Starstruck Competition With VEX Robotics

Two teams of Sandy Creek Middle and High School students have been competing in the VEX Robotics competitions in the area. Team X and Team Z with members Logan Hatch, Oren McDougal, Alex Olin, Margery Yousey, Ashleigh Rosenbaum, Emily Ward, Trace Clark and Garrett LaPoint took to the arena recently at G. Ray Bodley High School in Fulton for GRBs annual Bodley Bot Bash.

The Sandy Creek teams are coached by John DeGone, technology teacher in the district and he praised the teams for their outstanding showings in the highly competitive competition. ‘We performed very well,’ DeGone said. ‘The X team placed 3rd in the qualification matches and the Z team 12th. Both teams played well and smart but due to alliance complications did not place as high as they normally do.’

The VEX competition require student-built robots, in alliances of two teams to be maneuvered around a 12 x 12 arena and perform several tasks to score points. The object is to score more points by moving large rubber stars and soft fabric cubes into zones in your opponents’ area. Scores can also be obtained by hanging your bot from a high or low bar during the autonomous or driver-controlled time period.

The teams will face off in several other competitions leading up to the Northern New York State Championships at the SRC Arena on the OCC campus on February 18th.

Last year the Sandy Creek team, in alliance with a team from Oswego took the top spot in the State Championships and earned the right to represent New York at the VEX World Championships in Louisville, KY.

Top Spellers

Representing Sandy Creek Middle School in one of the oldest and most iconic competitions, the Scripps National Spelling Bee, three seventh grade students rose to the top of the spelling list. Luke Yerdon, Robbie Patterson and Matt Trudell, Yerdon, who took the top spot, and Patterson, who finished second advanced to the next level of the bee in Syracuse. Local champions took a written spelling test and the top students advanced to the bee on February 11th televised on WCNY television and sponsored by WCNY and the Post Standard.

The national bee began in 1929 when nine newspapers joined together to host a spelling bee. Now, decades later, more than 10 million students compete for the title of spelling bee champion. The National Bee will be held in the Washington, D.C. area later in 2017.

Jesse Cornell Earns NROTC Scholarship

Jesse Cornell was accepted in the 1st round for the National NROTC Marine Corps Scholarship. There are roughly 20,000 students who apply for a ROTC scholarship nationwide, and only about 5% get accepted. They are judged on physical fitness, leadership qualities, and academic ability. He has been given a full scholarship valued at $185,000 to a school of his choice that has a NROTC unit.

He is hoping to attend the Virginia Military Institute or Norwich University, both are Senior Military Colleges. They pay full tuition, books, uniforms, and provide a monthly stipend. He will go to the school during the year and in the summers, train with the Marines. He hopes to eventually commission as a Marine Corps officer upon graduating college.

He plans to major in international studies.

Congratulations, Jesse!
I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. As you know, we have been forced to deal with many days of weather related closings, delays, and cancellations. I appreciate the very supportive feedback that we have received this winter as we always try to place the safety of our students and staff first. It is rarely an easy call, but rest assured that our team works together to make the best informed decision that we can.

**Future Capital Construction**

On the evening of Tuesday, February 7, 2017 the District held its first Capital Project Committee Meeting with our new architect Mrs. Kerry Tarolli, of King & King Architects, LLP. Mrs. Tarolli began the meeting by giving an overview of the current state of the facilities, the existing projects that are currently being developed such as the Smart Schools Investment Plan (see page 8 for more details), and capital outlay energy saving initiatives. The committee then reviewed a potential list of scope of work and then prioritized that list. Mrs. Tarolli then presented a possible schedule of timing for future vote, design and construction. At the next meeting the results of the prioritization and in depth project scope will be discussed. This meeting will be held on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 6:30pm in the Board room. All are welcome. If you are interested in joining our committee please contact the District Office and we will give you an in-depth review of what took place on February 7th! If you can’t donate your time for our committee but want to learn more about the future projects please call our office!

As we head into the budget season this year, it is important for the public to be aware that Sandy Creek will almost certainly receive a VERY small increase in State Aid, if any at all. With that being said, we have been looking closely at different ways to use our funds wisely in a way that will help us preserve all programs and positions. We will continue to study and implement additional ways that we may be able to share certain services in an effort to reduce costs. Moving forward, we want to be able to provide our students with new and innovative programs that will help prepare them for a successful transition to higher education or the workforce. Every budget decision will be based on what is best for students. Your Board of Education and your administration have done an excellent job for many years budgeting wisely while also remaining fiscally responsible to the taxpayers. We will strive to continue that tradition.

As I complete my first half year or so at Sandy Creek Central, I continue to be very impressed with the culture of collaboration that is evident here. I see a faculty and staff that genuinely enjoy working together and also put the needs of students first. We also have enthusiastic students who are engaged in their learning and are proud of their school. It is our goal now to improve upon the successes we have enjoyed in the past. There is always room for improvement and it is the job of the entire school community to place greater emphasis on ways to get better. Our graduation rate is very high. But that is not always enough. It is also our responsibility to make sure that our students are prepared to excel after high school. This is one of the priorities that we will begin to focus upon in the near future.

Thank you for your continued support for our district.

Respectfully,

Kyle L. Faulkner
Sandy Creek Central School District

National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Sandy Creek High School’s Carpe Diem Chapter of the National Honor Society recently held an induction ceremony where 16 new members were inducted into the elite academic group. More than just an academic honor, the National Honor Society recognizes four principles essential for membership: character, scholarship, leadership and service.


They join current members: John McGrew, President; Hannah Sawchuck, Vice-president; Abigail Widrig, Secretary/Reporter/ Historian; Stephanie Brown, Treasurer; Dallas Blair, Jesse Cornell, Lindsey Goodnough, Elizabeth Hall, Alexis Ladd, Jessica Leppien, Chase Pappa, Sophie Walter and Adam Yerden.

National Honor Society Advisor is Kelly Halko.

Biome Habitat Presentations

Sixth graders at Sandy Creek Middle School did an in-depth study of one of the world’s major biomes and presented their findings to their class recently. They could choose from regions such as Tundra, Savanna, Grasslands, Rainforest, and other types of regional locations. In their study the students noted the environment, food chains, impact of the environment on the human and animal populations and much more. They created 3D diorama-style biomes, using items from their home to create the environment and in their oral presentation to the class and instructor also talked about animals found in the environment and their lifestyle affected by that environment.

The project-based learning model also addressed organizational skills, artistic skills and public speaking to name just a few of the many benefits realized with the project.

Travis Montone selected the Sonora Desert region and provided extensive documentation about environmental impact and interdependency of the animals in food chains during his presentation.

Five Students Selected for All State Music Recognition

Hannah Sawchuck, Emily Kehoe, David Hennigan, Josh Balcom and Mariah Hess (not pictured) were selected to participate in Area All State Music Festival. Hannah Sawchuck also earned the prestigious NYSSMA Conference All State honors.

Maiya Hathway, tips her biome to allow students in the audience a better view of her presentation on the African savannah. Alongside the savannah, at right front, she also has a structure to illustrate the type of home the people of the region would use for shelter.
Sandy Creek Holds 10th Annual Battle of the Books

Grades 3-4 participants are pictured in front, left to right: Aaron Grafton, Kiley Procko and Kelsie Ridgeway. These three are members of the top team who will advance to the county level competition later this month. Middle row: Ray Parker, Elizabeth Hobbs, Simon Preston, Abigail Peter, Alyvia Brown, Brody Pecha, Adam Trudell and Jaeden Darling. In back: Abigail Balcom, Maggie Wallace, Brayden Metott, Leia Wall, Sophie Harris, Lola Tessier, Madison Darling and Piper Phillips.

Sandy Creek Holds 10th Annual Battle of the Books

Grades 5 participants included. In front, left to right are members of the top scoring team who will represent Sandy Creek at the county level: Perle Convey, Kiana Clark and Skylar Clark. In back: Daltyn Landas, Ava Basler, Sophia Luce, Sophia Brown, Maddox Sprague and Thomas Taplin.

Grades 6-8 team members who will represent the Sandy Creek District in the county competition are pictured, left to right: Elizabeth Glazier, Abby Chen and Maja Hathroom. The team used the district competition to test their knowledge and to better prepare for the county level. The Oswego County Battle of the Books will be held on February 26th beginning at 6 p.m. The event is hosted this year by the Oswego City School District.

NJHS Induction Ceremony

Sandy Creek Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society inducted eighteen new members in a recent ceremony held at the Middle/Senior High School. Middle School Principal Carolyn Shirley, NJHS Advisor Susan Gafner and Superintendent of Schools Kyle Faulkner welcomed the new members who joined the eighteen current members of the elite group. New inductees included: Annie Chen, Aldyn Landas, Ashleigh Rosenbaum, Sean Tritten, Madison Benedict, Alayna Blount, Mary Carnes, Harley Douglas, Jessica Graham, Emma Halsey, Wyatt Hilton, Madison Lamica, Abigail Lantry, Hailey McNitt, Kendra Poyneer, Cailey Robbins, Dorothy Searles and Matthew Trudell. They join current members: Sarah Balcom, Evelyn Rice, Catie-Ann Blodgett, Sydney Burgy, Terry Eggleston, Elsa Graf, James Green, Deanna Hathaway, Michaela Kastler, Emma McDougall, Hailey Miller, Madeleine Palmer, Olivia Pappa, Zachary Paternoster, Samantha Ranieri, Thomas Reff, Hailee Thurston and Emily Yousey.

Grades 9-12 participants are pictured, left to right, with the top team in front: Sydney Cook, Madison Brown and McKenzie Kwak. In back: Marjorie Yousey, Caleigh Rosenbaum, Violet Graf, Emily Keohoe, Emily Smith and Rebecca Miller.
Now Recruiting for P-TECH

Recruitment for the second class of students for the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) is now underway. Students currently enrolled in 8th grade are eligible to apply for the program where students earn a Regents Diploma while also pursuing an Associates Degree in Engineering Technology or Mechanical Engineering Technology from OCC. The 4-6 year program is provided at no cost to the student or parents. For more information, visit their website at www.CITiboces.org/PTECH.

Smashing Design Results

Students in Galen Fellows Physics class prepare to test the durability of their enclosure against one another. They designed specific structures to protect an egg against injury in a collision. The students tested their designs one-on-one in a ‘smashing’ display of ingenuity.

Sadie Lurcock, right, brainstorms with teammates at P-TECH about building a Rube Goldberg type of device that would spread ice melt over an area hands-free.

Jesse Dreilbelbiss works with team members on his laptop in one of his classes at P-TECH. Students who successfully complete the P-TECH program will be first in line for openings in the advanced manufacturing fields with industry partners Novelis, Huhtamaki, Fulton Companies, Davis-Standard, and Sunoco Ethanol.

Academic Excellence Awards

Students at Sandy Creek Middle School were recognized by Principal Carolyn Shirley for their outstanding academic achievements in the first marking period at an honors assembly at the school. Students earning the recognition each received a certificate to mark the honor.

Sixth Grade Merit Roll recipients, with cumulative grade point average of 85-89.4, included: Jacob Williams, Damion Mason, Cade Stoker, Kadi Kenyon, David Stern, Hunter Redden, Ty Lallier, Nicholas Huckabone, Brody Driskill, Hailey Dobbs, Kierra Davis and Zachary Comins.

Sixth Grade Honor Roll recipients, with cumulative GPA of 89.5-94.9 include: Reegan Macken, Travis Montone, Braiden Martin, Elizabeth Glazier, Lily Liszewski, Tate Lallier, Riley Phillips, Nathaniel Lucas, Natalie Lacelle, Ryan Barney, Nikolai Rosenbaum, Marissa Brennan and Abrielle Soluri.

Sixth Grade High Honor students, with a cumulative average of 95-100 included: Cody Walke, Maiya Hathaway, Abby Chen, Lillian Kohlbach, Dustin Mackey and Noah Reff.

In addition to their academic performance, Mrs. Shirley presented awards for perfect attendance. Recipients included: Travis Montone, Nicholas Huckabone, Dustin Mackey, Hunter Redden, Cade Stoker, Emily Youmans, Damion Mason, Kadi Kenyon, Ty Lallier, Maiya Hathaway, Abrielle Soluri, Nikolai Rosenbaum, Ryan Barney, Kierra Davis, Makala Butler and Ryan Valley.

Seventh Grade Merit Roll recipients, with cumulative grade point average of 85-89.4, included: Justine Farnan, Candice Francisco, Sophya Kenyon, Lindsey Fello, Hayli McCarti, Logan Henery, Kendra Poyneer, Kaley Doyle, Kendall Darling, Abbie Battles, Autumn Bartlett, Hailey McGrew, Nathan Alford and Carl Petrie Jr.

Seventh Grade Honor Roll recipients, with cumulative GPA of 89.5-94.9 included: Duron Trimble, Zachary Manwaring, Gabriel Balcom, Avery Cornell, Luke Yerdon, Tyler Mason, Wyatt Hilton, Dorothy Searles, Harley Douglas, Madison Lamica, Grace Skellington, UnaRose McNitt, Olivia Rudd and Cailey Robbins.

Seventh Grade High Honor students, with a cumulative average of 95-100 included: Jonathan Kennedy, Tyler Mason, Alexia Phillips, Sophya Kenyon, Trayton Mullin, Nathan Alford, Carl Petrie Jr., Ivan Allen, Mary Carnes, Abigail Lantry, Hailey McNitt and Seth Pearsall.


Eight Grade Honor Roll recipients, with cumulative GPA of 89.5-94.9 include: Sean Tritten, Ashleigh Rosenbaum, Gabrielle Brown, Matthew Caufield and Tery Eggleston. In back: Thomas Reff, Kerigan Trudell, Hailey Miller, Aldyn Landas and Angeline Soderlund.

Eight Grade Honor students, with a cumulative average of 95-100 are pictured, in front, left to right: Emily Ward, Emily Yousey, James Green, Elsa Graf and Evelyn Bice. In back: Brianna Youmans, Emma McDougal, Michaela Kaster, Deanna Hathaway, Annie Chen, Cat-ann Blodgett, Sarah Balcom, Sydney Burgy, Olivia Pappa, Madeleine Palmer and Zachary Paternoster.

The National Honor Society’s annual community service project wraps hundreds of presents and packs hundreds of boxes of food items for needy families in the area during the holiday season. Without the NHS assistance, local groups would have difficulty meeting the demand without the extra hands provided by the student volunteers.

Motivational Speaker Shares His Personal Story of Goals, Dreams and Aspirations

Former professional football player Steve Grant visited Sandy Creek where he spoke to students about his personal journey and the importance of goals, dreams and aspirations in life. He also spoke about looking for guidance and direction from those who care most about them and have experienced much of what they are probably going through. He then told students to listen to their parents and their teachers saying, ‘We’ve been your age, but you’ve never been ours.’

He further encouraged students to become great listeners and emphasized the importance of making good choices in life including who to hang with and be friends with, saying there is a direct parallel based on who you allow to influence you in life. ‘Show me the company you hang out with and I will show you your future,’ he said.

‘Life is about choices,’ he said. ‘You are not born a winner, you are not born a loser. You are born a chooser!’

National Honor Society Community Service Project

The National Honor Society’s annual community service project wraps hundreds of presents and packs hundreds of boxes of food items for needy families in the area during the holiday season. Without the NHS assistance, local groups would have difficulty meeting the demand without the extra hands provided by the student volunteers.

Sandy Creek Students Take Part in “Hour of Code” Worldwide Event

Students at Sandy Creek Middle School and High School took part in the worldwide ‘Hour of Code’ recently.

The hour of code is a global movement, which started as an introduction to computer science. The event took place during Computer Science week, Dec. 5-11 and millions of students from more than 180 countries from around the world took part in the event. Online tutorials were available for students to download.

Facilitated by Rachel Allen, Library Media Specialist; and John DeGone, technology teacher at the school, the weeklong event saw students from grades 6-12 take part. The students selected from a wide variety of coding opportunities, including building a flappy game, mine craft style gaming, even creating a cell phone app! Students could take their interest in coding into more advanced coding tutorials or explore more through DeGone’s classes at the school. Participation in the voluntary opportunity was good and coordinators hope to continue the event in the future.
Holiday Concerts Spread Cheer Across the District

To ring in the holiday season, every venue was filled to overflowing by proud parents, family, friends and community members as students in grades Pre-K to 12th performed in holiday concerts. Each concert provided spectators with a glimpse into the childlike wonder and magic of the holiday season. At the end of each performance, concert goers left the school with a lighter spirit and the sounds of the season resonating in their hearts.

Check out some of the highlights of the holiday concert season.

Pre-Kindergarten students, above, performed an audience favorite, 'The Reindeer Pokey' among other songs to showcase what they have learned and to celebrate the holiday season.

‘We Wish You a Merry Christmas’ was sung complete with rousing arm motions and lots of dancing to welcome in the holiday season. Pre-K students in the morning and afternoon programs performed before family and friends in separate performances.

Kindergarten through fifth grades took turns with their songs before the holiday break in December.

The Holiday Choral Concert performed before standing-room-only audiences.

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The Holiday Choral Concert performed before standing-room-only audiences.

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
P.O. Box 248
124 Salisbury St.
Sandy Creek, NY 13145
Phone: 315-387-3445
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

Smart Schools Investment Plan 2017

Approved by voters across New York State in 2014, the Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) authorized the issuance of $2 billion of general obligation bonds to finance improved educational technology and infrastructure to improve learning and opportunity for students throughout the state.

Of those funds, the Sandy Creek Central School District has been allocated $1,306,298. The Bond Act monies can only be designated for use in four core areas: 1) increase in bandwidth or connectivity; 2) classroom equipment; 3) infrastructure; and 4) high tech campus security.

The District proposes to use the funds in the following areas: Access Control, Video Surveillance, Campus Notification, and IP Communication.

Voice of Democracy Contest Winners

The Voice of Democracy program, the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ (VFW) scholarship program, has awarded millions of dollars of scholarship monies to students each year through their audio essay contest. Students write and record an essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year’s theme: ‘My Responsibility to America’ inspired students from Sandy Creek High School to participate and presented their submissions before the student body recently.

The scholarship program, open to all students in grades 9-12, is sponsored at the local level by Cable Trail Post 8534 in Lacona who provide the first level scholarship opportunities. Earning the top spot was the essay by Chase Pappa, second place went to Lindsey Goodnough, and third place was earned by Jesse Cornell. These students will advance to the county level with the potential to earn more scholarship monies. The top award at the national level earns the winning student a $30,000 scholarship prize. The Voice of Democracy program is coordinated at Sandy Creek High School by Social Studies Teacher Robert Ferguson.

Congratulations!

To the following Fall sports teams for winning the Frontier League Sportsmanship Award for their Division:

C Division:
Varsity Girls Soccer

B Division:
Varsity Girls Cross Country Varsity Boys Cross Country