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.’

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 or talk to your child’s guidance counselor.

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 11th and 12th, 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.
**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, 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.

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**Sandy Creek Students Excel at SkillsUSA Competition**

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.

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**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 (CIIT).**

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**School District to Host Health Expo on May 12th**

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.

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**Calendar of Events**

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

- Elementary Student Council Awards, 2 pm
- Grades 4 & 8 Science Written Test
- Middle School Awards Ceremony, 6 pm
- High School Awards Ceremony, 6:45 pm
- Board of Education Meeting, 5 pm
- Flag Day Ceremony, 2 pm HS Auditorium
- Regents Exams
- 1st Grade Reading Test, 2 pm
- Kindergarten Graduation, 9 am, HS Auditorium
- Pre-K Graduation, 10 am & 1 pm
- 5th Grade Graduation, 1 pm, HS Auditorium
- Elementary Moving Up Day
- Elementary Fun Day
- Wall of Distinction Ceremony, 8:15 pm
- 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), Tiaria Copenhaver (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 3rd Competition

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.


**High Honors Roll:** Madison Benedict, Alayna Blount, Mary Carnes, Claire Dreiebelbis, 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, Johnathan Coe, Ashley Cornell, Jordan Delano, Alexander Mikels, Alexis Miley, Makayla Parker, Dyllan Pearsall, Autumn Reid, Brooke Rogers, Alyssa Rudd, Kaley Scheppard, Angelina Soderlund and Kerigan Trudell.

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

**High Honors Roll:** Sarah Balcom, Cati-an 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.

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 Dreiebelbis, Aden Goodnough, Alexis McNitt, Charles-Samuel Shaw and Roselyn Sprague.

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


Cheerleaders Section III Champs

Congratulations Varsity Cheer who took first place at the Section III Championships for Class C. Bailey Lauandre 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 Lauandre. In back, Jodi Whitney, Lindsey Goodnough, Angelina Salzman, Jessica Leppien, Dallas Blair, and Tanya VanOrnum.

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 9th. 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
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 (NYSPHSA) 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**


**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 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**

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<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
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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

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 Schools 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 Rebecca Miller from Sandy Creek Central School District 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.

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 8th 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.
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 associated 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.safeny.gov.

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