



April 2014

The Comet's Tale



Operation Safe Stop April 3rd

On April 3rd, the Sandy Creek Transportation Department along with law enforcement personnel from across the state will participate in Operation Safe Stop. At 2:30 p.m. SCCS Department of Transportation Supervisor Robin Cashel will share information, statistics and penalties associated with traffic violations and accidents involving passing a stopped school bus. The public is invited to attend and learn more about bus safety and the efforts of Operation Safe Stop Day.

Operation Safe Stop seeks to promote school bus safety through education and enforcement efforts. On April 3rd, law enforcement officers will patrol in marked and unmarked vehicles, and officers will be onboard buses in select areas that have a history of illegal passing complaints, watching for violators.

Operation Safe Stop is cooperatively supported by the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, the New York State Education Department, New York Association for Pupil Transportation, and many other state, county, and local law enforcement agencies and organizations.

For more information contact Cashel at (315) 387-3445, ext. 3330.

Sandy Creek wrestling program awards

Sandy Creek Wrestling Coach William Benedict hosted a banquet and awards ceremony for members of this year's team and their families. The team ended the season with only 15 wrestlers, some were lost to injury while others were lost to academic ineligibility. In spite of the small numbers, the team won the Frontier League Division and Class D Championship and nine members qualified for sectionals with three finishers at that level. Of the B, C, and D schools, the Sandy Creek team finished the season ranked 11th in the state and Jake Benedict competed in the State Championship match, finishing second overall in the state.

Individual awards were given to the following team members: Coaches' Awards were given to Zach Brown and Ryan Wills; Most Pins Awards to Jarod Williams and Zac Akey; Jarod Williams and Jake Benedict received Most Outstanding Wrestler Awards; the Nate Woolson Award for dedication, commitment and loyalty went to Zak Pfluger; the Larry Miller Award for a strong, silent leader went to Jarod



Williams; the Art Jones Award for sacrificing individual success for the betterment of the team was given to Zach Brown; and the Terry Miller Award for excellence in school and wrestling went to Jake Benedict. A special award was handed out by Assistant Coach Kevin Halsey called the BAGUBA Award, which stands for Brutally Aggressive, Gutsy, Uninhibited By Adversity to Jake Benedict.

SCCS NJHS induction ceremony held

Nineteen Sandy Creek Middle School students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at a ceremony held in the Middle School/High School auditorium on March 19th. The new inductees join current members Faith Bachar,



Joshua Balcom, Christopher Blount, David Hennigan, Emily Kehoe, Seth Lurcock, Oren McDougal, Carley Stoker, Machela Sullivan, and Sullivan Worns. New inductees included: Violet Carkey, Kayla Carnes, Bailey Fahnestock, Abigail Fitzpatrick, Cassondra Hayes, Sean Hennigan, Tori Jenkins, Kalista Kimball, Alison Lantry, Mackenzie Lococo, Carly Lyndaker, Zachary

Martin, Joseph Metott, Shelby Miller, Richard Potter, Kennedy Sullivan, Samantha Walter, Alexis Wolfe, and Margery Yousey. National Honor Society membership recognizes achievement in scholarship, leadership, service, character and citizenship. The students are pictured with Middle School Principal Carolyn Shirley and NJHS advisor Susan Gafner.





A Message From the District Superintendent

Mr. Stewart R. Amell



Board of Regents revise the Common Core implementation

In February, the Board of Regents approved revisions to the Common Core Standards roll out and its testing program. This controversial program has caused an enormous amount of anxiety and anger from parents, students and educators across New York State. Over the past several months, some very heated public forums have taken place where several Board of Regents members and the Commissioner recieved an ear full.

The Board of Regents did appoint a work group to study the feedback from these forums and make recommendations to improve the roll out.

Nineteen (19) recommendations were presented and adopted by the Board of Regents. Some of the recommendations include:

- Give high school students more time to meet the Common Core Standards.
- Reduce unnecessary tests.

- Eliminate standardized tests for Grades K-2.
- Periodically review and update the Common Core Learning Standards.
- Provide funding to schools for professional development.
- Do not require school districts to use grades 3-8 testing results for promotion or placement of students in certain classes.
- Offer smarter testing options for students with disabilities and English language learners.
- Cap the amount of localized testing time for students.

The above list is only a narrow listing of the changes but some are significant and will have some major impacts on how we plan for the future. The legislative leaders are also discussing changes. I'm sure you will see more changes as this issue continues to get considerable attention in Albany.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr. 3	Operation Safe Stop 2:30 pm
Apr. 3	7-12 Grade Spring Band Concert 7 pm
Apr. 4	MS/HS End of 34rd Quarter
Apr. 10	BOE Meeting 6 pm
Apr. 14-18	Spring Recess
Apr. 18	Good Friday - School Closed
Apr. 21	School is in session due to snow days
Apr. 30-May 2	3-8 Math Testing
May 8	BOE Meeting 6 pm
May 13	5th & 6th Grade Spring Concert 7 pm
May 15	Science Fair, Commons Area 12-6 pm
May 26	Memorial Day - School Closed
May 28	Grade 4 Science Performance Test
May 28-29	Grade 8 Science Performance Test
June 2	Grade 8 Science Written Assessment
June 3	Regents Testing English 11 and Algebra
June 4	Grade 4 Science Written Assessment
June 5	7-12 Grade Spring Choral Concert 7 pm
June 6	Elementary Student Council Awards 2 pm
June 10	Awards Ceremonies - MS 6 pm; HS 6:45 pm
June 12	BOE Meeting 6 pm
June 13	Flag Ceremony 2 pm
June 16	Last Day of School for Grades 6-8
June 17-25	Regents Testing
June 20	Kindergarten Graduation 9 am
June 23	PK Sailabration 10 am and 1 pm
June 24	5th Grade Graduation 1 pm
June 25	K-5 Moving Up Day 8:45-9:45
June 26	Last Day of School for K-5 Students
June 26	K-5 Fun Day 8:30-11 am
June 28	Commencement 10 am

100th day of school in SCCS



Cake is out of this world, just ask first grade students Vienna Allen, left, and Jaeden Darling from Mrs. Deborah Klotz's class at Sandy Creek Elementary School. The students recently celebrated the 100th day of the 2013-14 school year by creating projects with a 100 theme. Vienna's cake contains 100 candles while Jaeden's solar system replica contains 100 stars.



SCCS spring musical "Oliver!" a big hit onstage



"Food, Glorious Food" one of the opening numbers, featured the orphan cast of "Oliver!" The musical was a big hit with the audience during the show's two performances. Molly Horth, center, played Oliver.



Members of Fagin's bunch plot to capture Oliver after he is arrested and then taken to the home of a local well-to-do family. Left to right: Elizabeth Sedore as Nancy, Collin Reff as Bill Sykes, Matt Miller as Fagin, and Mariah Hess as Artful Dodger.



Sandy Creek Middle School eighth grade student Tori Jenkins, left, and seventh grade student Carly Lyndaker participate in a 'getting-to-know-you' activity during the second meeting of the school's student leadership group. Looking on is Middle School Principal Carolyn Shirley. Mrs. Shirley established the group as a way to build the students' leadership, promote multi-grade level collaboration at the school, and create a movement of student empowerment. Activities such as the one pictured above provided the group with an opportunity to share something about themselves and understand the value of embracing and being respectful of the things in life that make each person unique.

Middle School establishes student leadership group

Leadership and learning go hand-in-hand and truly capture the essence of a new student group that was established this school year at the Sandy Creek Middle School.

School Principal Carolyn Shirley introduced the idea of a student leadership group as a way to develop leadership skills and promote multi-grade level collaboration at the school. She asked her staff to nominate students in the school's seventh and eighth grade that have demonstrated leadership skills in the classroom or who are a person that other students in the school look up to. Ten students, five boys and five girls, from each grade level were invited to participate in the voluntary group.

Aptly named the Sandy Creek Middle School Student Leadership Cabinet, the twenty committee members meet once a month during their lunch time with Principal Shirley. During the first two meetings the students participated in a 'getting-to-know-you' sharing and team building exercise and learned more about Principal Shirley's objectives for the group. Above just building essential leadership skills, Mrs. Shirley said that she hopes the student representatives involved in the group can create a movement of empowerment and positivity within the entire student body as well as provide an avenue for the student voices to be heard. "I really want our students to feel like their voice is being heard and I want our students to feel like they can stand up for what is right," Shirley said.



Congratulations!

To the following Varsity Winter Sports Teams who have been recognized for their outstanding academic achievements as Scholar Athlete

Teams:

- Volleyball • Girls' Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Boys' Swimming (combined Pulaski/SC)
- Ice Hockey (combined Ontario Bay)

These teams have qualified with a combined average of 90 or above!



OCAY League team asks "what if?" and earns bronze medal



Sarah McDougal, right, works on the movie poster that was designed to market the Sandy Creek team's film that illustrated what the world would be like if the industrial revolution had not occurred. The film featured Josh



Lococo and Jay Ivison, and a cast of others who find themselves in a world without the inventions that came from the industrial revolution including modern medicine. The film ends with Ivison waking to find that his scenario was thankfully only a dream.

Sandy Creek High School OCAY League team members included: Coach Caitlin Urlacher, Rachel Yerden, Collin Reff, Sarah McDougal, Jacob Cornell, Josh Lococo, Liz Sedore, Anita Glenister, Jay Ivison, and Molly Horth. The team took home the bronze medal for their "what if the industrial revolution had never taken place" scenario.

What if a major event or invention had never occurred in history? How would the world be different today as a result of this not happening? That premise began the 3rd Oswego County Academic Youth (OCAY) League competition and eight teams from schools in Oswego County took the challenge to task.

From the printing press to the American Revolution, the invention of aerospace technology to the Industrial Revolution, the teams of

four to ten students joined together to discover "what if?"

The challenge was the brainchild of coaches Kayley Pilawa from Oswego and Sandra McCullough from Pulaski, and featured four separate tasks. The first task was to create a visual representation of how the world would be different if their historical episode had never happened. To advertise and market their film presentation, the teams had to create a movie poster and write a persuasive essay to support their vision of how life would be impacted had their historical episode not happened. Finally, the students had to complete an MLA style works cited page to accompany their project, documenting their research to support their findings.

The team from Sandy Creek High School proposed to the judges: what if the Industrial Revolution had never occurred? Their thought-provoking question and supporting arguments earned the team a bronze medal in the competition. The team from Hannibal earned gold with their question "what if the printing press was never invented?" and Altmar-Parish-Williamstown took home the silver medal with "what if the colonists had lost the Revolutionary War?"

The OCAY League was organized in the spring of 1997 with the idea that academics merit a standing comparable to athletics. Students' academic skills are challenged and showcased with a particular emphasis on cooperative problem solving. OCAY League is coordinated by Dante Ascenzi through the Oswego County BOCES gifted and talented program.

Effects of poverty on learning



At a recent Sandy Creek District staff development day, Barb Recchio-Demmin from Oswego County BOCES presented findings from a study which illustrated the effects of poverty on student achievement. Teachers and staff members used the staff development day to identify and develop educational strategies to combat the disadvantages caused by poverty and increase student achievement.

Cinderella's Closet April 5th

The annual Cinderella's Closet will be held at the Make Sense Shop located at North Jefferson Street in Pulaski on Saturday, April 5 from 10 a. m. -1 p. m.

The free gown give-away is hosted by the Sandy Creek Student Council, National Honor Society and the Make Sense Shop.

Clean, gently used and new prom and bridesmaid dresses of all sizes will be available. Junior and senior girls from APW, Mexico, Pulaski and Sandy Creek are invited to participate in the gown give-away.

For more information, contact Kelly Caster through the Sandy Creek High School office at 387-3445 ext. 1910.



Sandy Creek 6-9 team competes at Science Olympiad



Sadie Lurcock, left, and Garrett LaPointe, right, teamed up to compete in several competitions at the Science Olympiad. Here they prepare for the "Crime Busters" competition.



Sandy Creek Middle School team members competed in the Science Olympiad held recently at Red Creek. The teams competed in a variety of competitions focusing on problem-solving skills and hands-on creative learning.

Students in grades 6-9 from Sandy Creek Middle and High School competed in the Science Olympiad at Red Creek on March 14th where they finished in 14th place overall out of 31 teams from across Central New York.

Individual teams of Oren McDougal and Jordan Trudell took 5th place in Shock Value and in Rotor Egg Drop; Makenzie Lococo and Sydney Cook finished 7th in Crime Busters; Brianna Snyder and Makenzie Lococo took 9th in Rocks and Minerals; and Joe Metott and Sadie Lurcock took 10th in Wheeled Vehicles.

The team of 19 students competed in wide variety of science-related competitions with a focus on problem-solving skills and hands-on/minds-on creative learning.

Science Olympiad seeks to make science education more exciting, encourage teamwork and cooperative learning strategies and promote high levels of achievement in science and technology careers.

Coached by science teacher Galen Fellows with assistance from Lyndsey Fellows and Ted Krenrich, the team worked after school and on alternating weekends from September until early March in

preparation for the competition.

Science Olympiad is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of science education, increasing interest in science and recognizing outstanding achievement by students and teachers.



Middle School Honor Roll

The Sandy Creek Middle School has announced its honor roll for the second marking period of the 2013-14 academic year. High Honor distinction requires a grade point average of 100-94.5; Honor distinction is 94.4-89.5 and Merit distinction is 89.4-84.5. The following students have been named to the Middle School Honor Roll:

6th Grade

High Honors Roll: Gavin Babcock, Madison Bauer, Madison Brown, Sydney Cook, Riley Dowlearn, Alaina Hathway, Sadie Lurcock, and Marley Yerdon.

Honors Roll: Travis Benjamin, Aden Goodnough, Adam Hilton, McKenzie Kwak, Alexis McNitt, Isabella Walter, and Taylor Webb.

Merit Roll: Bryce Akey, Mickayla Bristol, Tiaira Copenhaver, Isabella Cornell, Levi Darling, Shelby German, Thomas Guarasce, Dylan Hall, Abigail LaRue, Kalen McNitt, Mayson Mullin, Angel Peter, Jesse Quintana, Charles-Samuel Shaw, Skylar Skellington, Margaret Steele, and Faith White.

7th Grade

High Honors Roll: Abigail Fitzpatrick, Alison Lantry, Makenzie Lococo, Carly Lyndaker, Joseph Metott, Jadyne Mullin, Samantha Walter, Alexis Wolfe, and Margery Yousey.

Honors Roll: Alec Balcom, Esther Brafman, Kayla Carnes, Hannah Dasno, Bailey Fahnestock, Cassandra Hayes, Sean Hennigan, Sidney Jenkins, Kalista Kimball, Zachary Martin, Shelby Miller, Jordyn Mullin, and Kennedy Sullivan.

Merit Roll: Andrew Bartlett, Morgan Bristol, Courtney Burns, Violet Carkey, Sterling Coles, Jennifer Dana, Dimitri Dawson, Violet Graf, Nathan Grinnell, Alexis Guyette, Anthony McFadden, Caleb Miller, Clarice Miller, Emily Paternoster, MacKenzie Sherman, and Jacob Smith.

8th Grade

High Honors Roll: Christopher Blount, Allison Burrows, Cassidy Carnes, David Hennigan, Tori Jenkins, Oren McDougal, and Machela Sullivan.

Honors Roll: Faith Bachar, Joshua Balcom, Emily Kehoe, Dylan Kimball, Seth Lurcock, Rebecca Miller, Richard Potter, William Robbins, Summer Skinner, Emily Smith, Jaide Stevens, and Carley Stoker.

Merit Roll: Joseph Benedict, Savannah Brown, Dustin Bryant, William Castor, Anthony Catania, Trace Clark, Kacey Goodsell, Michael Landphere, Garrett LaPointe, Brianna Snyder, John Tibbles, Jordan Trudell, Sullivan Worns, and Madison Yerdon.



Heartwarming and Hand-warming at Sandy Creek

A recent project warmed hearts and hands in the Sandy Creek Central School District. High School students in Marissa Paquin's Fashion Design class designed a pattern and made mittens in a variety of different sizes for students at the elementary school. The mittens were crafted with what the high school students call "a unique no-slide-off feature" to ensure a secure fit. The mittens were donated to the elementary school nurse who keeps extra clothing items on hand for students who lose or forget something and end up having to miss outdoor recess as a result. Pictured above, left to right, are Fashion Design students Alexis Ladd, Peyton Miller, and Rachel Yerden.



The mittens were donated to the elementary school nurse who keeps extra clothing items on hand for students who lose or forget something and end up having to miss outdoor recess as a result. Pictured above, left to right, are Fashion Design students Alexis Ladd, Peyton Miller, and Rachel Yerden.

Mock Trial Team readies for competition

Members of the Sandy Creek High School Mock Trial team are busy preparing for their competition. The team, led by Jonna St. Croix with assistance from Jonn Stoker has been building their prosecution and defense strategies in preparation for the first competition on March 31st.



The team will meet Central Square and Mexico in a series of trials at the Public Safety Building in Oswego with the top two teams advancing to the finals on Tuesday, April 8th at 4:00 p.m. Team members include attorneys: Brett Wolfe, Jay Ivison, Maggie King, Josh Lococo and Tyler Brown; and witnesses: Liz Sedore, Clarice Thibault, Zach Halsey, Rosie Morgan, Brigid McClusky, Lexi Goodnough, Nick Radford, and Bridgette Anderson. Legal advisor for the Sandy Creek team is attorney Tim McClusky.



High School Honor Roll

The Sandy Creek High School has announced its honor roll for the second marking period of the 2013-14 academic year. High Honor distinction requires a grade point average of 100-94.5; Honor distinction is 94.4-89.5 and Merit distinction is 89.4-84.5. The following students have been named to the High School Honor Roll:

9th Grade

High Honors Roll: Lindsey Goodnough, John McGrew II, Abigail Widrig, and Adam Yerden.

Honors Roll: Stephanie Brown, Adrianna Comins, Matthew Guarasce, Elizabeth Hall, Jessica Leppien, Chase Pappa, Nicholas Radford, and Conner Waggoner.

Merit Roll: Bridgette Anderson, Dallas Blair, Jesse Cornell III, Lacey Donahue, Taila Hatch, Alexis Ladd, Skyler Marshall, Mekaila Meyers, Richard Skellington III, William Stone, Sophie Walter, and Jasmyn Williams.

10th Grade

High Honors Roll: Dylan Bryant, Brigid McClusky, Rosaleen Morgan, Andrew Olin, Skylynn Salzman, and Kasey Yerdon.

Honors Roll: Adaijah Bauer, Tyler Brown, Jodi Davis, Kimberly Distasio, Kate Hanni, Abigail Irwin, Nicholas Miller, Adrianna Palmer, James Potts, Morgan Ranieri, and Alex VanRy.

Merit Roll: Zachary Akey, Chelsey Blodgett, Emily Cheney, Laine Diaz, Jacob Galloway, Paige Kehoe, Leonard Phillips, Victoria Vazquez, Troi Wall, and Jessica Williams.

11th Grade

High Honors Roll: Anita Glenister, Alexandra Goodnough, Jay Ivison, Maggie King, Sarah McDougal, Rachel Yerden, and Madeline Yousey.

Honors Roll: Kathryn Austin, Olivia Bauer, Autumn Darling, Zachary Halsey, Megan Hough, Marissa LaCelle, April Miller, Taylor Mullin, Samantha Pandolfi, Collin Reff, CodiAnne Salzman, and Liberty Yalch.

Merit Roll: Nathaniel Anderson, Jacob Bennett, Savannah Bush, Brad Clark, Jonathan Dana, Tara Huggins, Elizabeth Lockerby, Alicia Paige, Alina Quintana, Lindsey Redden, David Washburn, Timothy Wolfe, and Tyler Wood.

12th Grade

High Honors Roll: Gabriella Guarasce, Kylee Martin, Hannah Walker, and Caitlyn Williams.

Honors Roll: Zachery Brown, Madison Bush, Brandon Delano, Makayla Elliott, Kylie Hanni, Molly Horth, Valarie Kampff, Maria Luberto, Michaela Martin, James Palmer, Courtney Plumley, Richelle Ranieri, Corey Reff, Kerrie Ridgeway, Brandon Rotach, Elizabeth Sedore, Alyssa Snyder, Clarice Thibault, Grace Wallace, and Brett Wolfe.

Merit Roll: William Benedict, Deven Bryant, Steven Cooper, Robert Cornell, Justin Cox, Shania Darling, Hunter Delamater, Scott McCarthy, Matthew Miller, Zackery Pfluger, Shane Rowell, Deanna Rusz, Frehiwot Sergis, John Shirley, Ronald Skinner, Sierra Steele, Karleigh Stuckey, Tyler Swarthout, Brittany Valley, and Tyler Ward.



Sandy Creek Elementary School Family Reading Night



David Ward and his daughter Emily, above, work on a cooperative project during the Sandy Creek Elementary School's Family Reading Night held recently. The evening event included dinner, games, reading theater and other reading-related projects and activities for the entire family. Emily is a fifth grader at the school. More than 100 students and family members attended the annual event.

NJHS give "shout out" to teachers



The third annual "Feeling the Love" shout-out to the elementary and middle school teachers of Sandy Creek Central School from the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) members took place in February. Members of the NJHS created bags filled with treats as a way to say "thank you" to teachers for all they do for students in the district. Pictured are some of the NJHS members who helped create the bags that were distributed.

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, 2013 to March 30, 2014:

- ***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 Ouder Kirk, 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 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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Principals:
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Sue Ann Archibee
Middle School:
Carolyn Shirley
High School:
Maureen Shiel



Sandy Creek teams participate in county-wide Battle of the Books Competition



Left to right: the Sandy Creek 9-12 high school team of Liz Sedore, Clarice Thibault and Molly Horth tied for third place with the team from APW during the County-wide Battle of the Books Competition held on March 20th at Mexico High School.

Petitions available for a seat on the BOE

The Sandy Creek Central School District is seeking petitions for qualified persons interested in serving on the Sandy Creek Central School District Board of Education. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and reside within the Sandy Creek Central School District. One seat is up for vote, currently filled by Shannon Akey. The position is a five year seat with the term set to expire on June 30, 2019. Nominating petitions are now available at the District Clerk's office in the District Office Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Completed petitions must be returned to the District Clerk by 4:00 p.m. April 21st to be on the official ballot. Voting for the seat will take place on Tuesday, May 20th between the hours of 12 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Sandy Creek District Office.

Students in the Sandy Creek Central School District (SCCS) put their literary knowledge to the test as they faced district champions from across Oswego County in the County-wide Battle of the Books contest on March 20th at Mexico High School.

Battle of the Books is a nationally recognized literacy program coordinated in Oswego County through the Oswego County BOCES School Library System, and in the Sandy Creek District by Library Media Specialist Rachel Allen. The program encourages students to read, enhances reading comprehension and promotes teamwork as well as academic excellence. Competing students volunteered to participate in Battle of the Books by committing to read 12 to 15 books from a predetermined list. The students, working in teams of two to three members along with a coach, discussed the books and quizzed each other on the contents in preparation for the competition.

Results from the county-wide competition were very close with several contests ending in a tie. The final scores for grades 3-4 resulted in a tie for third place with the teams from Altmar-Parish-Williamstown and Central Square, second place went to the team from Mexico; and first place the team from Oswego. For grades 5-6, again a tie for third place with the teams from Phoenix and Hannibal, second place Oswego, and first place the team from Central Square. In the grades 7-8 competition, third place went to the team from Oswego, with second place determined by a tie breaker question with the final results of second place to the team from Central Square and first place to the team from Phoenix. The 9-12 high school level competition continued the close run with Altmar-Parish-Williamstown and Sandy Creek finishing tied for third place and second place to Phoenix with Central Square at the top spot.

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