

Sandy Creek

Central School
District
Newsletter

Fall 2016



The Comet's Tale



Junior running back Joe Benedict carries the ball in for a touchdown during the game in which he broke the New York State single game rushing record.

Benedict Breaks Single Game Rushing Record

Junior running back, Joe Benedict ran for 584 yards in a single game, breaking the New York State record. Benedict scored eight touchdowns and also kicked five extra points in the game to lead the team in their 53-34 victory over Watertown IHC. The previous record of 569 yards was set in 2007 by Dale Ross, a player from Westhill. The feat garnered Benedict a spot in Sports Illustrated's "Faces in the Crowd" section, Channel 9's Player of the Week and Time Warner Athlete of the Season for Football.



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Sandy Creek Cheerleaders Named Section III Champs



The Varsity Cheerleading team from Sandy Creek earned the Section III Class C Championship on Saturday, October 29. Pictured in front, left to right are: Sophie Walter, Dallas Blair, Abigail Widrig, Lindsey Goodnough, Jessica Leppien, Savannah Brown, and Alexis Miley. Back row: Rosie Walter, Hannah Dasno, Madison Benedict, Madison Yerdon, and Allyssa Smith. The team is coached by Tanya VanOrnum. Lindsey Goodnough was also named a Section III All Star.

Sandy Creek Welcomes New Superintendent Kyle Faulkner

Sandy Creek Superintendent of Schools, Kyle L. Faulkner, is just over halfway through his first 100 days as leader of the school district. He took over from interim superintendent Edmund "Pete" Backus, at the start of the school year after the position became open following Stewart Amell's retirement in June.

Faulkner came to the Sandy Creek position after having served as superintendent in

Chistolini Takes Interim High School Principal Position

While he may have an unfamiliar face to many in the Sandy Creek Central School District, Louis Chistolini is quite familiar with nearly every aspect of education through his long and illustrious career. Chistolini started in education as a physical education and health teacher before moving into the guidance department and then in 1985 moved into the administrative side of education as an assistant

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Sandy Creek Superintendent of Schools, Kyle L. Faulkner with Student Leader Maiya Hathway at a recent Elementary School Open House.

the Alexandria Central School District since January 2014. Prior to Alexandria, he spent 20 years in the Filmore Central School District.

He began teaching seventh through 12th-grade social studies at Filmore before moving to principal of the fifth through

12th-grade building in 1999. He plans to stay in Sandy Creek for the remainder of his career, "or as long as they'll have me," he said, noting he is not using the position as an opportunity to move to a larger district. He

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Sandy Creek Central School District





Superintendent Kyle Faulkner Nears First 100 Days at Sandy Creek

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brings an extensive background in the unique challenges faced by a small, rural school district and when he met with the Board about the position, he said he felt like he had come home.

"This is only the third district I have worked for," he said, adding he was not actively looking to leave Alexandria, "but when I learned of the superintendent vacancy at Sandy Creek, I knew I wanted to look deeper into it."

While initially his interest in moving to the leadership at Sandy Creek would mean he would have more time to spend with his family, it was more than that which spurred him to apply. The staff and leadership in the district are dedicated to each and every student and do whatever it takes to help a student succeed, and he wanted to help the district continue that success.

Pre-Kindergarten Students Begin First Week of School



Pre-kindergarten students color a birthday cake to place on a display in the classroom highlighting their birthday dates.

Pre-Kindergarten students had many "firsts" on their first day of school in the Sandy Creek Central School District recently. For many, it was their first bus ride; they made new friends; toured the building; and learned "criss-cross applesauce, spoons in the bowl" is the safe way of sitting on the rug; among many other "firsts" for this school year.



Pre-kindergarten Bradley Brown enjoys snack time on the first day of school.

Faulkner received a bachelor's degree in history from LeMoyne College, a master's in secondary school history and school district administrator certification, both from St. Bonaventure University.

He lives in Pulaski with his wife and two step-children. His daughter is a senior at St. Bonaventure University studying journalism and mass communications.

Chistolini as Interim Principal

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principal. In addition to teaching, counseling and administration, Chistolini has coached varsity football, baseball and wrestling. He retired from the Cato-Meridian School District in 2008, but has not rested on his laurels.

Last year he served as interim principal at Pulaski Middle School, enabling the district to take their time and do an extensive search for a permanent principal without the need to quickly fill the position. He was well liked at the post and Pulaski's Superintendent Dr. Brian Hartwell recommended Chistolini to Sandy Creek when he learned they would be looking for a principal to fill the vacancy left when long-time principal Maureen Shiel announced her intent to retire.

After meeting with Chistolini, the Board of Education offered the position to him and he accepted. He plans to continue the good work that has made Sandy Creek High School so successful. Acknowledging that Ms. Shiel's absence leaves big shoes for Chistolini to fill, he admitted that he wasn't sure that they can be filled, saying, "I can only hope to come close."

"I'm very appreciative of the confidence the Board of Education has placed in me in hiring me as the interim principal," he said, adding he is not here to chart any new territory, but to continue to implement the curriculum and help the staff in any way he can. His focus will be to get the seniors to graduation, and make sure everyone has enough credits and is on track to graduate on time.

In his first full day at the helm, Chistolini commented on how friendly the staff and students were in welcoming him into the district. He also commented on the outstanding facilities and how well they are kept. "It's just beautiful," he said of the building.

He and his wife live in Camillus and have two grown daughters, both of which are teachers.

In his spare time, Chistolini enjoys golf and crossword puzzles, saying he's so good, he does them in pen.



RUMMAGE SALE

Show Choir and Fashion Club are holding an indoor rummage sale Friday Dec. 2nd from 5-7 in the elementary cafeteria.



Chemistry Class Demo Day Gives Learning a New Perspective

Students in Kelly Halko's chemistry class at Sandy Creek High School got "fired up" about the class during a recent "demo day" at the school. Halko demonstrated several experiments that illustrated some of the formulas and chemical processes learned in class in the months prior, such as reduction, oxidation, hydrogenation, dehydration, combustion, and many more. The experiments ranged from the dehydration of sugar to form a carbon compound to the oxidation of a gummy bear, the creation of "black smoke" (which was really water

vapor), and much more. But the absolute favorite of all of the classes was lighting bubbles of methane gas on fire to create a fast-burning fireball that students and staff members could momentarily hold in their hand. The methane gas burns so quickly that little heat is transferred to the hand enabling the students to literally hold the fire in their hands for a second or so.

Back Pack Program Receives Donation From United Way

The United Way of Greater Oswego County presented representatives from the Sandy Creek Backpack Program with a check for \$400 to support their continuing efforts to ensure that children and their families in the district do not go hungry. The backpack program provides nutritional, easy to prepare meals and snacks on weekends and over breaks from school to students identified as in need. The food is sent



home with the students in backpacks so as not to bring attention or cause embarrassment to them. Pictured, left to right are: Patrick Dewine, Executive Director of the United Way of Greater Oswego County; Elaine Pierce, Coordinator of the backpack project through the Sandy Creek United Methodist Church; and Buffy Peterson, School Social Worker and liaison for the program at the school. The donation was made possible in part through a grant by the Shineman Foundation.



Chemistry teacher Kelly Halko, right shows students how a chemical reaction results in black smoke, which was really just water vapor, the by-product of the chemical reaction.



Abbey Fitzpatrick holds a ball of fire momentarily resulting from the ignition of methane gas trapped in soap bubbles.



Chemistry teacher Kelly Halko lights the methane bubbles held by Jacob Kuhl, one of the many experiments that Halko demonstrated for class recently.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 18-19	NYSSMA Area All State Music Festival, Potsdam
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Feast, Grades 1 & 2, 2 pm
Nov. 23-25	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec. 1	5-12 Band Concert, 7 pm
Dec. 1-4	NYSSMA All State Conference, Rochester
Dec. 8	5-12 Chorus Concert, 7 pm
Dec. 8	Board of Education Meeting, 6 pm
Dec. 16	Pre-K Concerts, 10 am and 1 pm
Dec. 16	K-5 Holiday Concert, 1:45 pm
Dec. 19	Pre-K Concert Snow Date
Dec. 24 - Jan 2	Holiday Recess
Jan. 12	Board of Education Meeting, 6 pm
Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - School Closed
Jan. 24-26	Regents Exams
Jan. 27	Half Day Rating Day, 11:30 Early Dismissal



Annual Halloween Parade



The Annual Halloween Parade at Sandy Creek Elementary School drew a large crowd to the commons area to watch as students parade by dressed as a literary character from their favorite book. The parade was led by Captain America from the pre-kindergarten class and featured such characters as an astronaut, Colonel Sanders, jellyfish, Wall-e, a zombie and much more.

SC Middle School Holds Costume Harvest Dance



A large group of middle school dancers took time out from the festivities to pose for a group pic in the photo booth.



Santa, monsters, identity theft, and more, oh my, were on hand for the dance.

Sandy Creek Middle School hosted a harvest dance in which students could come in costume to a safe, friendly environment and have fun. The evening featured a DJ spinning tunes, fun lighting effects and even a photo booth to preserve those memories. A costume contest awarded prizes to participants in several categories, including most imaginative.

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION REGARDING DIRECTORY INFORMATION Sandy Creek Central School District Annual Notification Notice to Parents and Eligible Students of Rights Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

To: Parents and Eligible Students Of Sandy Creek Central School District

You are notified that you have the following rights in relation to student records:

1. The right to inspect and review a student's education records.
2. The right of a student's parents or an eligible student to seek to correct parts of the student's education records which he or she believes to be inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's rights. These rights include the right to a hearing to present evidence that the records should be changed if the district decides not to alter it according to the parents' or an eligible student's request.
3. The right to report or file a complaint with the Department of Education if the school district violates FERPA.
4. The right to exercise a limited control over other people's access to the student's education records.
5. The right to seek and correct the student's education records, in a hearing if necessary.
6. The right to be informed about FERPA rights.

You are further advised:

- a. The school district shall limit the disclosure of information contained in the student's education records except: (a) by prior written consent of the student's parents or an eligible student, (b) directory information or (c) under certain limited circumstances, as permitted by FERPA.
- b. If either a student's parents or an eligible student desires to obtain copies of a policy pertaining to student records, notification should be presented to: Kyle L. Faulkner, Superintendent, Sandy Creek Central School District, PO Box 248, Sandy Creek, NY 13145.

All rights and protections given to parents under the FERPA and this policy transfer to the student when the student reaches age 18 or enrolls in a post-secondary school. The student then becomes an 'eligible student.'

Directory Information

The school district proposes to designate the following personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records as directory information, and it will disclose that information without prior written consent:

1. The student's name;
2. The student's address;
3. The student's telephone listing;
4. The student's date and place of birth;
5. The student's class designation (e.g., first grade, tenth grade, and the like);
6. The student's participation in officially recognized activities and sports;
7. The student's achievement awards or honors;
8. The student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team;
9. Dates of attendance;
10. The student's photograph; and
11. The most recent educational institution attended before the student enrolled in the school district.

You have two weeks to advise the school district in writing, directed to the office of the school superintendent, of any and all items which you refuse to permit the district to designate as directory information about the student. The district may disclose directory information about former students without following the procedure specified for directory information.



Science Students Study Green Technologies at SyracuseCOE

Walking with a lighter footprint. That's how occupants of the Syracuse University Center of Excellence (SyracuseCOE) green technologies building describe the philosophy behind green technologies. Their building exemplifies that philosophy. SyracuseCOE houses research and development labs that explore ways to incorporate or develop green technologies, but it was the building itself that was the main focus of the Sandy Creek science students recent visit. Students and their teachers were given a tour of the unique structure that structurally reflects the use of green technologies in almost every aspect. Even the architectural structure of the building was selected with sustainability in mind, utilizing glass and stainless steel, not just for the esthetic, but for its recyclable aspect at the end of the buildings' useful life. The building utilizes a turf roof reducing the



Science students from Sandy Creek Central School District stand at the main entrance into the Syracuse Center of Excellence, a green technologies building they toured recently.

District Welcomes New Faces



Teachers and staff were on hand for Teacher Orientation Day in the Sandy Creek School District in preparation for the 2016-17 school year. Pictured are some of the new staff members welcomed at the orientation. Left to right are: Christina Weaver, Elementary and Middle School Art; Brittany Whitten, Elementary Reading; Sandra Shibley, Special Education; Mary Kubacki, 2nd Grade; Kristen Dingman, Elementary Math; Kyle L. Faulkner, Superintendent of Schools; Diane Haumann, High School; Judy Allen, 2nd Grade; Tricia Thomas, 3rd Grade; Stephanie Sherman, 2nd Grade; Sarah Orr, 3rd Grade; and Nicole Tritten, Special Education.



The Sandy Creek Central School District welcomed four new transportation department staff members for the 2016-17 school year. Pictured left to right are: Donna Tousant, bus aide; Peggy Sawchuck, bus aide; Charlie Hoenninger, driver; and Lauren Berrios, bus aide.

amount of rainwater, and its flow, into the sewer system in the city.

The building is situated to maximize the passive solar efficiency for heating/cooling and lighting, and the building's distinctive angle aligns with the zenith of the earth's azimuth to capture sunlight. Hallways and other unoccupied spaces are less cool or warm, depending on the season, to conserve energy, and the geothermal heating/cooling system pumps air through underground pipes where the air is warmed or cooled, naturally, to approximately 55 degrees before being heated or cooled to a comfortable internal air temp.

The results of all of this green technology? An energy footprint roughly one third the size of the typical office building of the same square footage and a spectacular showcase of these technologies for young people who will one day, shape the future of planet earth.

Cross the Creek Color Run



The Robbins family gives a thumbs up to show their support for the Cross the Creek Color Run held earlier this fall to benefit the cross country team at the school.

The Sandy Creek Cross Country team's Cross the Creek Run expanded this year to feature the annual event as a "color run." Thought by many participants to be a fun, family-friendly event, the traditional cross the creek run included the addition of water color dousing stations along the route as well as individual color packets given to each participant to use during or after the event. The run/walk was timed, but for most of the participants, it was all about the fun. Cross the Creek is held annually to help support the cross country team at Sandy Creek.



Cross country senior athletes Chase Pappa, Jesse Cornell, and Alexis Ladd with their parents following the senior recognition during halftime of the Sandy Creek Homecoming football game. Left to right are: Pat, Chase and Jennifer Pappa; Sheena, Jesse and father, Jesse Cornell; and Melissa, Lexi and John Ladd.

Senior Recognition at Sandy Creek Homecoming Game

A special recognition ceremony was held for all senior fall athletes during the halftime portion of the Sandy Creek High School football game recently. After their names were announced, the seniors were escorted by their family members to the center of the field as fans cheered them. Athletes in cheerleading, cross country, football and girls' soccer were called amid the cheers of the crowd.



Senior football player Ryan Wills is escorted onto the field by his mother, Amy Urquhart.

Middle School / High School Holds Fall Open House



The Huckabone family toured the middle school where son, Nicholas, left, is enrolled in sixth grade. Pictured with Nicholas are his mother, Jahnyne, father Eric and little sister, Emalee, who is in kindergarten at the elementary school.

Sandy Creek Middle School and High School hallways were teeming with families and students as they attended Open House at the school. The students were eager to show their family members around the school and took them on their schedule to meet with teachers and others in the building. Superintendent Kyle Faulkner was on hand to meet parents and enjoyed connecting with them in a casual atmosphere as he begins his first year as leader of the district.

We're on Facebook!

www.Facebook.com/SandyCreekComets



Elementary School Open House Draws a Huge Crowd



Student leaders welcomed visitors to the Sandy Creek Elementary School Open House held in late September. Parents and families toured the building and visited classrooms.





Professional Development Looks at the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People Through the Franklin Covey Institute

A recent Professional Development day in the Sandy Creek Central School District provided first level direct training through a representative of the Franklin Covey Institute on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Based on Stephen Covey's best-selling book, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" and the first steps in The Leader In Me, the training provided staff in the district with information and background on how the seven habits were developed.

The seven habits include: 1) be proactive; 2) begin with the end in mind; 3) put first things first; 4) think win-win; 5) seek first to understand, then to be understood; 6) synergize; and 7) sharpen the saw.

Covey teaches that in order to change a situation, we must change ourselves, and in order to change ourselves, we must be able to change our perceptions. These paradigm shifts alter not only our attitudes and behaviors on the surface, but fundamentally change the way we see a problem.

Habits 1, 2 and 3 focus on self-mastery and move from dependence to independence, habits 4, 5, and 6 focus on teamwork and move from independence to interdependence (the highest level of mastery), while habit 7 focuses on continuous growth and improvement.

The professional development included



two days of intensive study on the 7 habits and included interactive small group participation in the training.



Best Wishes for Retiring Principal

After more than two decades as principal of Sandy Creek High School, and over 30 years in education, Maureen Shiel heads off to retirement. On her final day as principal at the school, staff and students all donned "lucky shamrock" necklaces to celebrate Shiel's Irish heritage and wish her good luck in her retirement. Staff members also donned "Peace, Love & Maureen" tie dye t-shirts. In her retirement, Shiel plans to travel, spend time with family and friends and is working on getting a lot of little things done before winter strikes!



Tall Tales Inspire Cowboy/Cowgirl Day in Second Grade Class



Students in Tamara Halsey's class read the tall tale "Pecos Bill" in their Listening and Learning curriculum and the story inspired them to show off their own cowboy/cowgirl side. Using props from the classroom, students posed for pictures to celebrate their study of tall tales. Pictured are a few of the students who took part in the fun make-believe cowboy/cowgirl day.

Emergency School Announcements

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

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

Radio: 570AM, 620AM, 790AM, 1050AM, 1240AM, 92.1FM, 94.5FM, 95.7FM, 99.5FM, 100.7FM, 100.9FM, 102.1FM, 103.1FM, 104.7FM, 105.5FM, 105.9FM, 106.5FM, 106.1FM, and 107.9FM

Want to be notified by e-mail, text message or phone call of emergency school announcements? Sign up under the notification registration box on the district website at www.SCCS.cnyric.org and you will receive immediate notification of any school closings, delays, cancellations and early dismissals, as well as other pertinent emergency messages from the district.

**Sandy Creek Central
School District**
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Sandy Creek Central School District

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Louis Chistolini



Week-long Festivities Raise School Spirit

Week-long spirited festivities were held in October leading up to the homecoming game on October 7. Pep fest featured a battle of the classes for both Middle School and High School. Other activities included the annual pie in the face fund-raiser, powder puff football game and senior fall athlete recognition ceremony held at half time of the homecoming football game.

