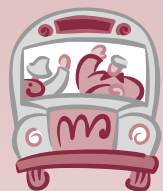


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# focus

Preparing World Class Citizens

February, 2006



Sand Creek Middle School was seeing double (and sometimes triple) recently as it hosted its annual twin dress alike day to promote creativity and school spirit.

## Hurricane relief effort done 'buy' the book

**South Colonie families take novel approach by donating 1,500 books to devastated schools**

As fast as the devastating hurricanes hit the Gulf Coast last fall, South Colonie families have responded with the same lightening speed. Our schools have already collected more than 1,500 new books since November to donate to the 10,000 Books campaign.

The campaign — “10,000 Books — Because a good story revives the spirit!” — is being sponsored by the local BOCES to help restock those school libraries that lost everything as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. BOCES has asked school libraries and media centers in the Capital District to spearhead the book drive in their local communities so that children from grades K-12 will have their reading interests and levels represented in the collection.

“While the hurricanes are a memory for many of us, their damage and devastation is still very real, especially, to schools in that

## District has so much more energy these days

**Staff gives South Colonie the spark it needs**

South Colonie Schools have exceeded their energy savings projections set by the district and its energy conservation partner — Energy Education, Inc. — for the just completed performance year by nearly \$20,000.

The district was projected to reach \$336,000 in cost avoidance during the fourth year of its program with Energy Education, Inc. but actually finished the year with \$355,894 in savings. Overall, South Colonie has saved \$1,251,481 since beginning its energy conservation program and cumulatively, \$78,481 more than the initial savings projections.

“Surpassing savings projections is a significant achievement,” said Dr. William S. Spears, CEO and founder of Energy Education, Inc. “South Colonie has achieved this level of success by consistently implementing the people-

*Continued on page 2 ... energy*

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## ... energy

*Continued from page 1*

oriented approach to energy conservation and maintaining productive efforts at all levels of the organization."

South Colonie Superintendent Michael Marcelle commended his staff and District Energy Manager James Brown for doing all the "little things" necessary to make this program work. "Everyone has done such an excellent job and that's the only way we could have reached this milestone," Marcelle said. "Our staff has gone the extra mile to control energy usage in our schools and other district buildings. Thanks to this dedication on the part of our employees, we have an additional opportunity to protect our community's taxpayers' investment in our public schools."

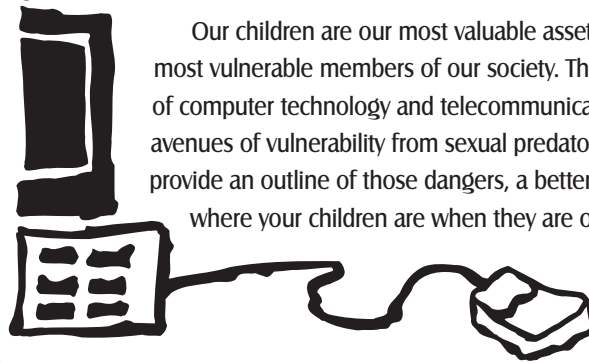
Energy Education, Inc. creates partnerships with school districts and companies by developing and implementing customized energy conservation programs for public schools, enabling districts to redirect saved dollars for educational opportunities and resources.

The South Colonie Central School District was also among 18 organizations recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last fall for achieving significant energy savings and leading their fields in responding to the agency's Energy Star Building Challenge.

Those honored for achieving at least 10 percent energy savings included school districts, a hospital and supermarket, hotel, banking and commercial real estate companies. They were recognized by EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson who also re-issued the challenge, emphasizing improved energy efficiency as a solution to rising energy costs.

## Internet safety for parents

The Colonie Police Department in conjunction with South Colonie Schools will present a free safety program entitled, "Protecting Our Children on the Internet," at 7 p.m., on Thursday, March 2, in the Colonie Central High School library. The program is open to parents with children of all ages.



Our children are our most valuable asset, yet they are also the most vulnerable members of our society. The continuing advances of computer technology and telecommunications has created new avenues of vulnerability from sexual predators. This presentation will provide an outline of those dangers, a better understanding of where your children are when they are on line and tips for keeping your children electronically safe.



Saddlewood Elementary School students spent a winter afternoon baking with local chef Gail Sokol. A recipe for "Apple Galletes" was chosen since apples are the official fruit of New York State, and fourth graders study New York State in detail. This was the first of three cooking presentations/workshops the class participated in with the help of a grant called "Kids Cooking by the Book." The grant was awarded in conjunction with the William K. Sanford Town Library and Upper Hudson Library System. The goal of the project is to support student achievement in the English Language Arts, mathematics, science and technology areas of the New York State Learning Standards.



## South Colonie capital improvements begin to take shape at our schools



Crews work on concrete walls at Veeder Elementary School's building addition that will house a new cafeteria and gym station.



Heating and ventilation systems are installed in the new classroom wing at Lisha Kill Middle School.



The new library addition being constructed at Saddlewood Elementary School gets some work on its exterior walls.

*For more capital project construction photos visit the district's web site at [www.southcolonieschools.org](http://www.southcolonieschools.org)*

## Schools 'bust out' anti-bullying campaigns

### **Bully Busters Visit Saddlewood Elementary**

The Puppet People presented an original play called Bully Busters to the students of Saddlewood Elementary School in January. The play was created five years ago by a team of Saddlewood educators, parents and a school social worker. This unique puppet show, made possible in part by the New York State Department of Education, teaches elementary school kids character building, anger management and crisis intervention. Bully Busters is set in the less structured areas of school – the bus, the cafeteria and the playground. The plot of the show centers around three life-size Bully Buster puppets. Their job is to catch Bully Monsters (who turn kids into bullies). With the help of various puppet characters and the audience, the Bully Busters reveal the best ways to deal with bullies without resorting to violence. They demonstrated that kids play an important role in making a school bully free. The show was presented in a 55-minute puppet performance along with music, special effects and an original Bully Buster Rap song.

### **Roessleville is a Bully Free School Where Everyone Belongs**

Roessleville Elementary School participated in a "Bully Free Kick Off Day" in January to introduce their new bully prevention program. Students began their day at an assembly with Artist in Residence Brian Chevalier where grade levels presented songs that they wrote to celebrate kindness, friendship, thankfulness and anti-bullying strategies. Students then participated in workshops led by members of the Anti-Bullying Committee, where they talked about what bullying is, how they can prevent it and what the consequences will be if they display bullying behaviors. Follow up sessions will be conducted later in the year.

## ...10,000 books

area," said Linda Fox, Supervisor of Library Automation for the Capital Region BOCES. "We thank everyone so much for supporting this important effort. Our students and communities have really made this a successful project."



Over the last few months, many of South Colonie's schools have held their own book drives to support the 10,000 books campaign with students, staff, parents, families and residents all getting involved.

These schools had a large holiday push with remarkable results. Of special note, Melissa Moskov's seventh graders donated over 500 books toward the Sand Creek Middle School collection. Forest Park Elementary School collected the most hard cover materials and Colonie Central High School — through the Key Club and the National Honor Society — raised over \$2,000 to purchase new books. The 10,000 book drive will continue through May 31. If you'd like to donate please contact your school library. Please, only **NEW** books will be accepted.



Sand Creek Middle School students sort and box the more than 600 new books donated to the "10,000 Books — Because a good story revives the spirit!" campaign to restock the libraries of Gulf Coast schools devastated by last fall's powerful hurricanes. South Colonie staff, students and families have donated more than 1,500 books district-wide.

## Help us with our history

South Colonie Schools are in the process of compiling a history of the district from 1949 to present. The goal is to put together an accurate chronology of dates and historic events that helped shaped the district to what it is today. The information can then be documented and passed on to future generations. To accomplish this, the district needs your help!

Anyone who has any historic information they could share such as old newspaper or magazine articles, books, school-related documents, maps, photos and other memorabilia should contact Superintendent Michael Marcelle at the South Colonie District Office — 869-3576. Your help is greatly appreciated!

**Michael Marcelle**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Anthony DeBlois**  
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

**Peter Haessig**  
Assistant Superintendent/  
Management Services

**Beverly Miller**  
School Business Administrator

**David Seaver**  
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