sept. 9	First Day of School for Pre-K
Sept. 12	Instrument Night - Elementary Cafeteria, 6 p.m.
Sept. 12	Board of Education Meeting, 6 p.m.
Sept. 18	Open House Grades 6-12, 6:30-8 p.m.
Sept. 26	Elementary School Pictures
Sept. 26	Board of Education Work Session, 6 p.m.
Sept. 27	MS/HS Pictures
Sept. 30-Oct. 4	Homecoming Spirit Week
Oct. 5	Homecoming Dance 7-10 p.m.
Oct. 5	SAT
Oct. 7-18	Winter Sports Sign-ups
Oct. 10	Fluoride Program Begins
Oct. 10	Board of Education Meeting, 6 p.m.
Oct. 14	Columbus Day - School Closed
Oct. 15	County Wide Staff Development Day - No School for Students
Oct. 21-25	First Grade Health Screening
Oct. 24	College Day for Juniors - CCC
Oct. 24	Board of Education Work Session, 6 p.m.
Oct. 25	Half Day Staff Development - Early Dismissal
Oct. 26	Craft Fair to Benefit Climate Committee
Oct. 26	ACT Test
Oct. 28-30	Second Grade Health Screening
Oct. 31	Halloween Parade 2 p.m.
Nov. 1	Second Grade Health Screening



# Passing A Stopped School Bus Can Be Hazardous To A Child's Health!

By Robin Cashell, Transportation Supervisor

## Fines and Penalties

- 1st Offense** - \$250 to \$400 fine or 30 days imprisonment or both!
- 2nd Offense** - Within 36 months \$600 minimum to \$750 maximum fine or 180 days imprisonment or both!
- 3rd Offense** - Within 36 months \$750 minimum to \$850 maximum fine or 180 days imprisonment or both!

## What Do All Those Lights On A School Bus Mean??

School buses have an eight-light system. The red and yellow lights ABOVE the windows are the lights the bus driver must use whenever students are entering or leaving the bus. The red lights mean STOP. The yellow lights are a warning, to let you know the bus is about to stop to pick up or drop off students. You should slow down and prepare to stop. Be cautious, children may be running from any direction!!

## When Do I Stop??

You MUST STOP from either direction when the RED LIGHTS ABOVE THE WINDOWS ARE ON. You must stop not only on streets, but also in school loading areas and on divided highways. NYS law states that you cannot pass a school bus when the red lights are flashing unless waved on by a school bus driver or police officer. Be cautious, sometimes the bus driver uses hand signals to let students who cross the street know when it is safe to cross. DO NOT confuse these signals to kids as an OK for you to pass the bus.

**If you see a school bus stopping in a dangerous place to pick up students, contact the Transportation Department.....We want to know!!**

## School Bus Safety

Our SCCS bus drivers must complete extensive testing and training every year to maintain their school bus driver certification, they do their best to ensure order and a safe trip on the bus, but they can't do it alone, it takes the cooperation of the parents and children.

## So what can parents do to make their children's bus ride a safe experience?

- Make sure your child is ready and watching for the bus at least 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive, (drivers will not wait for students that do not come right out), and dress them appropriately in the event of bad weather, above all else tell your children not to run after a missed bus - doing so can be dangerous!
- If your child has to cross the street getting on or off the bus, instruct him/her to wait for the driver's signal, they should also wait for the driver's signal getting on the same side while standing back at least 15 feet in the driveway. Remind them to always maintain eye contact with the driver when boarding or disembarking the school bus.
- Talk to your child about the limits of a bus driver's vision. A driver cannot see anyone within 10 feet of the bus bumper, that's why children should stay back at least 10 GIANT steps from the bus before boarding and quickly get away from the bus after disembarking.
- Stress safety over forgotten clothing or lost homework. Children should never reach for something that has fallen beneath the bus. Likewise, they should not attempt to go back on the bus for a hat, lunchbox, etc. left behind. Many children will do this because they are afraid they will be in trouble, parents can help by assuring them that it's more important to be safe.
- Keep safety in mind when choosing children's clothing. Items with drawstrings or straps can get caught on the handrails as children enter or exit the bus; this is especially true during fall and winter when children wear bulkier clothing.
- Remind children to obey the bus driver, stay seated when the bus is in motion, talk quietly, keep the aisles clear and show respect to the driver and their fellow passengers.
- Remember - a safe and enjoyable bus ride makes for a great start to the day and a great start to the day improves the chances that students will come to school with an open mind ready to learn.



Students in sixth grade who participated and placed in the bus safety poster contest are pictured above left to right: Tim Snell, 2nd place; Amy Urquhart, bus driver; Stephany Cole, 3rd place; and Colbyn Dinehart, 1st place.



Bus safety poster contest winners are pictured with their winning entries. Pictured are: Kindergarten - 1st place: Harley Petrie, 2nd place: Jaeden Darling, 3rd place: Jacob Bort; 1st grade - 1st place: Vanessa Potter, 2nd place: Maryann Cosby, 3rd place: Sophia Brown; 2nd grade - 1st place: Abrielle Soluri, 2nd place: Ryan Barney, 3rd place: Riley Phillips; 3rd grade - 1st place: Dorothy Searles, 2nd place: Angel Thayer, 3rd place: Cailey Robbins; 4th grade - 1st place: Emily Yousey, 2nd place: CJ Barney, 3rd place: Gabby Brown; and 5th grade - 1st place: Travis Benjamin, 2nd place: Madison Brown, 3rd place: Isabella Walter.

**— Transportation Concerns? —**  
 Questions or concerns regarding your child's transportation schedule? Contact the bus garage at (315) 387-3445, ext. 3330.

# Sandy Creek Central School District

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

Phone: 315-387-3445  
Fax: 315-387-2196  
District Office: Ext. 1510  
Business Office: Ext. 1510  
Elementary: Ext. 1110  
Middle School/High School: Ext. 1910  
Nurses' Offices:  
Elementary - Ext. 1503; HS - Ext. 1505  
Transportation: Ext. 3330

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Sandy Creek Central School District

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**Business Administrator/  
District Clerk:**

**Shelley H. Fitzpatrick**

**Principals:**

**Elementary:**

Sue Ann Archibee

**Middle School:**

Carolyn Shirley

**High School:**

Maureen Shiel



## SCCS Serves Up Meals for Children Under 18

The Sandy Creek Central School District Food Service Department once again has served as an official summer feeding site, and offered free meals to anyone 18 or under, four days a week, through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service in conjunction with state agencies, administer the free program which distributes breakfast and lunch to children in low income areas where free and reduced lunch eligibility exceeds 50% of the total student population.

Deborah Archibee, from the Sandy Creek Food Service Department coordinated the summer program and along with staff, served breakfast and lunch each day to approximately 100 children. Students in the special needs summer school, participants in the community recreation program, and others from the community utilized the free meals during the summer months. Sandy Creek will receive reimbursement for each meal they serve to children regardless of the participants' household income.

The SFSP was established in 1968 to provide free, nutritious meals to help children get the nutrition they need during the summer months when they are out of school. For more information, contact Deborah Archibee, at 387-3445, ext. 1602.



Above, Donald Moore, center, is all smiles as he moves through the lunch line behind Brady Pennock. At left: Destiny Urquhart takes

her lunch into the cafeteria to join her friends. The students are participants in the Sandy Creek summer recreation program, and participants in the Summer Food Service Program coordinated at the school for children 18 and under.

## Regents Results Are In, SCCS Leads the County

Sandy Creek High School students, who sat for their New York State Regents Examinations in June, came out on top in Oswego County according to recent test results. Sandy Creek took first out of nine schools in the subjects of Algebra, Algebra 2 Trigonometry, Global History, U.S. History and Chemistry.

Sandy Creek especially excelled in the area of Chemistry, scoring a collective

100 percent, followed by Central Square with 80.76 percent. Sandy Creek also ranked second in Earth Science, third in English, and fourth in Physics.



— Congratulations & Welcome! —

Congratulations to Sandy Creek Board of Education President Brian MacVean, Vice-President John Shelmidine and welcome to new board member Janet Hanni!