



March 2018

The Comet's Tale



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. 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 315-387-3445 ext. 1510.

The deadline for nominations is April 20, 2018.

SC Senior Joe Benedict Brings Home New York State Wrestling Championship

Sandy Creek senior Joe Benedict is no stranger to the New York State Wrestling Championship Tournament, he's been there before. Benedict has gone to the finals in two previous seasons earning a second place finish each time, but he wasn't satisfied. His final opportunity to take the top step on the podium saw Benedict, wrestling for a combined team of Sandy Creek and South Jefferson, face Tyler Rice in the preliminary where he pinned his opponent in just 36 seconds. His final match ended in a 3-1 decision over Reggie Poulin to win the championship.

In an interview following the match, Benedict said the championship win "means everything," adding, "After all of the work I've put in, the countless hours, it means the world."

Benedict ends his final season of high school wrestling with a perfect, undefeated season, 38-0.

He plans to attend SUNY Brockport where he has committed to playing college football for them. Benedict was a football first-team, all-state selection in Class D for the past two years. He set a New York



State single-game rushing record as a junior when he rushed for 584 yards against Watertown IHC.

Capital Project Passes With More Than 75% of the Vote

On March 6, voters in the Sandy Creek Central School District voted overwhelmingly to approve the proposed capital project put before them. The vote tally was 236 in favor with 71 opposing the project.

What can district residents expect next?

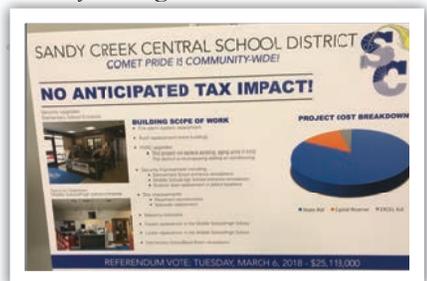
The district will move forward with the property purchase on Salisbury Street to allow for the second means of egress for the bus maintenance facility. King + King Architects will enter the design phase to develop plans that will be presented to the New York State Education Department for approval.

Typically the waiting period for approval by State Ed is between seven to nine months. Once approved, the district would then put the project out to bid. Construction is anticipated to begin sometime in 2020 and will be complet-

ed in two phases to lessen the impact on students and staff in the buildings.

The project cost of \$25,118,000 carries no anticipated new tax increase and will be paid for using NYS Building Aid, Capital Reserve funds and EXCEL Aid.

"We are pleased that the voters understood the need for this capital project and voted to support it so decisively," said Kyle Faulkner, Superintendent of Schools. "We weighed carefully what was needed for the safety and security of our students and maintenance of our facilities. A lot of consideration went into what we presented to the voters."





Sandy Creek Co.R.E. Teams Advance to World VEX Championship



Crystal Palmer, Alexia Phillips, Kendra Poyneer, Hailey McNitt, Jessica Graham, Ashleigh Rosenbaum, Garrett LaPointe, Emily Ward, Margery Yousey, Alex Olin, Sadie Lurcock and Coach John DeGone following their successful NNY VEX Robotics Competition on March 11. Their wins secured their place in the VEX World Competition later in April where teams from around the globe will compete in the elite event.

For the third time in as many years, the Sandy Creek Co.R.E. VEX Robotics team has won the Northern New York Championship to advance to the VEX World Competition in April. The team is coached by John DeGone, technology instructor in the district, who organized a small group of students into a robotics team three years ago.

This year 255 teams competed across New York State in VEX robotics competitions to see who could design, engineer, build and program the best robot. Sixty-six high school teams earned the privilege to compete at the Northern New York State VEX Robotics Championship on March 11 at the SRC arena. Teams from across New York State competed in the all-day event through qualification rounds, quarter- and semi-final rounds in two divisions.

During the qualification rounds the Sandy Creek 34000 [Co.R.E.] robotics team placed 3rd and 8th in the Technology division and 8th in the Engineering division. Joining alliances, the two Sandy Creek teams partnered together and won their next four matches and faced off against the first ranked team in the Technology division finals. In a come-from-behind victory the third seeded Sandy Creek alliance beat out the first seeded alliance to win the technology division title and proceed onto the grand championship finals against the first seeded alliance of the Engineering division. In the grand championship rounds the Sandy Creek teams dominated their competition in the first two rounds for a shutout earning them the tournament championship, and two tickets to the VEX World Championship in Louisville, KY, April 25-28. The team also earned several other awards including: the Amaze Award, the Skills Award, and the Sportsmanship Award.

Read Across America Week



To celebrate Read Across America Week and Dr. Seuss' birthday, guest readers visited classrooms throughout the elementary school and read one of the author's many beloved children's books. Special guest reader in Tamera Halsey's classroom was Kyle Faulkner, Sandy Creek Superintendent who read the terrifically tongue twisting 'Oh Say Can You Say.'



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Mar. 30 Good Friday - School Closed
- Apr. 1 Easter
- Apr. 5 7-12 Spring Band Concert, 7 pm
- Apr. 11-13 Grades 3-8 ELA Test
- Apr. 12 Board of Ed Meeting, D.O., 6 pm
- Apr. 23-27 Spring Recess - No School
- May 1-3 Grades 3-8 Math Test
- May 3 Budget Hearing & BOE Meeting, D.O., 6 pm
- May 12 Jr/Sr Prom
- May 13 Mother's Day
- May 14 Staff Development Day - No School for Students
- May 15 Elementary Science Fair 12-6 pm
- May 15 BOE Election and Budget Vote 12-8 pm
- May 16 5th & 6th Spring Concert, 7 pm
- May 23-25 Grades 4 & 8 Science Performance Test
- May 28 Memorial Day - School Closed
- May 30 7-12 Spring Chorus Concert, 7 pm

Sandy Creek Varsity Cheer Takes Section III Title



Sandy Creek Varsity Cheer Team took the Section III Class C Championship on February 10th at Chittenango High School. In addition, two members of the team were named Section III All Stars; Rosie Walter and Cassidy Carnes earned the recognition. The team is coached by Tanya VanOrnum and earned the top spot for the fall season as well. Members of the team are pictured here following the competition. In front, kneeling are Abby LaRue, left and Olivia Pappa, right. In back standing, left to right are: Coach VanOrnum, Vanessa Fox, Madeleine Palmer, Madison Yerdon, Rosie Walter, Madison Benedict, Alexis Miley and Cassidy Carnes.

Sandy Creek Girls' Volleyball Section III Champions

The Sandy Creek Varsity Girls' Volleyball team defeated Port Byron 3-0, on Feb. 17 to win the Section III Class C Championship. Earlier in the week the team had also won a close match against Tully, who had been the odds-on favorite to take the championship. The Tully team had gone the season undefeated before facing the determined Comets, with coaches Doriann Hathway and Valerie Fowler. The Sandy Creek team had an overall record of 15-3 on the season. This is the first Section III title the volleyball team has ever earned at Sandy Creek. Pictured left to right



are: Coach Doriann Hathway, Alison Lantry, Sarah Balcom, Carly Lyndaker, Lainie Hathway, Allison Burrows, Alexis McNitt, Bella Cornell, Machel Sullivan, Deanna Hathway, Maggie Vasquez, Hailey Miller, Bailey Fahnestock, Emily Paternoster, Maddie Bauer and Kayla Carnes.

Foreign Language Class Shares Travel and Spanish Culture With Fifth Grades

Students enrolled in foreign language classes at Sandy Creek High School shared important information about the culture of several Spanish-speaking countries with fifth grade students in the district who traveled to the countries on vacation. Students were required to go through "customs" in order to travel to these countries and passed back through customs in returning to their classrooms. Students used a passport and needed to have their travel documents stamped at each destination, giving their experience a more authentic flair. At right: Joe Metott stamps his brother Brayden's passport after completing the experience in a Spanish-speaking country.





Reading Challenge Rewards Students With A "Snow Day"

Sandy Creek Elementary, to encourage their students to read books at home, challenged their classes to keep track of how many books they read at home and the grade with the most books read would receive a special snow-inspired reward. The first grade classes read the most books in the month of January and on Wednesday, Feb. 14th they received their reward: a snow day! But not the kind most students look forward to and parents dread, this snow day was even better. The students were going to build snowmen with their teachers and principal in the courtyard at the school. To prepare for the day, the students worked together in teams to decide a theme for their snowman, their design plan and what they would need to complete the project. On the snow date, the students came equipped with snow gear and their supplies in hand. They all came together in the hallway outside their classrooms and the school principal Mr. Tim Filiatrault read them a story called "Snowmen at Night." After the story, they all went outside to make their own creations in snow. It was a truly special day and a great way to celebrate reading!



Fourth Grade Students Take "Virtual" Field Trip to Toledo Zoo

"When you woke up this morning did you think you were going to Ohio?" Kristin Edwards asked fourth graders in the Sandy Creek Central School District. Edwards, an Itinerant Computer Education Specialist in the Distance Learning Department at CiTi BOCES, coordinated the connection along with Sandy Creek fourth grade teacher, Julie Delpapa.

The fourth grade science classes connected with the Toledo Zoo in Ohio via a distance learning connection. The students, who have studied animals and various adaptations they experience for survival, took part in a program that looked at migration and hibernation habits in animals.

The students were able to interact with and ask questions of an animal expert at the zoo, who brought several animals or specimens with her to the camera for the students to experience.

Photo at right: Kristin Edwards, center, talks to the first of several fourth grade classes that participated in the Distance Learning connection. Students were able to see and hear a zoologist with the Toledo Zoo and she was able to view the classroom and students asked and answered questions posed by the scientist.





Performance of Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory

The Sandy Creek Drama Department's Spring performance of "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" was a scrumdiddilyumptious treat. Based on the book by Roald Dahl, the musical tells the story of Charlie Bucket who receives a golden ticket to visit Willy Wonka's super-secret chocolate factory with four other children with the hopes of winning a lifetime supply of chocolate.



Sandy Creek Students Earn Top 3 Designation at CiTi CTE



The Career and Technical Education programs at the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation (CiTi) announced recently the top three students in each of their programs. Sandy Creek students receiving this outstanding recognition included in photo above, in front, left to right: Tim Snell, Advanced Metal Manufacturing; Will Robbins, Public Safety; and Summer Skinner, Nursing. Back row:

Ethan Graf, Digital Media; Andrew Bartlett, Auto Tech.; Hunter Boyle, Advanced Metal Manufacturing; and Lucas Myers, Digital Media. Missing from photo: Courtney Burns, Culinary. Above left: Everett Bauer, Advanced Metal Manufacturing; and Danielle James, guidance counselor at Sandy Creek.

District Welcomes New DOT

Sandy Creek Central School District resident Chris Grieco learned of the district's Director of Technology opening following the retirement of Paul Goulet and thought it sounded like a great position, and it was in his own backyard. His initial hesitancy regarding the position was that he did not come with a background in educational technology, but his diverse background proved to be an even bigger asset.



For the first seven years of his career, Grieco was in IT systems and support in global manufacturing in the Watertown area before becoming and implementation specialist for healthcare technology at Fort Drum Regional Health Planning. While there, he also filled a role as a cyber security officer and worked as a project manager for inter-operability. This diversity will be huge asset as the district moves to increase security with the recently approved capital project and the inter-operability background will prove helpful as he helps the district move to computer-based standardized testing and other changes that may be coming down the road with electronic and communication components.

He recently met with his fellow directors of technology throughout the county and looks forward to working with his team in the technology department at Sandy Creek.

Grieco has lived in Sandy Creek for six years and in his spare time enjoys ice fishing, hunting, mountain biking and cross country skiing.

"I see myself staying here for a long time but will not allow myself to get complacent. If you're not learning, you're falling behind," he said, adding "Technology just makes these drastic shifts. It's cloud-based centralized control now. Instead of provisioning hardware, it's provisioning services." His goal at the district is to ensure that the community gets the best possible use out of their technology money and to help students and faculty excel at the highest level.



Youth-led Leadership Conference

Fifteen middle and high school students and their advisors from Sandy Creek took part in a student-led leadership conference at Central Square's Paul V. Moore High School recently. The conference with a "Disney" theme featured a keynote speaker, workshops, share and grow opportunities and a charity event.

Student leaders from middle and high schools in Oswego, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Cortland counties in Central New York attended the conference bringing their thoughts and ideas to share and grow. Student presenters shared workshops using Disney ideas and successes to illustrate their topic in such areas as advertising, communicating, goal setting, public speaking and working together to name a few of the many options available for the attendees.



High School representatives included: Allison Lantry, Nic Potter, Emily Kehoe, advisor Christina Hunt, Joe Metott, Christopher Blount, Machela Sullivan and Bailey Fahnestock.

Cinderella's Closet on Apr. 7

Cinderella's Closet, a free prom and semi-formal dress giveaway is scheduled for April 7 from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Make Sense Shop, 4901 North Jefferson Street in Pulaski. The annual event is coordinated by the Sandy Creek School District in partnership with the Make Sense Shop. The event allows family and friends to attend and assist in the dress selection process. Complimentary refreshments are available while you shop. Donations of new or gently worn dresses will be accepted at the Make Sense Shop until the day of the event. The event is offered free of charge to students in the Central and Northern New York area who will be attending prom or semi-formal events this spring.



Andy Thibodeau, left, does his dance move "looking for my keys" with the Sandy Creek Middle School Lead group at the recent youth leadership conference. Thibodeau shared his positive message with students using humor and personal stories to bring his message to the group in a way that students could relate to. Pictured left to right are: Thibodeau, Rylee Katsoris, Lillian Kohlbach, Mary Carnes Lindsey Felio, Riley Phillips, Tate Lallier and Jacob Coe. Seated in front at right is Kaleigh Doyle.

Students Learn About the Secret Life of Anne Frank

Sandy Creek 7th and 8th grade students watched a special performance by Syracuse Stage recently, entitled "Anne Frank: My Secret Life."

The program, called Backstory, is a live, interactive and creative history lesson where actors visit classrooms and other venues to bring historical characters to life. In this performance, students were able to learn about Anne Frank's life, her family's experience of hiding in the annex, and her hopes for the future. Following the presentation, audience members could interact with the character and answer questions relating to their life and experiences. They could also ask the actress, Victoria Madden, about her process in preparing for the role and other questions about acting.

Anne Frank's diary, published as "The Diary of a Young Girl" is a book of the writings kept by Anne Frank while she was in hiding with her family for two years during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. It remains one of the most widely-read books in the world and has been translated into sixty-seven languages.



Anne Frank: My Secret Life was performed on stage at Sandy Creek where 7th and 8th graders were able to interact with Anne, portrayed by Victoria Madden. Students asked questions about her life, her family, and her hopes and dreams for the future.



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, 2017 to March 15, 2018:

❖ **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

Math & Movement Family Fun Night a Hopping Success!

Math & Movement™ is a kinesthetic, multi-sensory approach to teaching math that incorporates physical exercise, stretching, cross-body movements, yoga, and visually-pleasing floor mats designed to encourage students to practice math and ELA concepts. The Math & Movement™ program allows students to physically hop, walk, crawl, dance or touch the mats and banners as they learn thus using more learning modalities (visual, auditory, motor and kinesthetic) when practicing.



**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

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

Postal Patron



Sandy Creek Central School District

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President
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Superintendent:
Mr. Kyle L. Faulkner

**Business Administrator/
District Clerk:**
Shelley H. Fitzpatrick

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Middle School:
Carolyn Shirley

High School:
Emily Wemmer

Director of Curriculum & Inst.
Amy Howard-McCormack



District Holds 11th Annual Battle of the Books

The Sandy Creek Central School District hosted their 11th Annual Battle of the Books Competition to determine grade level winners to represent the district at the Oswego County Battle of the Books Competition.

The Sandy Creek Battle saw 47 students, one of the largest groups yet, compete for the honor to represent the district in the county championships.

Level 1, grade 3-4, saw the team of Emma Gibbons, Abbygail Peter and Haidyn Soluri take the top spot. In addition to the winning team other participants included: Allie Felio, Blake Duffany, Brodi Martin, Haven Wielt, Landon Swarthout, Lilly Trumble, Maiah Owen, Marilyn Dewhirst, Paris Sprague, Remington Blodgett, Tucker Nevills, Zeydan Johnson, Adam Trudell, Alina Khan, Alyvia Brown, Brody Pecha, Lola Tessier, Maggie Wallace and Simon Preston.

Level 2, Grade 5, the team of Elizabeth Hobbs, Piper Philips and Sophie Harris earned the right to represent the district and other participants included: Aaron Grafton, Abigail Balcom, Brayden Metott, Madison Darling, and William Cole.

Level 3, Grades 6-8 had only one team participating. The team of Nikolai Rosenbaum, Ryan Landphere and Perle Convey used the event as practice to help prepare for the county competition.

Level 4, grades 9-12 featured five teams vying for the honor to represent their school. The team of Sydney Cook, Ashley Rosenbaum and Madison Brown finished in first place advancing them to the county level. Other participants included: Annie Chen, Becca Miller, Caleigh Rosenbaum, Crystal King, Elsa Graf, Emily Kehoe, Emily Smith, Margery Yousey, Samantha Ranieri, Stephany Cole and Violet Graf.

Battle of the Books is coordinated in the Sandy Creek District by Library Media Specialist Rachel Allen. Coaches for the teams include Cynthia

Rudd, grades 3-4; Brandie Norton, grade 5; Karin Nemier, grades 6-8; and Jackie Gregg, grades 9-12.



Sandy Creek District Level 1 participants



Sandy Creek District Level 2 participants



Sandy Creek District Level 3 participants



Sandy Creek District Level 4 participants