Kindergarten Registration

Sandy Creek Elementary will be conducting registration for Kindergarten for 2019–2020 on Wednesday, February 6th and Thursday, February 7th from 1:00 – 6:00 pm on each of these days in the Elementary Office area. This registration is for:

• Incoming Kindergarten students who do not attend our Pre-K Program in our elementary building. Incoming Kindergarten candidates must be 5 years old on or before December 1st, 2019.

• Parents/guardians must provide proof of birth and shot record for their child. Proof of residency or custody may be necessary if there is a question. Students and parents/guardians must be residents of the district.

• Students currently enrolled in our Pre-K Program will bring home registration packets for Kindergarten, which should be returned to Mrs. McNitt or to the Elementary Office no later than Friday, February 8th.

For newly enrolling Kindergarten students, parents/guardians must bring the completed registration packet to the Elementary Office no later than Friday, February 8th.

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The Comet’s Tale

Middle School welcomes Principal Molloy

Amy Molloy has been named the new Middle School Principal following the retirement of Carolyn Shirley from the position in early January. Molloy grew up in the Syracuse suburb of Nedrow and graduated from Onondaga Central Schools. She attended LeMoyne College where she studied English and Education and following she accepted a teaching position at her alma mater where she taught for 13 years. In 2010 she decided to enter the CAS program at LeMoyne and after receiving her administrative certification she worked as a summer school administrator for OCM BOCES for four years. One of her experiences there was working for a Leadership Academy at the middle school level to connect learners back to academics and particularly enjoyed working with students in that age group. In 2016, she took a position in the Rome School District at the high school level for two years before moving to a position at the elementary level. When the position at Sandy Creek was advertised she knew she wanted to get back to the middle school level and the opportunity to work in the small, rural district appealed to her as well.

‘Growing up in a similar community, the position at Sandy Creek appealed to me,’ said Molloy and after interviewing said the district was a perfect fit for her.

Molloy believes her experiences in education have exposed her to a variety of students and prepared her for all aspects of the position at Sandy Creek. ‘Coming in the middle of the school year, her plan for the remainder of the year is to keep things focused and consistent. ‘We already have a lot of great things implemented.’ she said. ‘as the year goes on, I will look to the staff and students to get feedback about any changes that they feel we need to make. In the meantime, Im looking forward to building relationships with students and staff and getting to know the community. Everyone has been so welcoming.’

She and her husband live in Clay where they have two dogs. In her spare time she enjoys outdoor activities with her two dogs, who love the snow and love swimming. She also enjoys traveling and spending time with family.

Follow Ms. Molloy on Twitter @amolloy_sccs

Sandy Creek District children eligible for free “Imagination Library” books

The Sandy Creek Central School District’s focus on early literacy recently received additional support thanks to funding for books through Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

‘Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth until their fifth birthday, no matter their family’s income,’ according to the Imagination Library’s website.

The program will be introduced to Sandy Creek’s youngest residents beginning in January after extensive behind-the-scenes work among the district, the Literacy Coalition of Oswego County (LCO) and the United Way.

‘We know that the adult literacy rate in the county is a huge issue,’ said LCO President Michael Egan. ‘We saw early literacy efforts as a way to jumpstart reading. We want all kids to be able to read on grade level by the end of grade three, and this program is a wonderful start toward reaching that goal.’

With so much effort in making this literacy initiative a reality, all collaborators are eager to launch the program. All current Sandy Creek pre-K students under the age of five will be registered to receive a book each month. In addition to current pre-k students, the district will also mail letters to any families that are known to have age-eligible children and the two libraries in

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Seniors Volunteer in the Elementary

Sandy Creek High School seniors have a new way to earn community service hours by volunteering in Sandy Creek Elementary classrooms and the benefits are great for all. It began as an opportunity to earn community service hours during the school day for seniors who had free time during the day but little time outside of the classroom due to extracurricular activities, employment or logistical issues. The results have proved to solve more than just the needs of the senior students. The high school students serve as an extra set of hands, eyes and even ears in the elementary classrooms where they can assist the teacher by working in small groups or one-on-one with students. Students can practice reading to the older student, get extra help in completing their classroom work, get extra assistance with skills that need reinforcement or whatever area of help the teachers need during the block of time that the students are there. According to Mrs. Santschi, a third grade teacher in the elementary, her students have responded very well to the additional attention and the extra supervision has freed time up for more teacher-led instructional time with the whole class. Nearly a dozen high school students are participating in the volunteer program in various grade-level classrooms. In addition to availability, the high school students must maintain high academic standards for inclusion in the program.

Chemistry students get ‘all fired up’ for science

Deanna Hathway takes part in the Chemistry class demonstration of combustion reaction by igniting methane bubbles which burn extremely quickly.

Chemistry teacher Kelly Halko demonstrates the dehydration of sugar during a special demo day in the class. In addition, she demonstrated the oxidation of a gummy bear, a catalytic decomposition, the reaction of active metals with water, and several other chemical demos during the class.

Congratulations on your retirement Mrs. Shirley!

After spending her entire career in education at the Sandy Creek Central School District, Middle School Principal Carolyn Shirley recently retired. Now she hopes to spend more time with her grown sons, her husband and her family which is now scattered across four states.

‘I will miss the kids’ said Shirley. adding, ‘There was not a day that I did not want to come to work. I wish the new administration well.’

Look for a more complete farewell to Mrs. Shirley on the district website at www.SandyCreekCSD.org.

Congratulations on your retirement Mrs. Shirley!
First Quarter Awards at Sandy Creek Elementary School

Sandy Creek Elementary School held their first quarter Character Awards ceremony where students were honored for exhibiting the character traits promoted by the Leader in Me. The students were recognized in two ceremonies: those in Kindergarten to grade two and grades three through five by Principal Tim Filiatrault. Parents and family members were invited to witness the students’ recognition.

The following students were honored for habit #1: Be proactive – Colton Bushie, Peyton Clark, Dylan Ashby, Helen Harris, Alyvia Brown, Lydia Rudd, Lana Grace Burns, Levi McNitt, Bronwyn McCarthy, Harper Fahnstock, William Poyneer, JazMarie McGrath, Nina Hackett, Lincoln McNitt, Deven Lando, Noah Yerdon, Trenton Sedler, Penelope LeFevere-Paro, Landon Swarthout, Ian Hanley, Autumn Trumble, Leyona Brown, Autumn Phillips and Jase Howard.

Habit #2: Begin with the end in mind – Natalie Nemier, Even Haynes, Emily Mintoynye, Elizabeth Kubacki, Zeydan Johnson, Lola Tessier, Nicholas Anderson and Lylie Wall.

Habit #3: Put first things first – Sarah Hackett, Maiah Owen, Dominick Moulton, McKenzie McGrath, Zoey Brown, Colton Falso, Maddi McGrath, Grayson Erhardt, Bradley Brown, Harrison Zimmermann, Morgan Mears, Josiah Radley, Emma Gibbons, Cooper Hitchcock, Makayla Spearman, Cadence Katsoris, Ripleigh Losert, Gabriella Peter and Danielle Connors.

Habit #4: Think win-win – Phoebe Preston, Noah Dingman, Allison Heft, Haidyn Soluri, Chase Lasell, Elliott Bremm, Ryan Wilson, Kyle Coe and Jamaal Nemier.

Habit #5: Seek first to be understand, then to be understood – Natalia McNitt, Emma Sue Euler, Caitlyn Guevara, Adelle Harris, Kendra Friot, Maddenleigh Soluri, Rowlan Stanton and Burke Harvey.


Habit #7: Sharpen the saw – Jase Soluri, Phoenicia Hathaway and Conner DeMott.

A special leadership award was presented to three fifth graders who were nominated by their peers for showing leadership skills and the seven habits. Nominations were read by students as the names were announced. Leadership awards were given to Brody Pecha, Maddenleigh Soluri and Lola Tessier.

In addition to the first quarter awards, a special attendance award was presented to the grade level who had the highest percentage for the months of September and October. For grades K-2, the second grade students earned the highest attendance for both months (Sept. 97.3%; Oct. 97.3%) and for grades 3-5, the fifth grade did the same, earning highest attendance for September (98.1%) and October (98.16%). The grades will display outside of their rooms a special certificate that advertises the outstanding attendance percentage.
Sandy Creek Central School District

SC Science Teacher Katherine Sheehan Named to Master Teacher Program

Sandy Creek Science Teacher Katherine (Kit) Sheehan has been named to the class of 2018-19 Master Teacher Program.

The New York State Master Teacher Program was established to attract the best and brightest teachers into a community model that rewards their efforts and provides further opportunities for learning and collaboration with other outstanding teachers in nine regional SUNY schools across New York State.

The journey for Sheehan began with an intensive application process, including essays, recommendations, an interview, a presentation of a lesson to a group of peers in a panel, all taking many months to complete.

Sheehan wanted to participate in part for the collaboration and high-level teacher mentoring in addition to the professional development opportunities. As the only earth science teacher in the building, she felt those really deep and rich professional development opportunities would be beneficial with the new state standards in science implemented this year and provide her with opportunities to collaborate with other teachers around the state.

Professional development opportunities through the program include workshops, mini courses, learning teams, trips, etc. One of the cool things, according to Sheehan are that some mini courses are taught by college professors and are a little deeper and on a specific topic. For example, she will be participating in one on black holes and dark energy soon and another that she is looking forward to will be taught by a professor at SUNY ESF on soils.

“T's like a direct line to an expert in the field,” said Sheehan. Each year of the four-year commitment requires her to take 50 hours of additional professional development but with nearly 600 mini courses and workshops available, it can be tailored to the specific interest and needs of the master teacher.

For more information on the NYS Master Teacher Program visit the website at www.suny.edu/masterteacher/

Sandy Creek’s Fall Season Sports Scholar Athletes Announced

Sandy Creek’s fall season sports scholar athletes were announced by Mike Stevens, athletic coordinator for the Sandy Creek Central School District. In order to qualify for the academic achievement, students must have a 90 or above average while participating in a varsity sport. The following students were recognized:

**Girls Cross Country**: Sydney Burgy, Kayla Carnes, Mary Carnes, Sydney Cook, Claire Dreibelbis, Abigail Fitzpatrick, Emma Halsey, Deanna Hathway, Carley Lyndaker, Cailey Robbins and Emily Yousey.

**Fall Competitive Cheerleading**: Madison Bauer, Madison Benedict, Alaina Hathway, Madeline Palmer, Olivia Pappa and Samantha Walter.


**Boys Soccer**: Gavin Babcock.

**Football**: Levi Darling, Logan Haynes, Dakota Loomis, Joe Metott, and Caleb Miller.

Some of the fall season sports Scholar Athletes gathered for a photo following the announcement of their earning the NYS Scholar Athlete designation.

Lunch with the Troopers

The Sandy Creek School District along with the New York State Police have implemented a program where a small group of students are selected each month to have lunch with a NYS Trooper. Sergeant Brent Fosco and Principal Filiatrault helped get the initiative off the ground at the school and pictured are two of the officers having lunch with a group of students in December. One of the program’s goals is to provide positive interaction with law enforcement. The students were eager to ask the troopers questions about their job and learned they shared many of the same interests, including ice cream.
Holiday music and sounds of the season were presented at all age levels in the district with packed audiences and standing room only performances celebrating the outstanding musical talent in the Sandy Creek Central School District. From the looks on the children’s faces, it was difficult to know whether they were having more fun or audience was.

“Imagination Library” Cont’d.

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the area will have information about the program available.

“We are thrilled to offer this opportunity to the youngest students in the district’ said Sandy Creek Elementary Principal Tim Filiatrault. ‘Literacy is one of the greatest gifts you can give a child and thanks to our community partners and Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, we’re able to provide our youngest students with the opportunity to become lifelong readers.’

Registration for the program is underway and ongoing. Official registration brochures are available at the Annie P. Ainsworth Memorial Library, the Cogswell Free Library, or Sandy Creek Elementary School office. Once children are registered, they will begin to receive their free books in about eight to ten weeks and each month thereafter until they reach age five or move outside of the Sandy Creek District.

For more information, visit the district’s website at www.SandyCreekcsd.org.

‘Imagination Library’ is made possible through cooperation with the Literacy Coalition of Oswego County, a growing coalition of more than 36 local organizations dedicated to improving literacy in Oswego County.
National Honor Students Volunteer for Holiday Project

National Honor Society members from Sandy Creek High School volunteered to help wrap thousands of presents and pack more than 60 boxes of food items for needy families in the Sandy Creek Central School District area. Coordinated each year, the annual holiday distribution enables hundreds of children to wake up on Christmas morning and open presents donated to the cause. Each family also received a box of food items for their holiday meal.

Pilgrims and Native Americans joined together for the first and second grade annual Thanksgiving Feast. The students performed several songs for the audience gathered at the school.

Longtime Sandy Creek tradition celebrates Thanksgiving with Feast

For more years than most can remember the first and second graders at Sandy Creek Elementary School have been reenacting the first Thanksgiving in a pageant featuring songs, costumes, and an audience of friends and family. Under the direction of chorus teacher Jackie Hobbs, the students performed several Thanksgiving-themed songs complete with adorable actions to accompany the songs.

One of the most beloved traditions in the elementary school, the students spent weeks creating their costumes and learning the songs and movements associated with them in preparation for their celebration. Classroom teachers, specials teachers and more worked to bring the program together, including the feast which featured many of the items on the menu from the first Thanksgiving.

Sporting their costumes of Native American and Pilgrim attire, the students enjoyed their part, but the parents and guests enjoyed it just as much, if not more, based on their responses to the songs.

Honor Roll for Sandy Creek Middle School Announced

Sandy Creek Middle School Principal Carolyn Shirley has announced the first quarter academic honor roll recipients. The awards are designated as Merit, 84.5-89.49; Honor, 89.5-94.49; and High Honor, 94.5-100. The following students were recognized:


High Honor: Abagail Balcom, Natalie Bauer, Marissa Brennan, Manarah Brown, Kenneth Burd Jr, Alexander Caufield, Abby Chen, Skylar Clark, Perle Convey, Jaeden Darling, Mason Ennist, Benjamin Erickson, Marisa Fillatrault, Elizabeth Glazier, Hannah Hackett, Sophie Harris, Cameron Hathaway, Maiya Hathway, Andrew Hawn, Elizabeth Hobbs, Julia Hollister, Seth LaCelle, Tate Lallier, Trevor McDougal, Allyson Mulpagano, Maddox Palmer, Piper Phillips, Riley Phillips, Noah Reff, Nikolai Rosenbaum, Thomas Taplin, Cody Walke and Hannah White.

Student volunteers from the NHS wrap presents and food boxes for community service.
Sandy Creek High School Principal Emily Wemmer has released the first quarter academic honor roll recipients. The awards are designated as Merit, 84.5-89.49; Honor, 89.5-94.49; and High Honor, 94.5-100. The following students were recognized:


**Sandy Creek Students Selected for Area All-State Music Festival**

Several students from Sandy Creek’s Middle and Senior High School were selected to participate in the New York State School Music Association’s (NYSSMA) Zone 4 Area All-State Music Festival. The festival served as a celebration of the vocal and instrumental success of each participant.

Students were selected to perform based on their solo scores in the spring along with a recommendation by their music teacher.

The following Sandy Creek students were selected for the Area All-State Festival: Sydney Cook, Caleigh Rosenbaum, Dorothy Searles, Reegan Macklen and Cailey Robbins. They are students of Choral teacher Sandy Kinney and Band Director Tom Artini.

Each group performed under guest conductors. A public concert attracted many who supported students from dozens of school districts in the Zone 4 region.
The Sandy Creek Central School District Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society inducted 21 new members into the prestigious organization. The NJHS recognizes students who not only excel in academics, or scholarship, they also look for candidates who are strong leaders, have strong character and exhibit strong service and citizenship in their community and school.

Following a welcome by SCCS Superintendent Kyle Faulkner, the chapter history and purpose were explained by Susan Gafner, advisor for the NJHS. A special candle lighting ceremony by current members and officers who explained the tenets of the organization. The new members were announced and presented with their pin and certificate by Middle School Principal Carolyn Shirley and Superintendent Faulkner before taking the NJHS Oath.


Kindergarten Registration continued...

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Kindergarten students registration packets can be picked up in the Elementary Office during business hours beginning on Tuesday, January 22nd, 2019. These may be returned to our office anytime between January 22nd, 2019 and February 8th, 2019.

Registrations are not official until all forms are completed and a valid proof of birth is included. Other records required are immunization records, custody papers and possibly proof of residency.

Students that register for Kindergarten will be screened in May. More information regarding that will follow.

Please call the elementary office if you have any questions.