

Sandy Creek

Central School
District
Newsletter



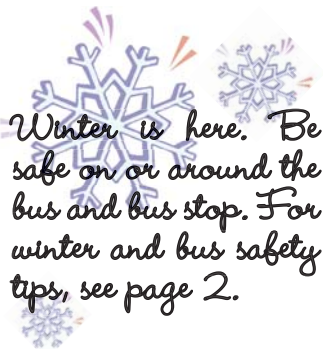
Winter 2015

The Comet's Tale



Have You Registered For STAR?

The New York State School Tax Relief Program, STAR, is a school tax rebate program offered to New York State residents to reduce school district property taxes on primary residences. Beginning in 2013, new legislation required homeowners to renew their STAR applications to protect against fraudulent STAR exemptions. If you have not renewed your application, the deadline to do so has been extended to March 1st. For more information, visit the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance website at <http://www.tax.ny.gov/> or call (518) 457-2036.



Winter is here. Be safe on or around the bus and bus stop. For winter and bus safety tips, see page 2.

OCAV League's Lunar Challenge Brings Home Gold



Taking the gold medal, first place finishers in the competition was the team from Sandy Creek High School. Pictured in front, left to right: Addie Comins, Anita Glenister, Sarah McDougal, Maggie King and Rosie Morgan. In back, left to right: Tomasso Galbiati, Dylan Bryant, Dallas Blair, Jay Iverson, Lexi Goodnough and Sandy Creek OCAV League Coach Caitlin White.

"Houston, we have a problem." It is with those words that the second Oswego County Academic Youth (OCAV) League began their second competition of the season entitled: Lunacy. The event featured challenges to test knowledge about the moon – scientific as well as the moon's role in literature, history, and culture.

In addition, the competition tested engineers and astronauts in a simulated life and death situation mimicking the Apollo 13 incident from April 1970 where astronauts experienced an explosion on board which severely impaired their space craft and left their lives in danger to increasing levels of carbon dioxide. Engineers on earth worked quickly to develop a filtration system that would remove those dangerous CO2 levels, using only items that the astronauts had on board. Then they had to instruct the astronauts on board the disabled capsule to build the same filter in a short period of time before the oxygen levels fell and they lost consciousness.

While not a life or death test, the Lunacy

competition did feature a time constraint to mimic the situation faced in 1970, with astronauts only having 20 minutes to construct their filter using the written instructions provided by the ground engineers. The models were tested using a fog machine and compared side-by-side with the prototypes created by the engineers to see how well the instructions were communicated and followed.

Other aspects of lunar knowledge were also tested in the competition and included creating a model of the Earth's moon illustrating a cosmological role of the moon, development of a poem with a moon reference or theme, and seven quizzes involving the moon from science, literature, history or culture as well as identification of moon phases in a lightning round.

Each challenge was given a score and when the results were tabulated the team from Sandy Creek High School was declared the victor, with Pulaski taking second place and Oswego High School finishing third.

OCAV 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 in a wide variety of competitive events that emphasize scholastic excellence, team building, leadership, and creativity. A particular strength of the league is its emphasis on cooperative problem solving. OCAV League is coordinated through the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation's gifted and talented program.

Great Sports!

Congratulations to the following teams for winning the Frontier League Sportsmanship Award for their division:

- Varsity Girls' Soccer
- Varsity Boys' Cross Country
- Varsity Girls' Cross Country

Sandy Creek Central School District





Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration Set For Feb. 3-5

Sandy Creek Elementary will be conducting registration for the Pre-K and Kindergarten classes of 2015-2016 on **Tuesday, February 3rd, Wednesday, February 4th and Thursday, February 5th, 2015 from 1:00 – 6:00 pm** on each of these days in the Elementary Office area. This registration is for:

- Incoming Pre-K students, who must be 4-years-old on or before December 1, 2015.
- Incoming Kindergarten students **who do not attend Sandy Creek's Pre-K Program** in the elementary building. Incoming Kindergarten candidates must be 5-years-old on or before December 1, 2015.

Parents/guardians must provide a valid birth certificate and shot record for their child. Proof of residency or custody may be necessary if there is a question. Students and parents/guardians must be residents of the district.

Students currently enrolled in the Sandy Creek Elementary School Pre-K will bring home registration packets for kindergarten, which should be returned to Mrs. McNitt or the elementary office no later than Thursday, February 5th.

For all incoming Pre-K and newly enrolling Kindergarten students, registration packets can be picked up in the elementary office during business hours beginning on Monday, January 26, 2015. **These must be returned to the office during the registration sessions of February 3rd through the 5th from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm.** Registrations **cannot** be accepted by the office outside of these designated days/times.

Registrations are not official until all forms are completed and a valid birth certificate is included. Other records required are immunization records, custody papers and possibly proof of residency.

For Pre-K only, if there are more than 40 students registered at 6:00 pm on February 5th, all candidates enter a lottery and the first 40 drawn are those chosen to participate. If 40 or less register, all candidates can participate from the start. A waiting list is established if the maximum of 40 students is exceeded.

Students for Pre-K and Kindergarten will be screened in separate sessions. More information regarding that will follow.

Please call the Sandy Creek Elementary School office with questions or concerns.



Fall Sports Scholar Athlete Teams

Outstanding scholar athletes abound at Sandy Creek High School as evidenced by the five sports qualifying for New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar Athlete status. In order to meet the stringent criteria, student averages must be 90% or greater and the following teams were recognized for this achievement:

- Girls' Cross Country
- Boys' Cross Country
- Girls' Soccer
- Fall Cheerleading
- Football

Representatives from each of the five teams are pictured above. Of the six fall varsity sports teams offered at Sandy Creek, five were honored with scholar athlete status.

Congratulations to the more than 50 students recognized for achieving this academic honor and representing the Sandy Creek Central School District as outstanding academic ambassadors on and off the field.



Winter Safety Tips

- Allow extra time in the morning to get to your bus on time.
- Wear bright clothing so the bus driver and other motorists can see you in the early morning and late evening.
- Stand away from where the bus stops, 15 feet back. Buses need extra room to stop when there is snow and ice.
- Dress properly. Winter clothing, hats, mittens and boots will help keep you warm.
- Don't play in the snow while waiting for the bus.
- Don't throw snow balls at the bus or anyone else.
- Don't slide in the snow or on ice patches in driveways or on the street. You could slide under the wheel of the bus or onto the street and get hurt.
- Don't push or shove around the bus. Someone could fall down on the ice and get hurt.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 26-29	Regents' Testing
Jan. 29	Early Dismissal at 11:30 AM - No PM Pre-K
	Half Day Staff Development
Jan. 30	Staff Development Day - No School for Students
Feb. 2	Spring Sports Sign-ups Begin
Feb. 3-5	Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration, 1-6 PM
Feb. 5	Elementary Report Cards Home
Feb. 12	Board of Education Meeting, 6 PM
Feb. 16	President's Day - School Closed
Feb. 16-20	Mid-Winter Recess - No School for Students
Feb. 27	Spring Sports Sign-ups End
Mar. 5	Music In Our School, 7 PM
Mar. 8	Daylight Saving Time Begins
Mar. 12	Board of Education Meeting, 6 PM
Mar. 13-14	Drama Production, 7 PM, HS Auditorium
Mar. 18	Elementary Family Reading Night
Mar. 20	Staff Development Day - No School for Students
Mar. 25	7-12 Band Concert, 7 PM, HS Auditorium
Mar. 30-Apr. 6	Spring Recess - No School for Students



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), WWTV/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



Holiday Concert Highlights



Above: Fifth grade chorus delighted the audience with their song tributes to snow.

Right: The combined choruses, 5th through 12th grade joined together for the finale which contained choral highlights from the movie "Frozen." Kaley Scheppard was the soloist for Olaf's song, "In Summer."



Above: Sandy Creek Elementary students showcase their musical talents both vocally and instrumentally at the Holiday Concert.



Above: Sandy Creek School District's Holiday Band Concert was held and featured performances by students in fifth through twelfth grades. Pictured, the senior band performed under the direction of Tom Artini.



Above: Sandy Creek first-graders wish "You!" a Merry Christmas at their Holiday Concert.

Holiday Concerts filled the air with music as Sandy Creek's talented students from all grade levels performed band and chorus concerts for family and friends. Audiences packed the auditorium and gymnasium for the chance to listen to the student holiday showcases.

Right: Sandy Creek Show Choir's performance of "For Unto Us a Child is Born" featured a solo by Madeline Yousey.



Pre-Kindergarten Concert photos can be found on the back page of this publication.



Sandy Creek Students Excel in Career & Technical Education Programs



CodiAnne Salzman reads a book to one of the students in the classroom at her rotation site at Lura M. Sharp Elementary School.

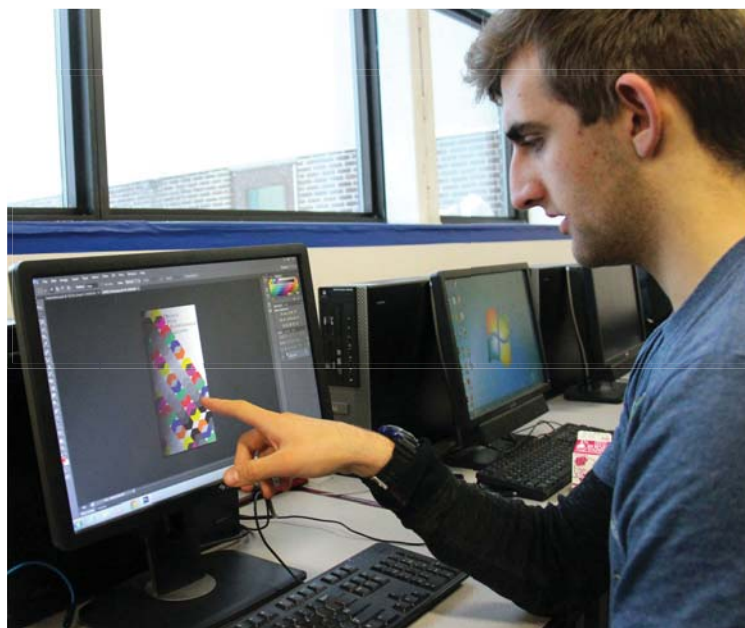
It would seem that working in the special education field would be in the blood of CodiAnne Salzman, a senior at Sandy Creek High School. Her mother works in the Pulaski District in a special education classroom, and her grandmother retired from the field and was the founder of the Make Sense Shop, a special education hands-on classroom that serves several districts, including Sandy Creek at a business site in Pulaski. But originally, CodiAnne thought she wanted to pursue a career in photography. That is, until she entered the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Class during 10th grade orientation at what was then, Oswego County BOCES (now known as the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation or CiTi).

"The minute I walked into the [Early Childhood Education] classroom, I knew I was home," said Salzman while at a rotation site for the class. Her two years in the ECE program through CiTi have solidified for her that the education field is not only her destiny, it is her dream. "It will never be a job," Salzman reflected, gesturing to the students seated at various areas across the room, "This is my life."

Salzman is thankful for the opportunity provided by the Sandy Creek District to attend CiTi's career and technical education programs. "I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't come here," she said. She always had an interest in photography, and thinks she might have pursued that as a career, had she not found ECE, but firmly believes she would have found that path unfulfilling and eventually would have come back around to teaching. Her two years at CiTi have, in her mind, saved her a few years of college going in the wrong direction.

Students in the ECE program study aspects of teaching and working with children from birth through elementary age and apply theoretical concepts to real-life situations in classroom rotations at a local elementary school and day care center. Along with the particular coursework, students earn certifications in first aid, CPR, AED, and CDA (Child Development Associate), a certification which will allow graduates to work in early childhood education environments, and many other aspects of early childhood education. Contrary to what others have said to her, the coursework for the class is rigorous and challenging. "This is not an easy class," she said "but well worth the time and effort."

Next fall, Salzman hopes to attend the State University of New York at Potsdam where she will major in Early Childhood Education, before continuing to earn her Masters' Degree in Special Education.



Digital Media Technology student Jacob Cornell points out graphic elements of a design he created in Adobe Photoshop, a software program used in his career and technical education class at the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation.

Sandy Creek High School Senior Jacob Cornell considers himself a "hands on learner" so when he began planning for his senior year of school, his mother encouraged him to look at programs at the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation (CiTi), formerly known as Oswego County BOCES.

Cornell approached his guidance counselor about the idea of attending a career and technical education program, and district personnel worked with him to find the program that would be the right fit. "My father's hobby is photography," he said, "and I've always had an interest in that so the Digital Media Technology class at CiTi appealed to me. For me it's a perfect fit." Cornell plans to enlist in the Marine Corps in the future and hopes to work as a combat journalist and photographer for the military, and felt the CTE program would provide a basic background in the field.

The Digital Media Technology class uses the latest industry hardware and software to complete projects in multimedia such as video production, audio editing, special effects, computer programming, desktop publishing and digital photography. While in the class, Cornell worked on one project to create and design a new logo for the school's Campus Café, formerly known as the Silver Nugget. Campus Café is a school store that sells snack food and drinks to students enrolled at CiTi and Cornell suggested the client incorporate a pretzel, one of the café's top selling items, into the logo. It's that type of hands-on, real world work that Cornell says makes the program special.

Being surrounded by other students who share similar interests also appeals to Cornell, who has decided that he might like to explore animation and game design. He is also interested in simulations, cartoons, and feels that what he has learned in website design and graphic design will help him in any field he might enter in the future. "Design is everywhere no matter what job you do."

For more information about career and technical education opportunities at CiTi, contact your guidance counselor or visit the CiTi website at CiTiboces.org.



National Honor Society Wraps Up Community Service Project



More than 100 families were recipients of boxes of food for the holidays in the Sandy Creek/Lacona area through the annual food and gift distribution day. Anita Glenister is pictured as she carries the packed boxes into place to be ready for distribution day.

Hundreds of less fortunate individuals and families from the Sandy Creek/Lacona area could rest assured that on Christmas morning their children would have presents to open and plenty of food for a holiday meal, thanks to the generosity and hard work of many volunteers including students from the Sandy Creek National Honor Society (NHS). The NHS students, along with their advisor, Casey Vallance, volunteer their time and energy each year to help local community groups wrap and box food as part of the holiday good will. Peggy Manchester, who coordinates the annual distribution, said food boxes were packed for 116 families who signed up and gifts were wrapped for over 200 children in the area.

Needy families apply for the gift and food distribution that takes place at one of the local churches just before the holiday each year. The application provides information so volunteers can match sizes, needs and wants to a specific child in need. The boxes are separated by child and identified with a first name and family number to allow for

anonymity.

Student and volunteer wrappers munched on Christmas cookies and holiday music played as they worked feverishly to get the thousands of presents wrapped. Boxes of wrapped presents piled up quickly as the students individually wrapped each present, and packed each food box with the fixings for a wonderful holiday meal. On distribution day, the food boxes also included a turkey and margarine for each family.

"I don't know what we'd do without them," Manchester said of the NHS student volunteers. "We are so thankful for their help."

Student volunteers returned again on distribution day to assist families and food pantry volunteers with transporting the packages and food boxes to the families' vehicles for transport home.



Liberty Yalch wraps a present for the Sandy Creek/Lacona holiday gift and food distribution for needy families in the area. Yalch is a member of the Sandy Creek High School National Honor Society who volunteered with her fellow members to assist in the annual community service project.

District to Implement Student Information System SchoolTool

The Sandy Creek Central School District is launching a Student Information System called SchoolTool which, in the fall of 2015, will enable parents of students in grades 6-12 to log on and access their child's grades, attendance, assignments and communicate easily with the student's classroom teachers. Before the full launch in the fall, parents will be able to log on and view their child's schedule and have quick links to classroom teachers.

Information has been, and will continue to be, sent home with students about the new web-based communication tool which can be accessed through the Sandy Creek Central School District website. Only those with a log in and password will be able to access SchoolTool and permissions will be set for parents to access only their child's information to protect student security and privacy. It is essential that parent/guardian contact information is accurate in order to access the SchoolTool system.

An e-mail will be sent out on February 2nd to the e-mail addresses the district has on file for the parents/guardians of students in grades 6-12. School officials urge parents to contact the school if they do not receive the e-mail. If they are aware that the district does not have a correct e-mail address, parents are asked to contact the District Registrar, Jennifer Hanks, at jennifer.hanks@scs.cnyric.org or by phone at 387-3445, ext. 1930 to update their contact information.

The contact information currently on file with the district is used to notify parents/guardians of school closures, delays and early dismissals, so if you have not been receiving those notifications, it is likely that your information is either incorrect or not entered into the system.

The Sandy Creek Central School District continually strives to increase communication with parents and believes that SchoolTool is another tool to help in that regard. Technology Coordinator Paul Goulet, is pleased with feedback he has received from other districts in the county and across New York State who are using the SchoolTool student information system. According to Goulet, "Districts that have utilized this system have said that it has proven to be a useful tool." Goulet encourages anyone with questions to contact him at pgoulet@scs.cnyric.org or at the high school at 387-3445.

Parents of students in grades 6-12:

Check your e-mail on February 2nd for verification of SCCSD contact confirmation. If you do not receive an e-mail, contact the Sandy Creek District Registrar at 387-3445, ext. 1930 to provide updated contact information.



Sandy Creek National Honor Society Inducts Twelve New Members

The Sandy Creek Carpe Diem Chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed twelve new members into their chapter in a special induction ceremony held at the high school.

Followed by a welcome and congratulation by Superintendent of Schools Stewart Amell, Cassandra Vallance, NHS adviser, shared the chapter's history and the importance of the National Honor Society in recognizing students for their outstanding academics, character, leadership and service. Current members and officers of the chapter participated in the candle lighting ceremony marking the importance of the four principles of National Honor Society. President Rachel Yerdon, Vice-President Jay Iverson, Secretary/Reporter/Historian Marissa Lacelle and Treasurer Madeline Yousey were joined by Maggie King in sharing the significance of character, scholarship, leadership and service in the lives of NHS members.

The following students were inducted during the ceremony: Chelsey Blodgett, Tyler Brown, Dylan Bryant, Emily Cheney, Kate Hanni, Brigid McClusky, April Miller, Rosaleen Morgan, Andrew Olin, Morgan Ranieri, Skylynn Salzman, and Kasey Yerdon. They join current members: Kathryn Austin, Olivia Bauer, Autumn Darling, Anita Glenister, Alexandra Goodnough, Zachary Halsey, Jay Iverson, Maggie King, Marissa Lacelle, Joshua Lococo, Sarah McDougal, Taylor Mullen, Alina Quintana, Samantha Pandolfi, Collin Reff, Kortney Steele, Timothy Wolfe, Liberty Yalch, Madeline Yousey, and Rachel Yerdon.

Sandy Creek High School Principal Maureen Shiel congratulated the inductees saying, "You will be held to a higher standard." She cautioned the students saying, "Lead by example and be a role model for the younger students at Sandy Creek." Shiel compared the honor with another great achievement in high school, that of graduation saying, "With the exception of graduation, this is one of the greatest



New members of the Carpe Diem Chapter of the National Honor Society at Sandy Creek High School join with current members following the induction ceremony held recently at the school.

recognitions you can receive in your high school career."

Prior to the ceremony, a special dinner was held to honor the National Honor Society members, inductees and their families.

Top Speller in Sandy Creek Spelling Bee Determined



Three students from the Sandy Creek Central School District were the top spellers in a grade 4-8 spelling bee held recently at the school. Students earned a spot in the oral bee after taking a written test earlier in the month. The local bee, coordinated by teacher Jodi Whitney, featured fifteen students vying for the top spots by spelling progressively more difficult words. The top three were fifth graders Matt Trudell (first), and Emma Halsey (second), and seventh grader Sadie Lurcock (third). Trudell, as top speller, moved on to the Post Standard/WCNY Spelling Bee held in January. The spelling bee helps students improve spelling, increase vocabulary and proper English language usage, and the top speller in the local contest will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee, the nation's largest and longest-running bee. Pictured, left to right are: Eighth Grade English Teacher Jodi Whitney, Lurcock, Halsey, Trudell, and Sandy Creek Middle School Principal Carolyn Shirley.



Students Selected for All County Chorus

Exceptional chorus students from the Sandy Creek Central School District were recently selected to participate in the Oswego County Music Educators' Association (OCMEA) All-County Music Festival held on January 16th and 17th in the Mexico School District. The students were selected following an audition process held earlier and represent the top vocal musicians from the Sandy Creek District. They will perform with other top students from across the county in the annual music festival, under the direction of accomplished guest conductors. Students selected to participate in the OCMEA All-County Music Festival in January are pictured left to right: Hannah Sawchuck, Mariah Hess, Anita Glenister, Madeline Yousey, Nicky Radford, Dante Clowes, Jason Hays, David Hennigan and Emily Kehoe.



Sandy Creek Middle School National Junior Honor Society members are pictured following the induction ceremony of new members.

Middle School National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Sandy Creek Middle School's Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) held a new member induction ceremony on Sunday, November 23rd. Despite two previous weather cancellations which forced the weekend date, a large number of family and friends were on hand to welcome the new members into the chapter. Thirteen members joined the 17 current members, in the prestigious group which recognized outstanding scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. NJHS Adviser Susan Gafner shared the history and purpose of the organization and current chapter officers Joseph Metott, Margery Yousey, Sean Hennigan, Mackenzie Lococo, Kennedy Sullivan and Alison Lantry participated in the symbolic candle lighting ceremony which highlighted the character traits that distinguish members of honor society. Sandy Creek Middle School Principal Carolyn Shirley assisted Gafner in recognizing the new members and led students in the NJHS Oath.

Current members of the Sandy Creek Central School District NJHS members include: Violet Carkey, Kayla Carnes, Bailey Fahnestock, Abigail Fitzpatrick, Cassondra Hayes, Sean Hennigan, Kalista Kimball, Alison Lantry, Mackenzie Lococo, Carly Lyndaker, Zachary Martin, Joseph Metott, Shelby Miller, Kennedy Sullivan, Samantha Walter, Alexis Wolfe, and Margery Yousey. They welcomed new members: Esther Brafman, Gavin Babcock, Madison Bauer, Madison Brown, Sydney Cook, Riley Dowlearn, Aden Goodnough, Alaina Hathway, Adam Hilton, McKenzie Kwak, Sadie Lurcock, Alexis McNitt, and Marley Yerdon.

A reception was held for the students and their families following the ceremony.

National Junior Honor Society was founded in 1929 to recognize outstanding middle level students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, leadership, character, service and citizenship.

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

Varsity Boys' Basketball Team Undeclared in League Play



Above: Reis Harding (14), drives to the basket during the Sandy Creek Varsity Boys' Basketball team win over South Lewis, 56-49. Following the game, the Comets' record improved to 8-0 in the Frontier League, and 8-1 overall. The team's only loss came in late December to non-league opponent Red Creek. The New York State Sportswriters' Association ranks Sandy Creek 19th in the state among Class C schools, and the Central New York High School Basketball Media Poll ranks the Comets team at 5th among small schools. **Above right:** Matt Reese goes up for the offensive rebound. The team is coached by Jim Hunt.



Two Sandy Creek Players Named New York State Football All Stars



Two Sandy Creek football standouts have been named to the New York State Sportswriters' Association All State Team from Section III, Class D. The two football all stars are Zach Halsey, left, and Kyle Fayette. Halsey, a senior, earned the recognition at the Defensive Lineman position, while Fayette, also a senior, earned the honor as a Linebacker.

Sandy Creek Central School District

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Sandy Creek, NY 13145

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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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Middle School:
Carolyn Shirley
High School:
Maureen Shiel



Sandy Creek Pre-K Students Sing Holiday Tunes



Sandy Creek Elementary School pre-kindergarten students entertained a crowd of family and staff members during recent holiday concerts. Above, Noelani Foster, Bentley Loppergola and Emily Walke belt out one of many songs during the morning performance.



Students enrolled in the afternoon pre-kindergarten session at Sandy Creek Elementary School sing "Jingle Bells" as part of the holiday concert held recently.

Holiday music echoed throughout the Sandy Creek Elementary School wing as pre-kindergarten students treated family members to two separate concerts.

Students in both the morning and afternoon pre-k programs belted out classic tunes while dancing and moving along to the beat of the music. They rang bells during "Jingle Bells" and used their hands as antlers during the crowd-favorite performance of "Reindeer Hokey-Pokey."

Family members, staff and district administrators were on hand to enjoy the concerts, which have become an annual tradition in the Sandy Creek Central School District. The concert was just one of many held during the month of December within the district.

Students Participate in All-State Chorus



Three Sandy Creek High School students were selected for participation in the All-State Concerts held at the Eastman Theatre in Rochester, NY during the annual Winter Conference of the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) in early December. The three chorus students were selected for this elite honor following an audition process through the NYSSMA Solo Festival earlier this year. Pictured, left to right are: Mariah Hess, Anita Glenister and Abby Irwin.