



Robin Hood - pg. 2

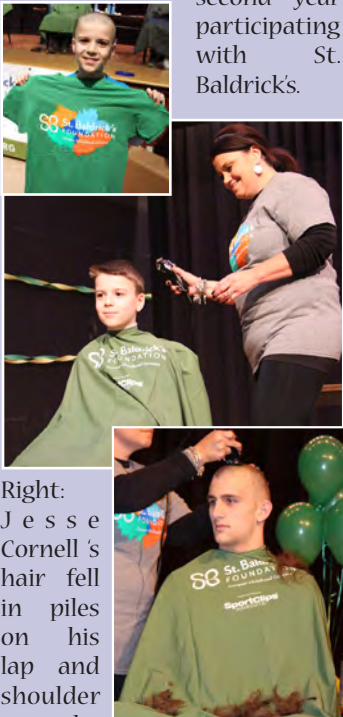
Spring 2016

## The Comet's Tale



### Sandy Creek Students Shave for St. Baldrick's Cause

Students from the Sandy Creek School District participated in a local St. Baldrick's Shave-a-thon to raise money for childhood cancer research. Cade Stoker, below, was first in line to offer up his hair for the worthy cause. This was Cade's second year participating with St. Baldrick's.



Right: Jesse Cornell's hair fell in piles on his lap and shoulder as he shaved his head during a local St. Baldrick's fundraiser. The event raised more than \$3,000.

## Team Advances to 2016 VEX World Championship

The A-Team from Sandy Creek along with their alliance, Freezing Code from Oswego, finished in first place at the Northern New York VEX Skyrise State Robotics Championship, advancing them to the 2016 VEX Worlds on April 20-23, in Louisville, KY.

Members of the Sandy Creek A-Team include: Team Captain Andrew Olin; Programmer Oren McDougal; Scout T.J. Harding; Driver Logan Hatch; and Team Scribe/Record Keeper Zeke Durham. The team is coached by Sandy Creek Technology Teacher John DeGone.

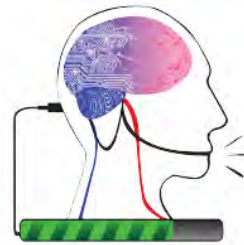
"John came to me over a year ago and we discussed the future of robotics here at Sandy Creek," said Sandy Creek Superintendent of Schools Stewart Amell. "I was very excited to hear he was interested in starting a program. We provided him and his students the resources and then they win the NNY State Championship his first year! I'm ecstatic for him and his students. They have worked very hard after school until the late night hours preparing for this competition."



The championship VEX Robotics team from Sandy Creek High School are pictured here with their winning robot and trophies. Left to right are Coach John DeGone, T.J. Harding, Logan Hatch, Oren McDougal, Andrew Olin and Zeke Durham.

## Oswego County P-TECH

Oswego County will have a new pathway for high school students interested in Advanced Manufacturing. The Oswego County Pathways in Technology Early College High School, or P-TECH for short, is a unique high school in the county with a ninth grade to grade 14 (college) model resulting in a Regents diploma and an Associate's degree in Electrical Engineering Technology or Mechanical Technology from Onondaga Community College, FREE of cost to the student or their family. The program is open to students entering ninth grade in the fall of 2016. For more information about P-TECH, visit their website at [www.CITIBoces.org/ptech](http://www.CITIBoces.org/ptech) or talk to your child's guidance counselor.



Oswego County P-TECH

To prepare for the VEX competitions, the students, designed, built, and programmed their robots from the ground up and then went head-to-head in tournaments and challenges. This year's theme, the "Nothing But Net" challenge was played in a competition arena by scoring colored balls in high and low goals, and additional points could be earned by elevating the robot in a designated climbing zone.

At the VEX Worlds, the Sandy Creek team will compete against the best of the best robotics teams from around the world. The event will feature top teams from over 1,000 VEX Robotics tournaments happening in cities around the globe. Over 30 nations will be represented in this elite competition taking place at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

"The Sandy Creek School District has been very supportive of the robotics program throughout its inception," said Coach DeGone. "I have been blessed with a supportive superintendent and administration that value problem solving, critical thinking, and the practical application of mathematics and sciences. I am very proud of the hard work, dedication, and relentless determination of all of the Sandy Creek robotics team members!"





# Drama Department Presents "The Legend of Robin Hood...Sort of"

On March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, the Sandy Creek High School Drama Department presented a comedic adaptation of the story of Robin Hood entitled "The Legend of Robin Hood...Sort Of." The hilariously funny take on the classic story of Robin Hood provided audience members with a tongue-in-cheek comedy full of laughs and slap stick fun.

The production was under the direction of Sandy Kinney and Valerie Marshall and featured surprise guest cardinals Stu Amell and Maureen Shiel.

Photos from the Friday night show are included here.



For up-to-date events, sports schedules, activities, contact information and more visit the Sandy Creek Central School District website at: [www.SCCS.cnyric.org](http://www.SCCS.cnyric.org)



First place in the Crime Scene Investigation team included Shelby Buffham (Fulton), Megan Gass (Central Square), and Jasmyn Williams (Sandy Creek). The team members are students in the Public Safety and Justice class at the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation (CiTi).

## Sandy Creek Students Excel at SkillsUSA Competition

CiTi walked away from the Area II Regional Conference SkillsUSA competition with nine first-place awards, nine second-place awards and five third-place winners.

From Sandy Creek, Jasmyn Williams' team Crime Scene Investigation took first place; Keyscha Rojas-Polo (Fulton) took first place in nail care while Emmalee Bulluck (Sandy Creek) also received a medal for acting as her model in the Nail Care A competition; and Maryanne Farmer (APW), Jamie Hartley (Mexico), Brittany Keill (APW) and Austyn Shephard (Sandy Creek) took second place in the Health Knowledge Bowl.

SkillsUSA is a national organization that creates opportunities for career and technical education students to demonstrate their learned skills and abilities. Next up for the competitors is the New York State competition in April.

The Regional event was held at SUNY Morrisville and showcased the talents of students from 17 different career and technical education programs.

Participants will compete against other teams from around the state at the New York State SkillsUSA Competition April 27-29 at the Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

## School District to Host Health Expo on May 12<sup>th</sup>

The Sandy Creek Central School District will host a Health Expo on May 12, 2016 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The expo will feature free health screenings, healthy cooking demos, fun family games, free clothing giveaway and lots more. In addition, several county agencies will be on hand to provide those attending with information regarding their services. A spaghetti dinner fund-raiser will also be held in conjunction with the expo. For more information about the Health Expo, contact the Sandy Creek Central School District at 387-3445.

## Wall of Distinction Nominations Sought

The Sandy Creek Central School District, will again be accepting nominees for the "Wall of Distinction."

"Graduates of distinction" are those who have achieved a high level of prominence in their personal and professional lives and who represent a positive role model to our youth.

Candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Must have achieved a high level of professionalism and distinction.
- Must be of sufficient moral character as to represent a positive role model to students in the school district.
- Candidates must be graduates of the Sandy Creek Central School District.

An Advisory Committee will coordinate the program. The members of the Advisory Committee are non-graduates of Sandy Creek. Nominations forms are now available. To receive a nomination form, visit the district website at [www.sccs.cnyric.org](http://www.sccs.cnyric.org), call, or stop in to the Sandy Creek Central School District Office at 387-3445 ext. 1510.

The deadline for nominations is April 22, 2016.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr. 20-22	VEX Robotics World Championships
Apr. 22	Earth Day
Apr. 25-29	Spring Recess - No School
May 1	Fall Sports Signups Begin
May 5	Board of Education Meeting, Budget Hearing, 6 pm
May 12	Science Fair, 12-6 pm
May 12	Health Expo, 5-8 pm
May 13	Half Day Staff Development
	Elem. Dismissal at 11:30 am, No pm Pre-K
May 17	Annual Election and Budget Vote, 12-8 pm
May 17	5th & 6th Grade Band/Chorus Concert, 7 pm
May 25	Grades 4 & 8 Science Performance Test
May 25	7-12 Chorus Concert, 7 pm
May 26	Grade 8 Science Performance Test
May 30	Memorial Day Observed - No School
June 3	Elementary Student Council Awards, 2 pm
June 6	Grades 4 & 8 Science Written Test
June 7	Middle School Awards Ceremony, 6 pm
June 7	High School Awards Ceremony, 6:45 pm
June 9	Board of Education Meeting, 6 pm
June 14	Flag Day Ceremony, 2 pm HS Auditorium
June 14-22	Regents Exams
June 16	1st Grade Reading Tea, 2 pm
June 17	Kindergarten Graduation, 9 am, HS Auditorium
	Elementary Early Dismissal, 11:30 am
June 20	Pre-K Sail-a-bration, 10 am & 1 pm
June 21	5th Grade Graduation, 1 pm, HS Auditorium
June 22	Elementary Moving Up Day
	Elementary Early Dismissal, 11:30 am
June 23	Elementary Fun Day
	Elementary Early Dismissal, 11:30 am
June 24	Wall of Distinction Ceremony, 6:15 pm
	Alumni Banquet, 7 pm
June 25	Graduation, 10 am



## Sandy Creek Students Attend County-Wide Youth Summit

Students from eight of the nine districts in Oswego County converged on SUNY Oswego’s Lanigan Hall for the annual Oswego County Youth Summit. Presentations on various careers and educational opportunities as well as a trades show featuring youth-centered organizations and agencies provided students with information and materials about career possibilities. Pictured at the Youth Summit are students from the Sandy Creek Central School District and Pulaski Academy and Central School District, left to right are: Shelby German (SC), Tiaira Copenhagen (SC), Abby LaRue (SC), and Bella Bleskoski (Pul).

## Dr. Seuss Week Celebrated in Elementary School Activities



Celebrating Dr. Seuss’ birthday, students at Sandy Creek Elementary School participated in various classroom celebrations aligned with many of Dr. Seuss’ beloved books. Above: on this day, “Green Eggs and Ham” was the featured book in Tamera Halsey’s classroom. At right, Maddie Norton, Maddie Coe and Haidyn Soluri wear shirts with messages for the book, “I Can Read With My Eyes Shut” on the final day of the week-long celebration.



## OCAY League Team Battles Pandemic in 3<sup>rd</sup> Competition



Sandy Creek students show their take on a world pandemic during the recent OCAY League Competition. Team members included: Liz Hall, Nicky Radford, Adaiyah Bauer, Rianon McDuffy-Dingman, Dylan Bryant, Andrew Olin, Tyler Brown, Brigid McClusky and Zeke Durham. The team is coached by Caitlin White.



The third Oswego County Academic Youth (OCAY) League competition of the school year involved high school students from eight Oswego County school districts battling with a hypothetical world pandemic.

Beginning in 1997, OCAY League started with the idea that academics merit a standing comparable to athletics.

Therefore, OCAY League was born as a way for students to demonstrate skills of academics, teamwork, leadership and creativity. A heavy emphasis is placed on cooperative problem-solving.

The students studied the physical and environmental impact of a global pandemic, how they are rated on a Pandemic Severity Index scale and how an outbreak begins.

Each district group was challenged with a series of tasks relating from the topic.

Most groups played into each other’s strengths to divide and conquer, some using artistic skills to paint a picture depicting the emotion of a pandemic, others using musical and poetic skills to write a dirge for the “lost.”

Creating an emergency action plan was another key task of the competition.

Students created posters highlighting the action points they came up with to help weaken and stop the outbreak.

Points were awarded to each student group for every completed task by a panel of judges.

In third place, with 146 points, was Oswego City School District.

In second place, with 147 points, was Fulton City School District.

In first place, with 156 points, was Mexico Academy and Central School.

OCAY League is coordinated through the Center for Instruction, Technology and Innovation’s gifted and talented program.



## Middle School Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance Awards Presented

### 6th Grade:

**Merit Roll:** Nathan Alford, Gabriel Balcom, Autumn Bartlett, Maddox Brown, Avery Cornell, Logan Henry, Tyler Mason, Hailey McGrew, UnaRose McNitt, Hailey Norton, Olivia Rudd, Mia Rupert, Mark Shelmidine II and Kaden Vinelli.

**Honors Roll:** Kendall Darling, Harley Douglas, Wyatt Hilton, Madison Lamica, Zachary Manwaring, Robert Patterson, Kendra Poyneer, Cailey Robbins, Dorothy Searles, Grace Skellington, Nichalise Trumble and Luke Yerdon.

**High Honors Roll:** Madison Benedict, Alayna Blount, Mary Carnes, Claire Dreibelbis, Jessica Graham, Emma Halsey, Abigail Lantry, Hailey McNitt, Alexia Phillips and Matthew Trudell.

### 7th Grade:

**Merit Roll:** Jazmyn Baker, Cecelia-Jay Barney, Gabrielle Brown, Matthew Caufield, Johnathin Coe, Ashley Cornell, Jordan Delano, Alexander Mikels, Alexis Miley, Makayla Parker, Dyllan Pearsall, Autumn Reid, Brooke Rogers, Alyssa Rudd, Kaley Scheppard, Angeline Soderlund and Kerigan Trudell.

**Honors Roll:** Evelyn Bice, Andrea Jennings, Aldyn Landas, Marshall Manchester, Olivia Pappa, Zachary Paternoster, Samantha Ranieri, Thomas Reff, Ashleigh Rosenbaum, Brittney Sherman and Hailee Thurston.

**High Honors Roll:** Sarah Balcom, Cati-ann Blodgett, Sydney Burgy, Annie Chen, Terry Eggleston, Elsa Graf, James Green, Deanna Hathway, Michaela Kastler, Emma McDougal, Hailey Miller, Madeleine Palmer, Emily Ward and Emily Yousey.

## Cheerleaders Section III Champs



Congratulations Varsity Cheer who took first place at the Section III Championships for Class C. Bailey Laundre and Mikayla Russell were awarded Class C Section III All Stars. The team is coached by Tanya VanOrnum with Jodi Whitney, assistant coach. Pictured, in front left to right: Mikayla Russell, Kim Distasio, Sara Castor and Bailey Laundre. In back, Jodi Whitney, Lindsey Goodnough, Angelina Salzman, Jessica Leppien, Dallas Blair, and Tanya VanOrnum.

### 8th Grade

**Merit Roll:** Gavin Brown, Isabella Cornell, Shelby German, Ethan Greenfield, Dylan Hall, Adam Hilton, Ethan Hollister, Austin King, Abigail LaRue, Kalen McNitt, Angel Peter, Jesse Quintana and Faith White.

**Honors Roll:** Elice Babcock, Travis Benjamin, Levi Darling, Jesse Dreibelbis, Aden Goodnough, Alexis McNitt, Charles-Samuel Shaw and Roselyn Sprague.

**High Honors Roll:** Gavin Babcock, Madison Bauer, Madison Brown, Sydney Cook, Rile Dowlearn, Alaina Hathway, McKenzie Kwak, Sadie Lurcock, Logan Strong and Marley Yerdon.

**Perfect attendance for grades six through eight:** Nathan Alford, Evan Allen, Courtney Babcock, Gavin Babcock, Sarah Balcom, Madison Benedict, Travis Benjamin, Madison Brown, Sydney Cook, Levi Darling, Tionna Dearing, Mathew Fox, Elsa Graf, Jessica Graham, Deanna Hathway, Logan Henry, Aleyna Jones, Austin King, McKenzie Kwak, Dillon McCarty, Hailey McGrew, Kalen McNitt, Tessa Phillips, Samantha Ranieri, Brooke Rogers, Ashleigh Rosenbaum, Grace Skellington, Eric Tamblin Jr., Kerigan Trudell, Kaden Vinelli, Emily Ward and Faith White.

## All County Choral Festival



The Oswego County Music Educators' Association (OCMEA), sponsored the All County Choral Festival, hosted by the Pulaski School District on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Several students from the Sandy Creek School District participated, including middle school students Sydney Cook, Emily Yousey, Madison Brown, Michaela Kastler, Travis Benjamin, Aden Goodnough, William Hays, Aldyn Landis and Charlie Shaw who performed with the Jr. High Mixed Chorus. High School participants also included Women's Chorus members Mariah Hess, Hannah Sawchuck, Abby Irwin and Emily Kehoe. Senior High Mixed Chorus members included Kerrik Bradley, Hannah Woolson, Nicky Radford and David Hennigan.

Students auditioned for the prestigious group earlier in the year and performed under the direction of elite guest conductors John Armstrong, Dr. Derrick Fox and Tammara Madeja.



For up-to-date events, sports schedules, activities, contact information and more visit the Sandy Creek Central School District website at: [www.SCCS.cnyric.org](http://www.SCCS.cnyric.org)



# Sandy Creek Student Leaders Attend "Mission: We're Possible"



Students from Sandy Creek Middle and Senior High School participated in a New York State Council on Leadership and Student Activities (NYSCLSA) Conference entitled "Mission: We're Possible" held in the Central Square District on April 8. Hundreds of students from across Central New York came together for workshops, roundtables, discussions and community service. A keynote speaker, Mr. Ed Gerety spoke to the young people about being grateful, respectful, responsible and kind. His high energy, fast-paced talk included poignant stories and frank advice to young people that hit home to many in the audience. He encouraged the students to grow and work together to create a strong community in their schools.

Students also participated in a series of workshops that focused on building strong leadership skills, teamwork, cooperation, networking, communication, public speaking and much more.

During roundtable discussions, each school presented on a successful fund-raising opportunity within their district and students took home ideas that they could incorporate into their school community.

## Winter Scholar Athlete Teams



Scholar standouts included several sports teams recognized by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) for their excellence in the classroom. In order to meet the stringent requirements, team combined averages must be 90% or greater and the following winter sports teams were recognized for this outstanding academic achievement:

### **Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Boys Swimming and Ice Hockey.**

Individuals earning the recognition included: Rosie Morgan, Kasey Yerdon, Marley Yerdon, Riley Dowlearn, Logan Strong, Krysten Hall, Katrina Hunter, Emily Cheney, Rosie Walter, Carly Lyndaker, Hannah Dasno, Cassidy Carnes, Machela Sullivan, Sophie Walter, Allison Burrows, Abby Widrig, Jesse Cornell, Adaiah Bauer and Kennedy Sullivan.

## 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, 2015 to March 31, 2016:

❖ *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 Andy Ridgeway, 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.

Sincerely,

Shelley H. Fitzpatrick  
Business Administrator



# Sandy Creek Teams Take Two First and One Third in County Battle of the Books Competition

Sandy Creek High School Battle of the Books team members, from left: Emily Smith, Rebecca Miller and Emily Kehoe celebrate being



named the Level 4 (Grades 9-12) winners at the Oswego County Battle of the Books event at Moore High School in Central Square.

Patience and persistence helped students from the Sandy Creek School District, as well as the Mexico and Fulton School Districts win top honors at the annual Oswego County Battle of the Books event.

Representatives from third through 12th grade throughout the county studied 10 books from October through March.

The county-wide competition was coordinated through the School Library System of Oswego County, a component of the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation and held at Paul V. Moore High School in Central Square.

At the battle, teams had 30 seconds to answer each of the 16 questions beginning with "In which book."

Students were required to write down their answers, to which they earned eight points for a correct title and author, or five points for a title only, but no points were earned for correct author only.

Mexico Elementary School's five-year second-place streak ended with a 120 point, first place finish for Level 1 (Grades 3 and 4). In second was Fulton with the team from Oswego taking third place.

Several Level 2 competitors were neck and neck after half-time scores were read, but the Fulton City School District team received top honors for Grades 5 and 6 after earning 120 points. In second was Oswego, and third place resulted in a three-way tie between Sandy Creek, Altmar-Parish-Williamstown, and Central Square.

During the Level 3 (Grades 7 and 8) battle, teams from Sandy Creek, Central Square and Oswego City had a three-way tie with 88 points. After answering two overtime questions, the Sandy Creek team of Catie-Ann Blodgett, Emily Ward and McKenzie Kwak emerged victorious.

Level 4 (Grades 9-12) representatives: Emily Smith, Emily Kehoe and

Sandy Creek Central School students, from left: Catie-Ann Blodgett, McKenzie Kwak and Emily Ward celebrate after they were named Level 2 (Grades 7 and 8) winners at the Oswego County Battle of the Books event.



Rebecca Miller from Sandy Creek Central beamed with pride after they broke a three-way tie of 72 points by answering an overtime question correctly. They bested two teams tied for second place: Oswego and Mexico.

Each competitor received a participation medal. First place team members each received plaques and a plaque also was awarded to their home school.

## 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Band Concert



The Sandy Creek 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Band Concert was held recently. Pictured above is the Middle School Concert Band percussion section that was featured in one of the numbers, "Canzona." The Middle School Concert Band and the High School Concert Band, both under the direction of Thomas Artini, performed several songs individually, followed by a finale featuring a combined band, with solos and duets by the trumpet section of the band.

## Winter Sport Highlights

Congratulations to several winter sport standouts. Individual and team recognitions included:

- The Varsity cheerleaders took first place in the Section III Championships for Class C.
- James Potts took first place at the Section III Swimming Championships in the 200 IM. He also earned a 2nd place finish in the 200 Breast at the sectional meet.
- Congratulations to Joe Benedict for taking 2nd place in the 195 lbs weight class at the NY State Wrestling Championship. Joe went 3-1 for the tourney after being seeded 6th.
- Congratulations to Emily Cheney for receiving the Nordic Sportsmanship award at the 2016 NYSPHSAA Skiing Championships in Lake Placid. Cheney has qualified to compete in the State Championships every year since she was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.



In their final performance for the Sandy Creek Senior High Band, band director Thomas Artini recognized band members who will be graduating this June. Pictured following the concert are, left to right: Nicky Radford, Dante Clowes, Tessie Jones, Chase Pappa, James Potts, Mikayla Russell, Rosie Morgan, Emily Cheney and Brigid McClusky.

**Sandy Creek Central  
School District**

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

Non-Profit  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 7  
Zip Code 13145

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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

**Postal Patron**



Sandy Creek Central School District

**Sandy Creek Central  
School District 2014-15  
Board of Education**

*Brian MacVean,  
President*

*Janet Hanni,  
Vice President*

*James Dowlearn*

*Amy Guarasce*

*Tammy Miller*

*Deanna Soule*

*Brenda Yerdon*

**Superintendent:**

**Mr. Stewart R. Amell**

**Business Administrator/  
District Clerk:**

**Shelley H. Fitzpatrick**

**Principals:**

**Elementary:**

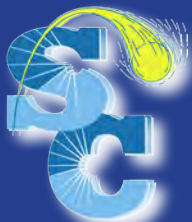
*Bonnie Finnerty*

**Middle School:**

*Carolyn Shirley*

**High School:**

*Maureen Shiel*



**Operation Safe Stop Education and Enforcement Day**

On April 21, the Sandy Creek Transportation Department along with law enforcement personnel from across the state will participate in Operation Safe Stop.

Operation Safe Stop seeks to promote school bus safety through education and enforcement efforts. On April 21, 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. Police will ticket those drivers who pass stopped school buses and violations will be reported to a central command post where final figures will be available to state and local officials as well as to the media.

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. It is through these cooperative efforts of the many traffic safety partners and their continued commitment to protecting school children and educating the motoring public of the dangers association with passing stopped school buses, that helps make Operation Safe Stop a success.

It is estimated that every day in New York State alone, 50,000 motor vehicles illegally pass stopped school buses. It is not only illegal, but extremely unsafe, to pass a school bus with their red lights flashing, whether approaching from the front or from the rear of the bus. Flashing lights signal that a bus is stopped for either loading or discharging students.

New York State statistics show that 112 school bus student fatalities have occurred since 1960. Seventy percent of those were children ages four to eight.

As students embark or disembark from their school bus, they must be 15 feet away from the bus and wait for the driver's signal to approach the bus or cross in front of it. If the driver blows

the horn, it is a warning signal to the student that there is danger and they must go back, either to their driveway or to the school bus.



Remember: never pass a school bus with red lights flashing. Not on the roadway, not in a parking lot, and not on a multi-lane highway.

For more information about school bus safety and keeping kids safe on their trip, visit [www.safenyc.gov](http://www.safenyc.gov).

Please don't be in a hurry. Stop for our kids!

**Petitions Available  
for Two Seats on the  
Board of Education**

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. Two seats are up for vote, currently filled by Brian MacVean and Amy Guarasce. The positions are each five year seats with the terms set to expire on June 30, 2021. Nominating petitions can be picked up 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 5:00 p.m. April 18, 2016 to be on the official ballot. Voting for the seats will take place on Tuesday, May 17th between the hours of 12 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Sandy Creek District Office.