

Sandy Creek

Central School
District
Newsletter



Fall 2014

The Comet's Tale



Sandy Creek Elementary Open House



The Sandy Creek Elementary School Open House drew hundreds to the school where students were eager to show family members their classrooms and introduce them to their teachers. Principal Sue Ann Archibee and Superintendent of Schools Stewart Amell greeted visitors as they arrived for the annual open house. The hallways were filled with parents and other family members as they viewed their student's work on display. Pictured is the Wilsie family, Amber and James and their two children Ryleigh and Wyatt. Wyatt is a second grader in Mrs. Halsey's class.

See page 5 for open house photos from the Middle School and High School.

Pep Rally the Highlight of Spirit-Filled Week



Spirit ran high at the Middle School and High School Pep Rallies during Spirit Week at the school. Modified, JV and Varsity teams were introduced and classes competed to see which was the most spirited. Comet Pride was especially evident all week leading up to the Homecoming football game when seniors were recognized with their families.

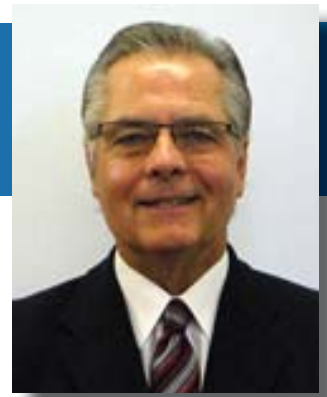
Sandy Creek Central School District





A Message From the District Superintendent

Mr. Stewart R. Amell



SCCS School Board Sets Goals for School Year

As they do each year, the SCCS School Board has set goals for the coming school year. Each goal becomes a focus for both the School Board and Administration. This year's goals include:

- **Continue to Develop and Implement a Long Range Master Facilities Plan.** Every five years, the State Department of Education mandates that each school district, in NYS, perform a building conditions survey usually conducted by an architect, to determine where capital improvements need to be made. After reviewing the latest survey, it has been determined that several areas need to be addressed. The board and administration will have recommendations for the community's input later this fall.
- **Research Other Health Insurance Options in Conjunction with our Employee Units.** The present district health insurance program is not sustainable. Premiums each year increase at a rate that can not be affordable for the future. The district must, in partnership with all employee units, research other options that we can sustain and afford as we move into the future.
- **Continue to Develop and Implement the Common Core Curriculum and Assessments.** In order for our students to become competitive in the global economy, we need to continue our efforts to develop standards that define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs.
- **Continue to Develop and Implement Strategies to Address Bullying and Character Education.** Over the past several years,

the district has focused its efforts on bullying and character education. We must continue to make these strategies a priority for years to come. Every student deserves a welcoming and nurturing learning environment.

- **Continue to Develop and Implement Strategies to Address Poverty and How it Effects Student Achievement.** Last school year, the faculty and staff established several focus groups to study how poverty effects student achievement. Strategies were developed at each level to help students who live in poverty succeed. We have only scratched the surface on how we can improve student achievement for these students. The faculty and staff are committed to this goal.

As you can see, the district continues to strive for excellence. It's a goal oriented organization at every level. Goals are discussed at school board meetings and the public is always welcome. The school board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Please view the school district web page for more district activities.

Senior Athlete Recognition at Homecoming Game



An emotional tradition in the Sandy Creek Central School District is the senior athlete recognition ceremony held during half time of the Homecoming football game. Coaches congratulate each athlete as they are introduced with their family before they are escorted to the center of the football field by their parents. Senior Maggie King is pictured with her parents.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov. 10 Staff Development Day - No School for Students
- Nov. 11 Veteran's Day - No School
- Nov. 12 NHS Induction 7 pm HS Auditorium
- Nov. 13 Board of Education Meeting 6 pm
- Nov. 14 Picture Retakes
Elementary Early Dismissal at 11:30 am No PK
- Nov. 18 Middle School NJHS Induction 7 pm HS Auditorium
- Nov. 19 Elementary Early Dismissal at 11:30 am No PK
- Nov. 25 Grades 1 & 2 Thanksgiving Feast 2 pm HS Cafeteria
- Nov. 26-28 Thanksgiving Recess
- Dec. 1 Modified Basketball Sign-ups Begin
- Dec. 4 5th-12th Grade Band Concert 7 pm HS Auditorium
- Dec. 11 Board of Education Meeting 6 pm
- Dec. 12 Pre-K Concert 10 am
- Dec. 17 5th-12th Grade Chorus Concert 7 pm HS Auditorium
- Dec. 19 Elementary Holiday Concert 8:45 am HS Gym
Early Dismissal 11:30 am No PM Pre-K
- Dec. 24-Jan. 2 Holiday Recess - No School



District Personnel Participate in Substance Abuse Coalition

Sandy Creek played host to a recent substance abuse coalition that brought districts, agencies and organizations from across Central New York together to combat the growing issue of substance abuse in Oswego County.

Moderated by Penny Morley from Farnham Family Services and Karyn Grow, Prevention Director at The County of Oswego Council on Alcoholism & Addictions the group looked at risk factors, access, availability, community norms, and a wide variety of factors that are believed to contribute to the rise in substance abuse in the county.

The focus of the coalition is a bottom to top spectrum of prevention. The group kicked off approximately four months ago



The Sandy Creek Central School District recently played host to a substance abuse coalition developed to address the growing issue of substance abuse in Oswego County.

Sandy Creek Team Was OCAY in Recent County Challenge



Senior Rachel Yerdon works on one of the props used in the Sandy Creek High School Oswego County Academic Youth (OCAY) League competition held in Fulton recently. The team, coached by Caitlin Urlacher, faced the challenge to develop an anti-texting while driving campaign aimed at teens. While the team did not receive a medal, their campaign was imaginative and creative. OCAY League is coordinated through the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation's gifted and talented program.

when they met and formed sub committees based on substance abuse such as marijuana, alcohol, prescription drug abuse and narcotics. The group is working in small groups to strategize how best to continue the effort. The coalition meets monthly at various locations across Oswego County and is open to parents, students, law enforcement and organizations that share their goal to inform and educate young people to be safe and make good choices. Their mission is to address in a pro-active manner the dangers of substance abuse among young people. For more information or to get involved, contact Morley at 342-4489 or Grow at kgrow@cocoa.org.

70% of students in Oswego County have experimented with drugs and/or alcohol before age 15.

- Oswego County Substance Abuse Coalition

AHERA/Asbestos Notification

The Sandy Creek Central School, in accordance with the federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), maintains the complete Asbestos Management Plan at its 124 Salisbury Street, Sandy Creek location. Any questions regarding the plan should be directed to LEA designee Chris Ouder Kirk, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. He can be reached at 315-387-3445 x1535.

All requests to review the management plan can be made through the Sandy Creek Central School District Office at 315-387-3445.



Emergency School Announcements

In the event that it is necessary to close or delay school due to severe weather conditions, mechanical breakdown, etc. announcements will be made to the following radio and television stations.

Television: WWNY (Channel 7); WSTM (Channel 3); WTVH (Channel 5); WSYR (Channel 9), YNN (Channel 10), WWTI/ABC 50

Radio: 570AM, 620AM, 790AM, 1050AM, 1240AM, 92.1FM, 94.5FM, 95.7FM, 99.5FM, 100.7FM, 100.9FM, 102.1FM, 103.1FM, 104.7FM, 105.5FM, 105.9FM, 106.5FM, 106.7FM, and 107.9FM

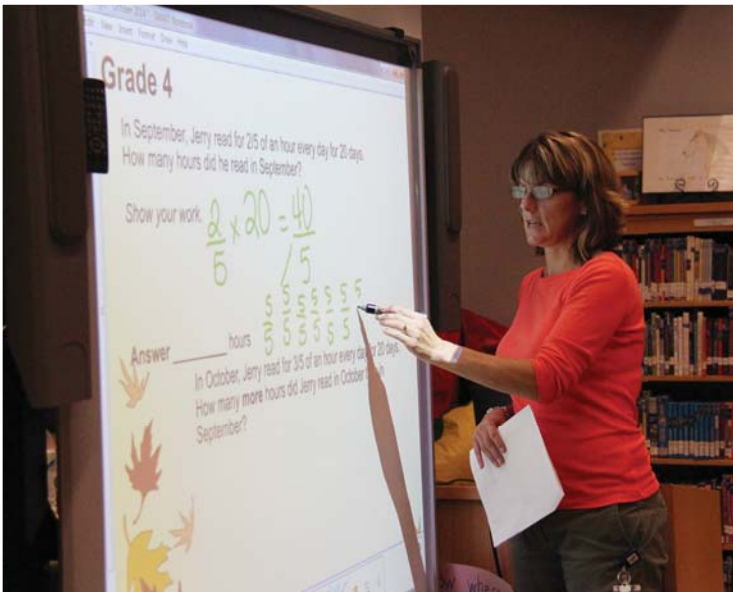


Fire Safety and Prevention Month Observed With Lacona and Sandy Creek Fire Departments' Visits to the School



Lacona First Assistant Chief Travis Balcom crawls through the crowd of students to allay their fears and show them that he's just a person with lots of safety equipment on to protect himself in a fire. Lacona and Sandy Creek Fire Departments visited several classes at Sandy Creek Elementary during Fire Safety and Prevention Month.

Math Night Helps Parents Help Their Children at Home



Sandy Creek Elementary School Math Coach Sara McNitt shows parents examples of the math homework students at the elementary school are working on at each grade level. The parents worked on the problems with McNitt and other personnel from the school during a recent Math Night. The school has regularly sponsored parent nights for families to aid them in assisting their children with Common Core Math and ELA homework and test preparation. The math night showed parents tips and tricks to help their children recognize patterns and grouping as well as providing insight into what their children are learning in the classroom so they can help their children with homework and provide additional support.



First grade students at Sandy Creek Elementary School stop for a quick photo with members of the Lacona Fire Department following a presentation at the school.

Andrew Amell tries on Joe Norton's firefighter jacket when the Sandy Creek Fire Department visited the school and talked to students in Pre-Kindergarten through first grade classes. The firefighters talked to students about the importance of checking smoke detectors and determining a family meeting spot, and also warned them of the dangers of playing with matches, lighters, fire, appliances and much more.



Zoe Britton checks out a fellow classmate with the body heat detector equipment utilized by the fire department to quickly locate people and/or pets still inside a smoke-filled building.



Sandy Creek Fourth-Graders Experience Native American Culture



Sandy Creek fourth grade students lift their hands to a point to symbolize corn as a hand motion for the song "The Three Sisters," a musical piece sung by performer and teaching artist Dave Ruch that talks about Iroquois culture.

The fourth-graders at Sandy Creek Elementary School experienced a little bit of Native American culture from performer and teaching artist Dave Ruch.

According to his website www.daveruch.com, "Dave leads students on a fun-filled musical journey into our history. Students become active participants in their own learning as they sing along (in English and Iroquois!), answer questions and act out songs."

Ruch brought along a handmade rattle made by the Iroquois and had the children guess what materials might have been used by the

Native Americans to make such an instrument long ago. The handle might have been made out of wood, the top was probably a dried out gourd. Dried-out corn, small stones or animal teeth could have been used inside to create the rattling sound.

Many of the songs Ruch taught the students related to everyday Iroquois life.

"Back then, you relied on nature for all your food. Whether that meant hunting or growing things, nature was everything," said Ruch. "So when nature brought food to them that they hadn't seen in a while, they stopped and celebrated with song."

One song the kids were particularly fond of was called "The Three Sisters." Ruch explained that the Native Americans lived in a matriarchal society, where the woman was most important, and that is why the song is called "The Three Sisters" and not "The Three Brothers."

The lyrics talked of seasons and the growing of corn, peas and squash. Teachers were instructed to act "squashed" every time the word "squash" was sang, boys covered their head to act as peas and girls held their hands up to a point to symbolize corn.



Harley Thayer, Lillian Kohlback, and Krissy Craw were active participants in Dave Ruch's recent performance at Sandy Creek Elementary School where the performer and teaching artist shared the music and culture of the Iroquois, with students at the school.

Sandy Creek Middle and High School Open House Held



Students were once again eager to bring their parents to the yearly Sandy Creek Middle and High School Open House to introduce them to their teachers and show them what a day in middle/high school looks like. Families toured the building and classrooms and enjoyed light refreshments along the way. Presentations in the auditorium covered information about testing, grading policies and hall passes. Pictured is 10th grader Lacey Donahue with mother Lisa Donahue and 10th grade English teacher Shelbie Pelton.

Ruch, pictured right, involved the students in his informative presentation, often allowing the students to use and play the authentic instruments, many of which were constructed by Iroquois people for him to use in his presentations.





Art Students Paint From Life in the Adirondacks



Advanced Drawing and Painting students as well as advanced art students working on portfolio preparation took a trip to the Adirondack Mountains for inspiration and experience drawing from nature.

Students in Martin Scoville’s Advanced Drawing and Painting classes at Sandy Creek High School took a recent field trip to Old Forge where they drew inspiration from nature.

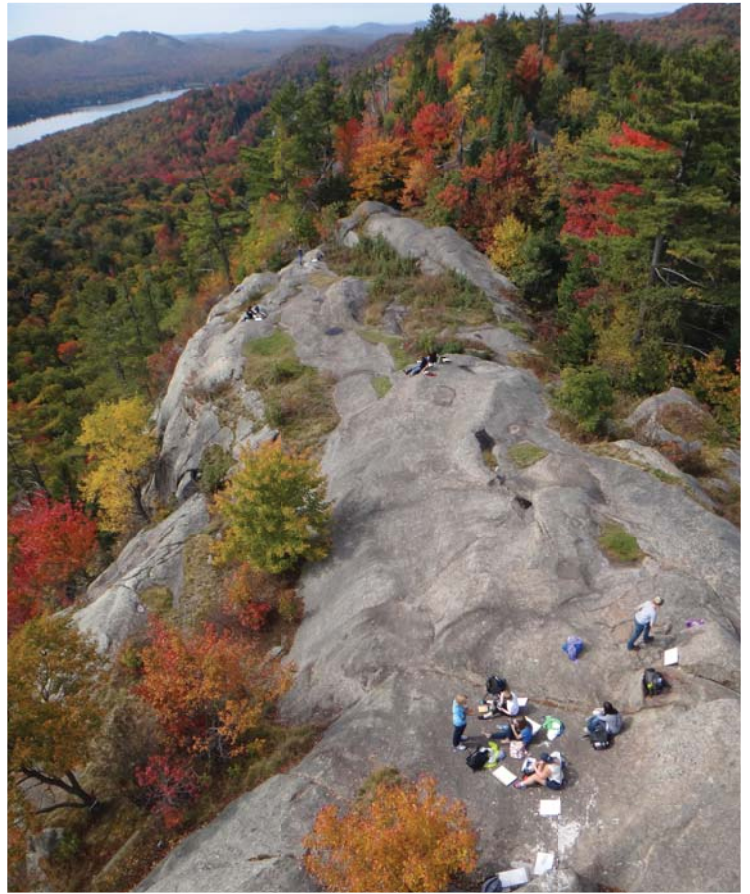
Prior to the field trip, the students studied the water colors of Winslow Homer, who worked in the Adirondack Mountains during a period of his life and painted many works during that time. “We used Winslow Homer’s works as an historical springboard,” said Scoville, who also said that painting from life rather than from two-dimensional photos is an important part of drawing and painting.

Senior art student Sarah McDougal agreed saying, the experience helped her and the other students to understand perspective. “It was awesome being up there,” she said. “You could choose your perspective and what you wanted to paint.”

Upon arriving in Old Forge, the students needed to get to the vantage point that would provide that inspirational view. Together they hiked up Bald Mountain where they chose a spot that provided the amazing vista. The students ate lunch on the mountain before hiking back down and returning to school.



The view from Bald Mountain served as both inspiration and subject for student artists from Sandy Creek High School.



The views were awe inspiring, and also provided students with the opportunity to draw from nature.



Senior Sarah McDougal holds her water color painting from the field trip to Bald Mountain in the Adirondack Mountains. McDougal and other students in Martin Scoville’s Advanced Drawing and Painting classes traveled to the inspiring location to draw from nature. Other student paintings from the trip are on the table next to McDougal.



Annual Powder Puff Football Game



Junior team members practice their offensive stance prior to the match up.



Junior boys joined together to cheer their classmates on in the game.



Senior team members were pumped up for the game against the juniors and were victorious in the end.



The teams battled it out on the field but were united in their support for the Comets football game later that evening.

Bus Safety Tips for Students

- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing or other behavior that can lead to carelessness. Do not stray onto streets, alleys or private property.
- Line up away from the street or road as the school bus approaches.
- Wait until the bus has stopped and the driver signals you before stepping onto the roadway.
- Use the handrail when stepping onto or exiting the bus.
- When on the bus, find a seat and sit quietly.
- Never put head, arms or hands out of the window.
- Keep aisles clear – books or bags are tripping hazards and can block the way in an emergency.
- Before you reach your stop, get ready to leave by getting your books and belongings together.
- At your stop, wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from your seat, then walk to the front door and exit, using the handrail.
- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least ten feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Wait for a signal from the driver before beginning to cross.



- When the driver signals, walk across the road stopping before the center line and wait for the driver's signal that it is safe to cross.
- Stay away from the bus' rear wheels at all times.

**Sandy Creek Central
School District**

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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

**Sandy Creek Central
School District Board
of Education**

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Middle School:
Carolyn Shirley
High School:
Maureen Shiel



**Varsity Cheerleading Team Takes First in
Copenhagen Spooktacular Competition**



The Varsity Cheerleading team from Sandy Creek High School recently took first place in the Copenhagen Spooktacular Cheer Competition. The team placed first in Medium Division and then won overall Grand Champions of the day, out-scoring eight other schools to take the top spot. The team includes: Captains Alicia Paige, Lexi Goodnough, and Sammi Pandolfi; and team members Alina Quintana, Tara Huggins, Bailey Laundre, Sara Castor, Mikayla Russell, Kim Distasio, Abby Widrig, Dallas Blair, Lindsey Goodnough, Jessica Leppien and Angelina Salzman. Individual All Stars were awarded to Sammi Pandolfi, Mikayla Russell, Tara Huggins, Alicia Paige and Lexi Goodnough. Duo awarded to Sara Castor and Tara Huggins.

***Congratulations to the
following Sandy Creek
Fall Sports Teams!***

- Modified Girls Cross Country team for taking 1st place in the small school division at the Adirondack Invitational
- Varsity Cheerleading for taking 1st Place at the Copenhagen Competition and named the Overall Grand Champion of the competition
- Varsity Football for continuing to advance in the playoffs for Section III

For current events, schedules and more visit the Sandy Creek Central School District website at www.SCCS.cnyric.org