

# Sandy Creek

Central School  
District  
Newsletter



Fall 2018

## The Comet's Tale



### New Website Updates Include New URL

The Sandy Creek Central School District has been hard at work revamping and updating their website, including transitioning to a new website address. The new address, [www.sandycreekcsd.org](http://www.sandycreekcsd.org) is currently in effect and a redirect will send visitors entering the old address temporarily to the new site, but district officials ask that frequent visitors to the site update the address for future use.

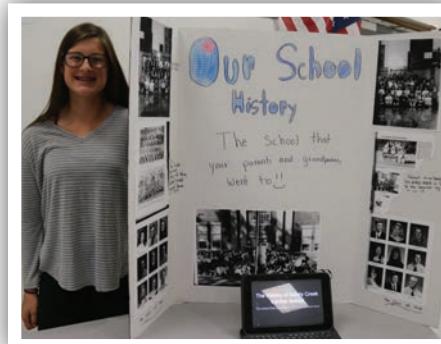
The process has included updates to the site to maintain compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to assist those with disabilities equal access to all aspects of the web. To that end, if you encounter an error accessing the site or have any questions regarding the website, contact the Sandy Creek Technology Department by email at: [helpdesk@sccs.cnyric.org](mailto:helpdesk@sccs.cnyric.org) or call 315-387-3445. Email accounts will remain the same and are not affected by the website update.

## Homecoming and Spirit Week Highlights

Spirit week and homecoming brought with it a sense of Comet Pride that was evident to see as students dressed in school colors and cheered for their class during the Friday pep rally.



## Celebration of Learning Draws Large Crowd

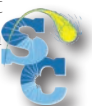


Scout Preston, above, shows off her presentation about the history of our school during the Celebration of Learning.

Last spring, students in the Sandy Creek Middle School held a LEAD Night where they shared information about the leadership initiative their school is participating in. The night was designed and implemented by students and was such a success, the Lead Team and Principal Carolyn Shirley talked about fusing that idea with open house in the fall. The result became the Celebration of Learning.

Students and their classroom teachers talked about what each individual classroom would showcase and also how the individual students could work on a special project of their own. The students came up with their ideas for a presentation, based on their own areas of interest or expertise, and developed their projects in

Continued on page 3





Abel and Lyla Thomas learned about bus safety at the Elementary School Open House earlier this fall.

## Sandy Creek Elementary School Holds Open House

Parents turned out for the annual Fall Open House at Sandy Creek Elementary School where they toured through the building visiting their child's classrooms and met with teachers and administrators. In addition, there was a bus safety station outside where students learned about safety on and off the bus. In the gymnasium of the school visitors found a healthy highway with stations promoting healthy choices for the family and information to support a healthy lifestyle.



Superintendent of Schools Kyle Faulkner, center, greets families as they enter the Sandy Creek Elementary School Open House.

## Senior Recognition for Fall Season Athletes Held



Senior Cross Country athlete Carly Lyndaker is escorted by her mother Cammie, right, and her Aunt Van and Uncle Tim during the senior recognition held at halftime of the Homecoming football game.

Lainie Hathway is escorted by her father Joe, left, mom Shelly, and brother Cameron, far right. Lainie is a senior cheerleader.



Above: Joe Metott is escorted by his father Rick and his mother Heidi Metott. Joe is a senior football player.

Senior athletes were honored in a special recognition ceremony during halftime of the Homecoming football game. Athletes were announced and escorted to the center of the field with their family members to be recognized by fans attending the game. Twenty-two athletes were honored at the ceremony in cross country, girls varsity soccer, cheerleading and varsity football.



Like and follow the Sandy Creek District on their Facebook page @SandyCreekComets



# Celebration of Learning Draws Large Crowd Continued...



Students man a graffiti table where visitors are encouraged to draw something on the paper that is special to them, describes them, represents them or represents something they like. Pictured, left to right are: Lily Ramus, Marisa Filiatrault and Natalie Bauer.

*(Continued from page 1)*

cooperation with their teachers. When the night of the event came, a special guest was on hand to speak to students and their parents: Andy Thibodeau, a youth motivational speaker shared his message on student involvement and leadership with the crowd to open the night's festivities.

A full schedule of events and presentations were available for visitors to see and take part in as they traveled from classroom to classroom. The student leaders were on hand to answer questions and share with parents the classroom projects selected to highlight for the night.



Sarabeth Fox checks Abbi Willson's hands for germs at her presentation during the Celebration of Learning at the Middle School.

James Guile shared his love and extensive knowledge about hunting and fishing during the Celebration of Learning.



## Andy Thibodeau's "Share Your Care" message resonates with students



"I can honestly say," said Andy Thibodeau, "that I have never been introduced by a Comet before!" Pictured left to right are: Sandy Creek High School Principal Emily Wemmer, Thibodeau, SC Comet mascot (Bailey Fahnstock), Alison Lantry and Middle School Principal Carolyn Shirley.

Andy Thibodeau recently visited the Sandy Creek Central School District where he shared his "Share Your Care" message with students and parents in several assemblies. Thibodeau spoke to the elementary, middle and high school students during the day and stayed for a presentation for parents at the start of the Middle Schools Celebration of Learning.

His message of caring talked about ways you can show you care in three points: 1) show up 2) participate and 3) listen and ask questions, or as he said, "be borderline nosy." His message applies not just to doing well in school, but is also important in the students' personal lives and their interactions with friends and family.

Thibodeau praised the audiences for doing all three of his care points saying, "you showed up, you've been participating, and you've been amazingly attentive listeners."

Thibodeau is a motivational speaker who trains and inspires leadership in students across the US and Canada. Teachers from Sandy Creek Middle School had the opportunity to hear Andy speak to a youth leadership conference and encourage the administration at their school to see if they could get him to come to Sandy Creek. He agreed to come to the district in time for the Middle School's Celebration of Learning.

Thibodeau lives in London, Ontario with his wife and two children. For more information on Andy Thibodeau visit his website at [www.Andypresentations.com](http://www.Andypresentations.com).

## OCAVY League First Competition

The first OCAVY League Competition of the season took place with an around the world theme. Sandy Creek team members included in front, left to right: Kayla Filiatrault, Bailey Fahnstock, Madison Bauer, and Marley Yerdon. In back, left to right are: Margery Yousey, Caleigh Rosenbaum, Gavin Babcock, Abbey Fitzpatrick and Riley Dowlearn.





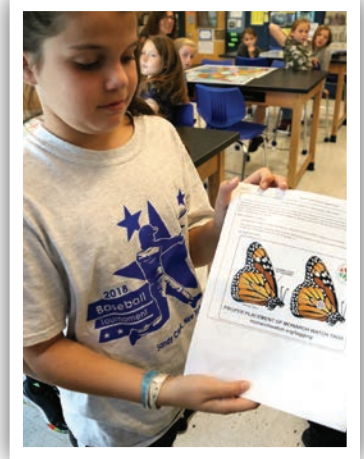
# Sandy Creek Fifth Graders Help Track Monarch Migration



Lexxi Willson checks on the chrysalises hanging on the improvised "chrysalis clothes line" in Patti King's fifth grade science classroom.

Why do Monarch butterflies migrate from Upstate New York to a small geographic region in mountainous Central Mexico? How do they find their way there and how do their offspring find their way back to the Sandy Creek area? These are some of the many questions that scientists have been asking and students at Sandy Creek Elementary

Phoenicia Hathway shows the positioning of the tag from Monarch Watch that the students will affix to each adult Monarch butterfly before they are released to migrate to Central Mexico. The tag sticks to the butterfly without impeding their ability to fly but allows researchers to log their migration through the Monarch Watch database.



School are helping to answer.

Future lepidopterists were hard at work in Patti King's fifth grade science class where they have collected Monarch butterflies, caterpillars and chrysalises and have successfully tagged the adults of the species and released them to begin their migration. Working with Monarch Watch, a large-scale citizen science project launched in 1992 to help understand the dynamics of the butterflies' fall migration, the students will tag, record and track their butterflies as they migrate to Mexico. Once the butterflies have completed their migration, they will lay eggs and then die. Local citizens from the surrounding towns and villages in Central Mexico will collect the butterfly bodies and note the tagged identifications for Monarch Watch. Students in Sandy Creek can log into the data base and see if their butterfly was successful in making the long journey.

The tags are tiny dots of paper with identifying numbers that are logged by the original tagger and then updated when they reach their destination through the database using the number on the specific tag.

Students collected the caterpillars and chrysalises by scouring their yards and local fields for the milkweed plants that are essential to the Monarch's survival. Each student who brought in either a caterpillar or chrysalis will be able to tag an adult butterfly for Monarch Watch.

The students have also been able to watch the development of the butterflies as they move from stage to stage. Mrs. King devised a method to safely hang the chrysalises, called the "chrysalis clothes line" and each one is tagged with the date it was formed or found. The students record this data and try to determine the approximate date in which the butterfly will emerge from the chrysalis and add observations about the changes that occur during this phase.

The students have shared the information they have learned about the butterfly life-cycle with students in the school by bringing their findings into the younger classrooms.



## We're Hiring!

*Become a part of our Sandy Creek Comets' Team!*

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### We Need Substitutes!

<b>Teachers</b>	<b>Bus Driver</b>
Certified: \$95/day (after 25 days \$105/day)	\$ 11.00/hour while training
Non-Certified: \$80/day	\$15.00/hour after training
<b>Nurse</b>	<b>Cleaners</b>
\$95/day RN	\$10.40/hour
\$80/day LPN	<b>Food Service Worker</b>
<b>AIDE - Teacher/Special Ed/Bus</b>	\$10.40/hour
\$10.40/ hour	<b>Clerical</b>
	\$10.40/ hour

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Apply in person to the District Office, 124 Salisbury Street, Sandy Creek, NY or online at [www.SandyCreekCSD.org](http://www.SandyCreekCSD.org) and mail to Shelley H. Fitzpatrick, Human Resource Officer, PO Box 248, Sandy Creek, NY 13145.



## Welcome New Staff!

Welcome to Jonathan Sheeley, Buildings and Grounds; and, Mary Bennett, Transportation



# Class Encourages Physical and Emotional Fitness



Kit Sheehan, (at right center) a certified yoga instructor and science teacher at the high school, leads students in a yoga class at the school.

Sandy Creek High School has a new elective course that brings a wide range of mindfulness to students at the school. Taught by Dori Hathway and Kit Sheehan, the goal of the class is to expose students to techniques that will help them achieve social and emotional growth coupled with physical fitness in a safe and nurturing environment. The class will explore options for well-being that include yoga, nutrition, non-pharmaceutical medicine, exercise, inner reflection, positive thinking, aroma-therapy, trust building and more.

One module of the program focuses on yoga and its healthful benefits are welcomed by the students participating. Each class begins with a positive affirmation statement that begins, "I am..." and students select from a list of positive statements that may include: strong, positive, grateful, unique, or others that reflect on what the students' need is for at that time.

The room is softly lit. Quiet, calming music plays as Sheehan leads the students through a series of fluid yoga poses. She quietly talks the students through the exercise as she explains the benefit of the pose on a particular muscle group, reminding students of proper technique

and the importance of breathing deliberately and consciously during the session. The exercises serve to increase core strength, flexibility, focus, balance, and inner strength among other physical benefits. An added bonus is the emotional reward that students also extolled the benefits of, citing relaxation and stress relief as key factors in their personal experience from the class.

"I feel happier after the class," said Gabe Baird, who credits the class with helping to relieve some of the stress that comes in high school.

For senior Kennedy Sullivan, yoga has provided stress relief from the college level courses she is taking at the school.

Sheehan and Hathway are excited about upcoming aspects of the class that include a field trip to a ropes course that will rely on trust and group involvement, pushing students further emotionally and physically. Also, on the horizon are guests in the class which will bring information and experiences on topics such as: soulful hooping, acupuncture and acupressure, aroma therapy, nutrition and more. In its first year, the program has been well received by the students and the holistic community. Alumni from the school will be participating in future presentations and the instructors are excited for the opportunity to bring in successful individuals who were once Sandy Creek students just like the students in the class.



Above: Students complete the child pose during the recent yoga class that is part of their mindfulness elective at Sandy Creek High School.



At left: Mary Lichtenstein, demonstrated her five-minute daily energy routine and the four thumps which boost and restore energy, increase strength and vitality and strengthen the immune system. Energy medicine is said to balance your energies which in turn balances your body's chemistry, regulates your hormones and helps you feel and think better. The daily energy routine is one of the tools used to bring balance to the body. In addition to the four thumps exercise, she taught the class several daily exercises to bring focus, balance, coordination, stress relief, increase energy and release toxins from the body.



# Down Beat Percussion Ups the Beat in Sandy Creek



Members of DownBeat Percussion perform at an assembly for the elementary school students at Sandy Creek; pictured, left to right are: David Pugh, Chelsea Catalone, Sean Steele, Dan English, Ian Evans and Eric English.

In a high energy assembly at Sandy Creek Elementary School, members of the official drumline for the Buffalo Bills football team, DownBeat Percussion, brought the beat and more. The percussionists played their way into the hearts of Sandy Creek students as the elementary grades danced and clapped along with the songs performed by the drumline. They even got the students into the action with an echo the beat section with students on plastic buckets playing the exact beat sequence that Dan English, one of the founding members of the group performed.

English also spoke to the students about the importance of reading and explained the correlation between reading and music performance. They also took questions

from the audience and told students about the importance of practice. "Practice makes permanent," said Dan English. "What you do over and over is what you learn. It doesn't make you perfect, it makes that habit permanent."

The group was started by Dan and his brother Eric about five years ago and includes Chelsea Catalone, David Pugh, Ian Evans, and Sean Steele. Hailing from the Central New York area, the drumline performs for more than 70,000 people every week and were contacted by the Buffalo Bills organization in 2013 to perform at home games for them. The group also performs at schools throughout the state and offer workshops for percussion groups and band classes.

In addition to the elementary assembly, the group graciously agreed to participate in the Middle and High School pep rally performing a few high energy songs to get the students into the spirit of the pep rally.

The group's visit was coordinated through the Arts-in-Education Department at the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation.

## SC's Deanna Hathway Participates in STEM Leadership Conference



Deanna Hathway, left, participated in the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders 2018 held in Boston, MA over the summer. She was selected based on her outstanding academic performance, leadership potential and dedication to serving humanity through science, technology, engineering and math. The conference featured presenters from around the world including Nobel prize winners, and leaders in the sciences. Hathway was presented with a special certificate for her participation in the week-long conference by Sandy Creek High School Principal Emily Wemmer.

## Sandy Creek Hosts Free Literacy Event Oct. 27

The Sandy Creek Central School District, in partnership with the Literacy Coalition of Oswego County hosted a free literacy event recently where all things reading were celebrated. Tables manned by agencies and individuals provided information and hands-on activities for students and their families to enjoy. Free books were handed out to children and door prizes and free take-home prizes were a special treat. Families came from all over the county to attend the annual event that rotates around the county to provide literacy opportunities to families in Oswego County. For more information about LCOC, visit their website at <http://www.oswegocounty.com/literacyco/>.





# Hovercraft Project Puts STEM in Action at Sandy Creek



Matt Chase meets with team leaders at the start of the Hovercraft Project at Sandy Creek Middle School. The sixth graders spent the day working with Chase building and testing their hovercrafts. Pictured, clockwise from left are: Abigail Balcom, John Darou, Dayle Ridgeway, Jesiah Curry, Dakota Denny, Seth LaCelle and Piper Phillips.

Sandy Creek sixth graders were flying around the gymnasium recently as they piloted hovercrafts in an exciting project-based learning experience.

The Hovercraft Project, developed by Chase Educational Consulting, visited Sandy Creek Middle School and the teamwork and problem solving began. Teams of students, under the direction of Matthew Chase, founder of the project, began their task with what was probably the most difficult of all: create the largest perfect circle they could from a square of Tyvek-type house wrap.

Close-enough was not an option and students racked their brains to determine how they could create their circle with the limited supplies they were given: a yard-stick, a piece of string, some markers,



Team leader Jesiah Curry reports back to his team following a team leader meeting with the Hovercraft Project coordinator, Matt Chase. Team members clockwise from bottom left are: Kiley Procko, Kadin Collins, Olivia Euler, Sophie Harris, Dominic Thurston, and Jaeden Darling.

scissors and an ink pen. Communication, teamwork and collaboration were all utilized in the process and teachers, who were not allowed to coach or assist, were excited to see the “ah ha” moment when the concept of radius clicked with the students and they realized the solution was right in front of them all the time.

Chase worked closely with team leaders but did not hand them an easy solution, but rather guided them in the right direction so they could find their own resolution to the task at hand. His positive reinforcement and upbeat attitude encouraged students to work together and be a contributing member of their team and to follow the leadership of their team leader.

After the construction was completed, the students put the hovercrafts to the test. Each test included a different set of criteria, ranging from tight skirt to loose skirt, and one pusher to multiple pushers. Following each race heat, the students recorded the data and later used their findings to select which scenario lead to in the best results for their team.

Once their findings were determined, the student teams raced their hovercrafts against one another until a final team remained and was declared the winner.

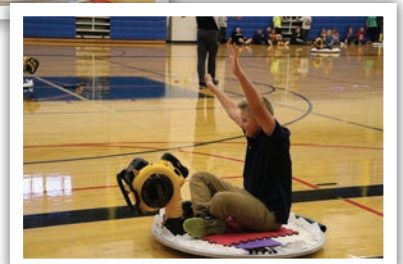
The Hovercraft Project was coordinated by the Arts in Education department at the Center for Instruction, Technology and Innovation at CiTi BOCES for the Oswego County Schools.

Elizabeth Dano, center, reacts in surprise to the inaugural run of her team's hovercraft. In back are Kayden Trumble, left and Elizabeth Hobbs, two members of Dano's team.



At left: Sara Leppien on the left, shows Kelsey Ridgeway, center and Destiny Urquhart how to engage the blower to activate the hovercraft.

Brayden Metott celebrates successfully meeting the required distance to remain in the competition during the Hovercraft Project at Sandy Creek Middle School.



**Sandy Creek Central  
School District**  
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Business Office: Ext. 1510  
Elementary: Ext. 1110  
Middle School/High School: Ext. 1910  
Nurses' Offices:  
Elementary - Ext. 1503; HS - Ext. 1505  
Transportation: Ext. 3330

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Sandy Creek Central School District

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## Local Fire Departments Visit Elementary School

"Stop, drop and roll" was just one aspect of fire safety measures that were presented to students at Sandy Creek Elementary

School by two local fire departments who visited the school in October.

Representatives from the Lacona and Sandy Creek Fire Departments shared safety information and reminders to students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. The volunteer firemen suited up for the younger students to reassure them that they did not need to be afraid of a firefighter who could be looking for them in the event they were trapped inside a building on fire. The firefighter crawled around among the students using his breathing apparatus to show them that he was just a man underneath the many layers of protective gear.

The volunteer departments brought their trucks to the school and students were able to check out the equipment including one device that shows infrared images of body heat as delicate as a handprint on a wall from someone who passed by that way. Students enjoyed checking each other out with the device.

The firefighters brought some souvenirs along with them including some firefighter hats, coloring books, pencils and more for the students to take home.



Firefighters from Sandy Creek Volunteer Fire Department shared information with students in fifth grade during a fire safety day in the district.



Lacona Volunteer Firemen suited up to show students how much gear they need to keep safe when entering a burning building.

## Co.R.E. Robotics Team at CiTi's Manufacturing Day



Sandy Creek's Co.R.E. Robotics Team hosted a book and robot demonstration at the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation's Manufacturing Day in October. Pictured at the booth are Hailey McNitt, Jessica Graham and Sadie Lurcock. The Co.R.E. Robotics team is coached by John DeGone.