

Sandy Creek

Central School
District
Newsletter



Fall 2015

The Comet's Tale



New Raptor Visitor System Implemented

For the Sandy Creek Central School District, the safety and security of their students is the number one priority. In keeping with this policy, the district has implemented the Raptor Technologies Visitor Management System to improve the visitor management process in the schools.

First time access to a building will require all visitors to present a driver's license or photo ID to be scanned and registered into the system. Only the visitors name and date of birth will be recorded, no other personal information will be logged. The new system electronically logs visitors as they check-in at one of the district entrances, screens those visitors against a national sex offender database and then prints a visitor badge. Once in the system, IDs will not be required to be scanned, but may be required to be shown to the District personnel at

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New Faces in the Sandy Creek Central School District



New staff in the transportation department at Sandy Creek Central School District are pictured, left to right: Molly Wheeler, Cindy Catalano, Pamela Montieth, Ella King and Susan Rich.

New teaching/academic staff in the Sandy Creek School District are pictured left to right: Nick Elkin, adapted physical education teacher; Courtney Williams, teaching assistant; Whitney Stiles, psychologist; Jared Cook, middle school/high school health teacher; Cammie Holmes, first grade teacher; and Erika Barnaby, speech/language pathologist.



First Day of School for Pre-Kindergarten Students



The first day of school for Sandy Creek Elementary's pre-kindergarten programs went smoothly, as the students successfully became acclimated with their classmates and teachers.

Above left: Sisters Autumn and Ashlynn Trumble work together to solve a puzzle. Lower left: William Garvin is all smiles after successfully completing a Lego building assignment. Above right: Student Rowlan Stanton enjoys his first day of school by playing with his favorite dinosaur figures.

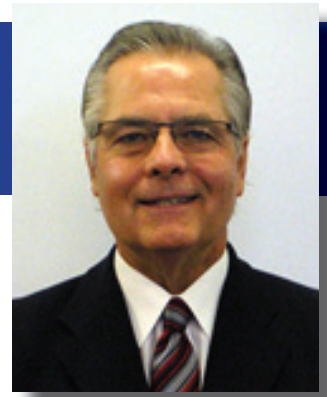
Sandy Creek Central School District





A Message From the District Superintendent

Mr. Stewart R. Amell



Capital Project Vote Set for Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015

After many months of planning the Board of Education will ask residents for approval on two propositions in November. Both propositions will be voted on separately. A newsletter/informational flyer devoted to the specifics of the project will be mailed out late in October. An informational meeting for the public will be held on October 22, 2015 beginning at 6:30pm in the District Office Board of Education Room.

To give you a head start on what the District is requesting, the propositions include the following:

Proposition 1: This proposition includes improvements to the main campus addressing mechanical, plumbing and electrical issues along with site work. Also included within this proposition is a new bus maintenance facility to be built to the east of our existing bus garage. The District will retain our existing garage for inside bus storage and to provide work space for our building maintenance staff. In addition the District would like to purchase two (2) pieces of property adjacent to our existing campus. One parcel will provide for alternate

access to our shared fuel pumps eliminating a current safety hazard. The second parcel would provide for more parking, snow storage, and increased green space.

Proposition 2: Many residents have asked for a number of years "Why don't we have a track?" This proposition will add an all purpose track around a new properly drained all purpose multi-sport natural turf field. This proposition will also include track and field amenities (such as high jump aprons, long jump runway, pole vault, shot-put and steeplechase), a new press box, bleachers for both the home and opposing team spectators, along with a paved viewing area in the southwest corner of the field. We anticipate community use of our proposed outdoor track to be much like the use of our indoor track.

We look forward to supplying you with additional information both at our meeting on October 22nd and through our special edition Capital Project newsletter.

Sandy Creek Middle School / High School Holds Open House



Renee Garvin, left, and son Michael meet with Jonn Stoker, right, Social Studies teacher at Sandy Creek High School, during the recent Sandy Creek Middle School/High School Open House. Students along with their parents and guardians attended the open house for an opportunity to meet the teachers and communicate regarding the first few weeks of school in the district.



Middle School Spanish teacher Karen Miller, second from left, meets with Michaela Kastler's parents, Scott, left, and Kati, second from right, about Michaela's progress in Spanish class.

For up-to-date events, sports schedules, activities, contact information and more visit the Sandy Creek Central School District website at: www.SCCS.enyric.org



Emergency Evacuation Drill Proves District's Readiness

Sandy Creek Central School District students now know what to do in case of an emergency evacuation at the school.

With coordination from local businesses, municipalities and fire departments, a drill was held Sept. 18 where everyone evacuated the building, and walked down Academy Street before being called to their afternoon buses lined up on Salisbury Street. Both streets were shut down during the 45-minute drill to ensure the practice run went smoothly.

High School Principal Maureen Shiel said the annual drill refreshes students and staff on what to do in case of an emergency such as a bomb threat, gas leak, or another potential danger.

"It's good to practice that so kids are trained, and staff knows what to do," she said.

Extra spots on buses were filled with walkers so all students could practice safe evacuation procedures. Buses took students around the block during the test run, but Shiel said in the event of a real emergency walking or busing of students would be disbursed as follows: pre-kindergarten through second grade would go to the town hall, third through fifth graders would go to the Lacona Fire Department, and sixth through 12th graders would go to the Sandy

Creek Fire Department. All students would remain at those locations until further notice.

Shiel said if and when an evacuation occurs, the school would send a message out to all parents via the school's communications system currently in place for district-wide messages.



Staff members directed students away from the school buildings where they boarded waiting school buses for transport to safety during the recent Emergency Evacuation Drill. The students were only driven around the block in the drill, but, in the event of a real emergency, would be transported by grade to area safe locations.



Sandy Creek District students in grades Pre-K to twelve, along with staff members, evacuated the District buildings to practice emergency preparedness during a recent Emergency Evacuation Drill.



The recent Emergency Evacuation Drill at the Sandy Creek Central School District involved area emergency responders who practiced their response to an emergency situation. The cooperation between the school district, municipalities, fire departments and businesses allowed everyone to practice their procedure to better prepare in case of an actual emergency.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct. 8 Board of Education Meeting, 6 pm
- Oct. 9 Half Day Staff Development Day
K-12 Early Dismissal at 11:30 am; No PM Pre-K
- Oct. 12 Columbus Day - School Closed
- Oct. 13-16 MS/HS Spirit Week
- Oct. 16 Homecoming Game at 7 pm;
Senior Recognition at Half Time
- Oct. 17 Homecoming Dance 7-10 pm
- Oct. 22 Capital Project Public Information Meeting, 6:30 pm,
District Boardroom
- Oct. 30 Elementary Halloween Parade 2 pm
- Nov. 6-7 OCMEA Elementary All-County Festival, Fulton
- Nov. 10 NHS Induction Ceremony, 7 pm
- Nov. 17 Capital Project Vote Noon - 8 pm District Boardroom
- Nov. 18 Elementary Early Dismissal 11:30 am; No Pre-K,
Elementary Parent Conferences
- Nov. 25 Grades 1 & 2 Thanksgiving Feast, 2 pm HS Cafe
- Nov. 26-27 Thanksgiving Recess - School Closed
- Dec. 3 5-12 Band Concert, 7 pm
- Dec. 10 Board of Education Meeting, 6 pm
- Dec. 10 5-12 Chorus Concert, 7 pm
- Dec. 14 Staff Development Day - No School for Students
- Dec. 18 Pre-K Holiday Concert 10 am & 1 pm
- Dec. 18 K-5 Holiday Concert, 2 pm HS Gym
- Dec. 21 Pre-K Concert Snow Date
- Dec. 24- Jan 3 Holiday Recess - No School for Students



Jared Campbell Shares Blue Project Presentation for Students in the Sandy Creek Central School District

Jared Campbell, an award-winning singer-songwriter from Binghamton, NY brought his "blue project" presentation to the Sandy Creek Central School District where he held assemblies for the elementary, middle and senior high schools. His message, which focuses on overcoming obstacles, anti-bullying, respect and being kind to one another, along with his mix of uplifting, thought-provoking and emotionally heartfelt songs, was shared with the students in



Jared Campbell compared individuals to the character, Iron Man who carries a source of light and power within his chest, symbolic of both strength and kindness, characteristics that we all possess. "You can all be superheroes," Campbell said.



How many of you have a dream? Campbell asked the Sandy Creek Middle School audience. His positive message encouraged students to dream, work hard and realize that dream and he used examples of others that faced obstacles but persevered and achieved their goals in life. "Stay focused," he said, "and remember: Life is good..."

four assemblies. Using a mix of humor and personal experiences to relate to his audiences, Campbell reinforced the district's character education message of respect, responsibility and bully prevention. He talked about different struggles that individuals face and encouraged the young people in the audience to go after their dreams and also asked that students reach out to each other to make sure that all felt included. "Everybody belongs at Sandy Creek," he said.

Trick-or-Treat

Off the Street

Saturday, October 31st

from 3-6 pm

Sandy Creek Elementary School Gymnasium

Cost: \$5.00 per child or \$12 max per family

- Trick-or-Treat stations
- Watch scary, holiday-themed movies
- Snacks
- Face painting
- and many other festive activities

All in a safe, secure environment with friends and classmates!

Proceeds to benefit the Senior class of 2016





Members of the Junior Varsity and Varsity Cross Country teams at Sandy Creek Middle School / High School took part in a fundraiser/team building experience picking apples at Appledale Orchards in Mexico. Team members, with help from parents and other volunteers, picked more than 100 bushels of apples in approximately an hour for the fundraiser.

Team Goes Apple Picking and Raises Money For Warm-ups

Cross Country JV and Varsity team members from Sandy Creek Middle School/High School took to the orchards to pick more than 100 bushels of apples as part of a fundraiser for their team. The teams sold fresh picked apples on a pre-order basis and then came together on a beautiful, sunny afternoon to fill those orders. In just about an hour, hundreds of bags of red, ripe apples were loaded into waiting vehicles for transport back to the district and waiting customers. They will use the money raised to purchase warm ups for the team. It was a profitable and fun project, but according to varsity coach Patricia King, the fundraiser served another purpose. It also served as a team building exercise where team members who had already filled their bags, worked to help others pick apples to meet their customers' orders. When all of the orders were filled, they helped each other carry the bags of apples and loaded more than 100 bushels of apples into parents' cars and trucks for delivery to customers.



Marley Yerdon carries two bags of apples she picked for the cross country team at Sandy Creek Middle School / High School. The team used the apple sale as a fundraiser to purchase warm ups for the team members.



Rosie Morgan, captain of the Girls' Varsity Cross Country team is pictured hard at work picking apples to fill her orders.

Troi Wall, pictured right, finished in the top spot at the first race of the fall season for the Varsity Cross Country team in a competition against Watertown High School. Troi's time of 18:56 for the 5K (3.1 mile) race, while not a personal best, was a good showing after being sidelined for the season last year with an injury. Troi is captain of the Varsity Boys' team



and recognizes that in that leadership position, "everyone is looking up and watching me," so he strives "to be the best I can be."



Smoke Bus Drill Prepares Students for Quick Exit

The transportation department at Sandy Creek Central School District recently held a very unique, yet essential, training exercise for students in grades 6-12. The physical education classes for all middle and high school students were trained in safe and efficient evacuation of a bus under possibly one of the worst case scenarios: a bus fire.

District personnel know just how important it is to properly and quickly evacuate a bus that has experienced a fire because of an experiment several years ago using an old, non-operational bus to test several questions: First, can a bus burn? Second, if it does burn, how quickly does it burn? And third, how much time do students have to evacuate? The test burn answered all of these questions as the bus did indeed, burn, and burned quickly, leaving the district to determine that all students and staff will need to have everyone off of the bus in less than two minutes.

The recent drill with seventh grade students utilized a “fog”



In a short period of time the school bus began to fill with “smoke” from the fog machine utilized by the transportation department to simulate “smoke” during an emergency bus drill at the school. Presenters waited until the bus was completely filled with the harmless fog before opening the emergency latch at the back of the bus and helping each student exit the bus in a safe and efficient manner.



Maddy Palmer sits and slides to exit the bus during the smoke bus evacuation drill. Helping her as she leaves the bus are Physical Education Teachers Dorianne Hathway, left, and James Hunt, right.



machine to simulate smoke and showed that even when waiting until the bus was fully “engaged,” and smoke completely obstructed the sight of the occupants, they were able to safely evacuate everyone in just over one minute.

The middle and senior high school student groups were used to act as youth leaders were this emergency ever to occur on a regular bus run when all grade levels, including elementary students, are present on the bus. The physical education classes were selected for the drill to be able to reach every student in those grades, even those who do not typically receive bus transportation to and from home. Those grade levels are often bussed to and from athletic events and other field trips from school and proved to be an effective leader group.



Elementary Open House Proves Very Successful

Smiles and laughter filled the hallways at Sandy Creek Elementary School during a recent open house event. The open house provided parents and teachers the opportunity to discuss classroom curriculum, and provided students the opportunity to showcase what they’ve learned throughout the first month of school. Pictured, Principal Bonnie Finnerty stands with students Josiah, Juliana and Nathaniel Curry, and their mother, Roberta.



Common Goal of Soccer Brings Students Together From Around the World



Toni Duehring, seated front left, came to Sandy Creek from near Hamburg, Germany through a foreign exchange program. She is hosted by the Hanni family and is seated with "sister" Kate and is surrounded by the Varsity Girls' Soccer Team, of which she is a member.

It is said that sports bring people together from all across the world and this is true at Sandy Creek High School where two foreign exchange students are members of varsity soccer teams at the school.

Toni Duehring, from Germany is a mid-fielder on the girls' varsity

New Raptor Visitor System Implemented

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the welcome desk in order to print a visitor's badge.

These district-wide systems have been implemented to insure the safety of all students and staff.

A visitor's badge will not be necessary for visitors to the schools to drop off an item, pick up paperwork, or attend a scheduled student performance, however, anyone who signs out a student from outside of the regular dismissal time will be screened.

The Sandy Creek Central School District endeavors to maintain a safe and secure environment for students while also remaining a welcoming place for parents and community members. They ask for patience as this procedure is implemented. If you have questions about the sign-in procedures, please contact building administration.



Ricardo Capetillo, a senior from Mexico, has found that his participation on the Boys' Varsity Soccer team has given him more things to do while in Sandy Creek for the school year.

soccer team. She plays on the team along with Kate Hanni, whose family is hosting Duehring for the school year.

While only a "little homesick," Duehring also said that her participation on the team has helped her tremendously in getting to know others at the school. "Everyone has been very friendly, very welcoming," she said, adding that while she has only been here for a few short weeks her experience has been great. Duehring speaks English quite well, having taken seven years of English in Germany, but noted that there are still cultural differences between her home and the U.S., as well as lots of similarities, especially when it comes to sports and friends.

When she returns to Germany following graduation here at Sandy Creek, she will have three more years of high school to complete before graduating from school in Germany. But for now, she's enjoying the experience and looks forward to a successful soccer season on the team.

Ricardo Capetillo has also found friendship through his participation in sports and is a member of the Boys' Varsity Soccer team. Capetillo is from the Yucatan area of Mexico, where his parents, brother and sister live. He is hosted here by Ray and Nancy Stark.

Capetillo has found that language is not his biggest concern, but he is a little unsure about the change that weather will bring, especially considering the temperate climate he is accustomed to.

A soccer player since he was very little, Capetillo has enjoyed participating on the varsity squad. "Everyone has been very nice," he said.

Boys' Varsity Soccer Coach Steve Olsen is pleased to have Capetillo on his squad saying, "He's got a good touch on the ball." He also noted that members of the team have asked Capetillo to help them practice their Spanish. Olsen also said that he believed the foreign exchange program offered a good experience for the Sandy Creek students to learn more about the world and to think globally.

**Sandy Creek Central
School District**

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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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School District 2014-15
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Middle School:
Carolyn Shirley
High School:
Maureen Shiel



**Elementary Band Program Teaches
First Year Students a Musical Lesson**



The Sandy Creek Central School District's band opportunities begin as early as fifth grade, with band class every other day and individual or small group lessons once a week. Pictured are fifth grade baritone players, left to right: Ryan Barney, Dustin Mackey and Tyler Bolster. Also in the lesson is tuba player Elizabeth Glazier, far right. Because of a recent assembly, Elizabeth joined the baritone players during their small group lesson to make up for having missed her lesson during the assembly. Most students borrow district-owned instruments, but a local instrument rental company comes to the school at the start of the school year for those students who wish to rent or buy their instrument. Elementary band instructor is Valerie Marshall.

All-State Chorus Participants



Students from Sandy Creek High School were selected to participate in the All-State Chorus Festival to be held in November. The students were selected from auditions they performed earlier in the year. Pictured, left to right are: Mariah Hess, Hannah Sawchuck, Jason Hays and David Hennigan. Missing from photo but also selected for All-State is Nicky Radford.



**For up-to-date
events,
sports
schedules,**

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website at:**

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