

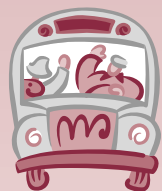
in

south  
colonie  
central  
schools

# focus

Preparing World Class Citizens

September, 2009



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## An H1N1 update Getting a jump on the flu season

Last spring, there was much talk of the H1N1 flu virus, sometimes called "swine flu." As the new school year approaches, health officials are gearing up for the anticipated start of the flu season in the fall and winter. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has just released guidelines that give schools and local health agencies a range of options for responding to the H1N1 influenza in schools, depending on the severity of any outbreaks.

For example, if the severity of the flu is similar to the spring 2009 H1N1 infection, the CDC recommends basic good hygiene habits, such as hand-washing. Also, students and school employees who have flu-like symptoms should stay home for at least 24 hours after the symptoms go away. You'll note that health officials are less likely this year to suggest that schools immediately close when H1N1 flu emerges in a pattern that isn't considered severe.

The CDC is also recommending that school districts have plans in place to deal with possible infection within school buildings and also to

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Four CCHS students attended a free summer tech camp entitled: Future Green: An Exploration of Green Energy Technologies. The camp, sponsored by BOCES Career & Tech, gave teens an opportunity to explore emerging career opportunities right in our own backyard — Tech Valley and General Electric Co. For more photos and the full story, please visit the South Colonie web site.

## Sand Creek teacher, James Brown, earns Presidential Award of Excellence

### To be honored by President at the White House

Sand Creek Middle School teacher, James Brown, will be honored at the White House this year as a recipient of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence. The award will be presented by President Obama to some 100 exceptional science, math, and engineering teachers and mentors.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, awarded each year to individuals or organizations, recognizes the crucial role that mentoring plays in the academic and personal development of students studying science or engineering and who belong to minorities that are underrepresented in those fields. By offering their time, encouragement and expertise to these students, mentors help ensure that the next generation of scientists and engineers will better reflect the diversity of the United States.

*Continued on page 2 ... Presidential Award*

## ... Presidential Award

*Continued from page 1*

"It is such an honor to receive this accolade," said Brown, a sixth grade teacher at Sand Creek. "Throughout my career there have been many educators who have made a lasting impression on me ... people I have wanted to emulate. To now be on the receiving end of this award is surreal."

"I am excited not only for the new opportunities for personal and professional growth that this award will bring, but for the prospect of passing my excitement on to other teachers in the district," Brown added.



James Brown

Candidates for the Presidential Mentoring Award are nominated by colleagues, administrators, and students from their home institutions. The mentoring can involve students at any grade level from elementary through graduate school.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is awarded annually to the best pre-college-level science and math teachers from across the country. The

winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level. Each year the award alternates, going either to science and math teachers in grades K-6 (as it is this year) or to those teaching in grades 7-12.

Winners of the Presidential Teaching Award receive \$10,000 awards from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion. They also receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. for a White House awards ceremony and several days of educational and celebratory events, including visits with members of Congress and science agency leaders.

"There is no higher calling than furthering the educational advancement of our nation's young people and encouraging and inspiring our next generation of leaders," President Obama said. "These awards represent a heartfelt salute of appreciation to a remarkable group of individuals who have devoted their lives and careers to helping others and in doing so have helped us all."



South Colonie Schools donated an old school bus to the Fuller Road Fire Department this summer to be used in emergency training drills. The 14-year-old bus, which had no trade-in value, is being used for extrication drills to expedite the time it takes to rescue victims in the event of a bus crash.

## School meal prices increase this year

South Colonie is increasing the prices of its school lunches this year by 15 cents at the elementary schools and 20 cents at the middle and high schools. The new price of an elementary lunch is \$1.75. High school and middle school lunches are now \$2.00. Milk has also increased by a nickel to 50 cents.

The Board of Education approved the price increases in July as phase two of a two-year plan to make prices more competitive. Before the 2008-09 school year, South Colonie had not raised meal prices in 10 years.



The increases were necessary due to an overwhelming increase in food prices nationwide (higher market prices along with the phasing in of more expensive, healthier food products like whole grain bread) and higher fuel prices to transport the food. After 10 years, the district could no longer absorb the price increases on its own. In an effort to help South Colonie households manage the meal/milk price changes, the district decided to phase in the increases over two years.

The price of breakfast will remain the same this school year, \$1.00 at the elementary schools and \$1.25 at the middle and high schools.

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Have you resolved to do something different and meaningful this year?

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Are you looking for a position where you can work when you want or need extra money?

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## **SUBSTITUTING MAY BE FOR YOU!**

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The South Colonie Central School District is seeking substitutes in the following areas:

**Substitute Teachers** — If you hold a teaching certificate or a bachelor's degree, we have classroom substitute positions available for full or half day assignments. Substitute teachers are needed in all areas. Positions pay \$101 per day for certified, \$92.25 per day for uncertified. For an application contact the Capital Region BOCES Substitute Calling Service at 464-3918

**All of the following substitute positions require a recommendation by the school/building principal. For information and an application, contact the Human Resources Office at 869-3576, Ext. 2470:**

**School Bus Drivers** — We will provide training and help you obtain the necessary licenses. A high school diploma and regular driving license are required. We pay \$13.75 for the first 100 hours of substituting and \$15.75 per hour, thereafter.

**Food Service Helpers** — We have substitute positions available for lunch shifts in all of our schools. \$9.35 per hour.

**School Nurses** — Substitute nurses are needed in all of our schools. New York State registered nursing license required. \$16.50 per hour.

**School Monitors, Custodial Workers and Typists** — If you have a high school diploma, we have substitute positions available at the elementary, middle school and high school levels.

- School Monitors — \$9 per hour.
- Typist — \$9.75 per hour.
- Custodial Worker — \$10 per hour. 4 or 8 hour shifts. First and second shifts.



**SOUTH COLONIE PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION FORM — 2009-10 YEAR**

**Initial Notification to Persons in Parental Relation and Staff Pursuant to Section 409-h of the State Education Law and Commissioner's Regulation 155.24\***

Dear Parent, Guardian and School Staff:

New York State Education Law Section 409-H and State Education Department Commissioner's Regulation 155.24, effective July 1, 2001, require 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 South Colonie 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 application;
- \* anti-microbial products;
- \* nonvolatile rodenticides 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 the 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 would like 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 Stephen Benedict, Buildings and Grounds, 102 Loralee Drive, Albany, N.Y. 12205. Benedict, the school pesticide representative, can be reached by phone at (518) 869-3576, Ext. 2445, and by Fax at (518) 869-6481. He can be contacted for information on these requirements.

**\*NOTE: Please register again if you registered in response to any previous notifications.**

**SOUTH COLONIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Request for Pesticide Application Notification**

If you are a person in parental relation list the school building(s) your child(ren) attend(s): \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a school employee list the school(s) or building(s) regularly worked in: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Written notification must be provided to all persons in parental relation and staff at the following intervals throughout the school year; at the beginning of the school year or the beginning of summer school; within 2 school days of the end of: the January break, spring recess and the end of summer school; and within 10 days of the end of the school year.

South Colonie Central School District uses an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to pests. IPM is recommended by the NYS Education Department and the US EPA.

Sincerely,

Stephen Benedict — School Pesticide Representative

## Tedisco named Principal of Roessleville School

After an extensive search this summer, South Colonie has named Marybeth Tedisco new Principal of Roessleville Elementary School. She replaces Suzanne Moore who has taken on a new position in the district this school year as Supervisor of English Language Arts (ELA), Reading/Literacy and Social Studies.

Tedisco has worked at Roessleville Elementary School for 16 years as a special education and elementary education teacher. Over the years, she has taken on several leadership roles at Roessleville as Bully Prevention Coordinator, chair of the Character Education Committee, coordinator of the Response to Intervention program as well as serving as the district's Mentor Coordinator.

She attended the College of Saint Rose, earning a master's degree in Educational Administration, a master's degree in Special Education and a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She has also been an Administrative Intern at Roessleville School and for the BOCES Summer Program at Maywood School.

Helping with the transition in administration at Roessleville this fall, the district welcomed back Anthony Mistretta. Mistretta was appointed to an Interim Principal post in August until a full time replacement could be found. Mistretta worked for South Colonie in several positions for nearly 30 years including Foreign Language teacher and Supervisor, and Associate Principal before retiring in July, 2004.

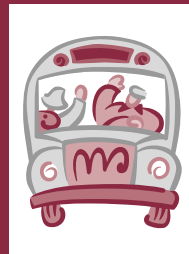
There were some 120 applicants for the Roessleville Principal's position. Interviews were conducted over the summer and Tedisco was appointed by the Board of Education on August 27. She began her position September 2.



The Colonie Central High School library got a complete makeover this summer with a new heating system, lighting, ceiling tile, paint and carpeting. Outside the library entrance, a mason works on renovating the stone exterior of the high school building.



Please  
mark  
your  
calendars



**South Colonie's annual school bus vote will be held:**

**Wednesday, October 14th  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
At the 5 elementary schools**

**Check the next InFocus for  
complete information on the vote**

## ... H1N1 flu

*Continued from page 1*

plan for more severe H1N1 outbreaks. Overall, local officials are being encouraged to "balance the risk of flu in their communities with the disruption that school dismissals will cause in education and in the wider community." For more information on this, check this link: <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2009/08/08072009.html>

In South Colonie, our staff is busy preparing a plan to address an influenza outbreak. This plan will include prevention strategies for students and staff, actions that will be taken in the event of a flu outbreak and, if necessary, procedures for closing/reopening school if the flu reaches pandemic levels. Also, allergy-free hand sanitizers have been installed in every classroom in the district to insure proper and continual handwashing by staff and students — a critical step in helping combat the spread of flu.

The South Colonie web site is being updated regularly with information you should know regarding H1N1 including latest bulletins from the Albany County Health Department, and state and federal agencies. Please check back often and feel free to contact your school health office with questions you may have. Let's have a healthy and productive school year.

**Jonathan W. Buhner**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Tim Backus**  
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

**Beverly Miller**  
Assistant Superintendent/  
Management Services

**David Seaver**  
Director of Human Resources

**Board of Education**  
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## Asbestos notification

In accordance with the EPA Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1987 (40 CFR Part 763), the South Colonie Central School District put in place a management plan to identify and manage asbestos building materials. Periodic surveillances are done every six months. In addition, abatement projects have been conducted in conjunction with the building construction. Specific notifications are posted in the buildings where projects are done prior to the start of the abatement work. This spring the Triennial Reinspection will be done, reviewing and updating the management plan for all of the district buildings.

The Asbestos Management Plan for the district is kept on file at the District Office. These records are available for review during regular business hours (8:30 am- 3:30 pm) or by making a special appointment. For more information, contact Steve Benedict at the District Office, 869-3576.



## Lisha Kill club experiences summer opera at Tanglewood

The Lisha Kill Middle School Opera Club, under the direction of Karen MacWatters, experienced a day and evening of classical music at "Tanglewood on Parade" this summer.

They were the guests of the Siena Opera Club, whose goal is to expose students at all levels to live musical performances. Through their generosity, the Lisha Kill students have experienced live opera at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City, Lake George Opera, and Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown.

Tanglewood on Parade, an annual festival at the Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, Mass., features the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops, as well as students who study at the center in the summer. The Lisha Kill students had lunch and dinner picnics on the grounds and visited various performance venues throughout the day.

The theme for this year's festival was "Music Under the Stars." The Hofstra University Astronomy Department was on hand with many telescopes offering views of the sun, moon, and Jupiter.