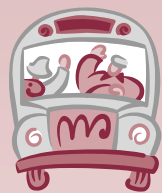


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# focus

## Preparing World Class Citizens

December/January 2007-08

### Sand Creek awarded obesity grant

#### Money will strengthen middle school physical education curriculum

Sand Creek Middle School is one of only 10 recipients of an EnergyNow! grant aimed at helping middle schools across the country combat childhood obesity.

The results-based grant program will strengthen the current physical education program at Sand Creek by providing teachers with the tools, resources, and professional development needed to collect, monitor and assess student performance. With the use of Polar heart rate monitors and assessment technology, teachers will have a clear understanding of each student's fitness and skill levels and will be able to monitor their progress throughout the year while measuring the program's effectiveness.

"Engaging students and educating them on lifelong fitness and healthy eating habits is critical to a quality physical education," said Karen Bonitatibus, Sand Creek physical education teacher. "This grant will help us to achieve this. We are delighted to be a part of the EnergyNow! program."

*Continued on page 2 ... S.C. grant*



Saddlewood Elementary School students line up to Stuff The Bus with Toys for Tots following their December morning program on "kindness." The South Colonie family donated toys to the U.S. Marine Corps campaign this holiday season to help needy families in the area.

### District ends successful Stuff The Bus with Toys for Tots campaign

South Colonie's first Stuff The Bus with Toys for Tots campaign was an overwhelming success this holiday season. Throughout November and December, the district's yellow buses were set up outside shopping malls, at area businesses and at the schools for students, families and shoppers to drop off new toys to help needy children. Toys For Tots, sponsored by the Marine Corps since 1947, annually provides some 60,000 Capital District children with toys for the holidays.

"For many children, Santa's sleigh was colored yellow this year," said Kathy Ogborn, a South Colonie bus driver, who organized the campaign. "We can't thank our sponsors and donors enough for what they did to make this event such a success. Thanks to them, we were able to fill not one, but several school buses with holiday gifts."



## ... S.C. grant

*Continued from page 1*

EnergyNow! is an alliance comprised of leading authorities in the physical education, nutrition and fitness technology fields. Forty-nine proposals were submitted from middle schools in three states for the \$10,000 grants. Only 10 were funded. Sand Creek will incorporate the EnergyNow! program into their existing physical education curriculum starting in January.

The grant will tie into South Colonie's comprehensive K-12 wellness and obesity curriculum introduced districtwide in September, 2006. The curriculum offers educational and fun year-round activities to help students and families increase their level of exercise and make better food choices throughout their lives.

As part of the Sand Creek grant, the National Association for Sport and Physical Education will provide training on the National Standards for Physical Education and best practice for instruction and standards-based assessment. The School Nutrition Foundation will also provide a set of nutrition education lessons that include a lifestyle approach to healthy eating. Sand Creek Middle School will also receive funding to purchase physical education equipment.

"The EnergyNow! program focuses on educating students about the benefits of physical activity and healthy eating by providing quality physical education and nutrition education in our nation's schools," said Charlene Burgeson, chair, EnergyNow! Alliance. "We're excited to work with Sand Creek Middle School, their physical education teachers, nutrition staff, and students to ultimately put an end to childhood obesity."

The EnergyNow! Alliance and grant program were created to combat the

## Facts about childhood obesity

- **Nearly 1 in every 5 children or adolescents ages 2-19 years in this country are considered overweight.**
- **In the past three decades the obesity rate has more than tripled for elementary-aged kids.**
- **The United States has the highest prevalence of obesity among the developed nations.**

rising obesity rate in today's children. An estimated 17 percent of children and adolescents from ages 2-19 years are overweight according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which has declared childhood obesity a national epidemic. The National Center for Health Statistics reports that almost one in four children do not participate in any free-time physical activity.

Nearly 50 middle schools in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut applied for the EnergyNow! grants. The program's evaluation committee scored each grant submission and the winning schools were determined by the total number of points scored. The highest scoring middle schools in the three states were selected as grant recipients.

For more information on the EnergyNow! program visit [www.energynow.com](http://www.energynow.com).

## ESL students and families learn about their library



The English as a Second Language (ESL) students from Forest Park Elementary School participated in "Library Night" at the William K. Sanford Town Library this school year. The purpose of this event was to familiarize parents and students with their local library, encourage reading and promote English language learning. The evening included a story time for students, a tour of the library and an opportunity for students and their family members to get library cards. There was a tremendous turnout and the excitement on the children's faces was something to remember. Thank you to the William K. Sanford Town Library staff for helping to make this event possible. The evening was a great success!

# South Colonie's search for a new superintendent moves into phase two

## Application process concludes in December

The South Colonie Central School District's search for a new Superintendent of Schools is moving into phase two of the hiring process. December 20th marked the deadline for submitting applications, and in January, the Board of Education will begin sifting through the resumes.

They will be looking to replace Superintendent Michael Marcelle, who is retiring on August 1 after heading the school district for more than three years.

Superintendent search consultant Dr. Vincent Coppola from the Western New York Educational Service Council — an arm of the State University at Buffalo — is working with the school board to conduct the search, along with focus groups made up of various district stakeholders such as administrators, teachers, support staff, students, board members, parents and the community.

The focus groups met for the first time in October to define the superintendent's position and discuss the attributes they would like in a new superintendent. Later in the process, a second committee made up of focus group representatives will help interview potential candidates and make recommendations to the Board of Education. The Board of Education will make the final determination on Marcelle's successor.

First and second interviews with the Board of Education and the focus groups are tentatively planned for January. The district hopes to have a successor hired by the spring.



CCHS student Cathryn Salamone

## CCHS student attends All-State Music Festival

Colonie Central High School senior Cathryn Salamone represented the South Colonie Central School District at the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State Music Festival in Rochester this school year.

Cathryn, a clarinetist, was selected based on her outstanding performance of a NYSSMA adjudicated solo last spring and a letter of recommendation by high school Band Director Lonsdale Walker. Cathryn had performed the Saint-Saens Clarinet Sonata and received a score of 99 at Level 6, the highest level of musical difficulty recognized by NYSSMA.

At the All-State Music Festival, Cathryn performed with the Symphonic Band, which consisted of over 150 student musicians from across the state. "I was astonished by the level of the band," she said. "The percussion and brass were top notch." The ensemble performed, among other pieces, the World Premiere of First Light by Steven Bryant. The composer was in attendance at rehearsals and the concert.

Cathryn described her weekend as "an amazing experience! I have so much more appreciation for the NYSSMA solo process. I feel that my hard work and dedication really paid off. I would encourage other students to strive for this."

## CCHS students earns PTA award

Colonie Central High School senior, Angela Johanning, is presented with the Outstanding Youth Award from Northeastern Region PTA Awards Chair Clare Hart. The award is given to a high school student in the Northeast region based on an application, letter of recommendation and student essay entitled: "My education is important to me because ..."



# Dollars For Scholars CCHS Scholarship Awareness Night Jan. 16

Colonie Central High School students and families: It's not too late to make a difference in your college payments. Attend the South Colonie Dollars For Scholars Scholarship Awareness Night and find out how.

This informative evening for CCHS juniors, seniors and their families will be held from 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 16. Snow date is Thursday, January 31. Join us to learn more about scholarships ... how to find them, helpful hints, a parent's perspective and more.

All seniors attending will be entered to win a drawing for one, \$250 scholarship to be awarded at CCHS Awards Night. For more information, visit [www.socoloniedfs.org](http://www.socoloniedfs.org).

**Michael Marcelle**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Anthony DeBlois**  
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

**Beverly Miller**  
Assistant Superintendent/  
Management Services

**David Seaver**  
Director of Human Resources

**Board of Education**  
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Rick Dunn  
Vernon Fonda  
Paul Gordon  
Shelle Jaquish  
Neil Johannig  
Leonard Motto

**In Focus Editor:** John K. Noetzel

## Lisha Kill collects for Capital District Food Pantries



Lisha Kill Middle School held its annual food drive in November to benefit the Capital District Food Pantries. The food drive was sponsored by the Lisha Kill Student Council lead by advisors Roxana Tassi and Jodie Ferrara. This year students, faculty and staff donated a total of 1,110 non-perishable food items. Once again, Team 7 Up dominated with 527 cans donated. Team members from Eric Rouleau's homeroom brought in 211 cans to win the Homeroom Pizza Party.

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