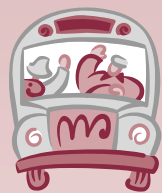


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focus

Preparing World Class Citizens

June/July 2007

Dollard named new Shaker Road Principal

William E. Dollard is the new Principal of Shaker Road Elementary School. He was appointed by the Board of Education in May and began his new position on July 1.

Dollard has worked for South Colonie Schools for the past five years, hired as a high school social studies teacher in 2002, and serving as the Associate Principal at Sand Creek Middle School for the last four years.



William Dollard

"I am extremely excited about this new opportunity," said Dollard, who has one child now attending Shaker Road and one who graduated from the school. "There are more than a few things that attracted me to this

position, not the least of which is the vibrant community that already exists at the school. First rate instruction, steady communications and numerous opportunities for personal growth are hallmarks of the Shaker Road program."

Dollard replaces Elizabeth Wood, who resigned in December to become the first Principal of the new Skatekon Elementary School in the Shenendehowa Central School District. Wood was replaced in January by Interim Principal John Haher, who finished his temporary assignment June 30.

Continued on page 4 ... Shaker Principal



Tech. Sgt. Scott Mellet paid a surprise visit to the third graders at Saddlewood Elementary School on his leave from serving in Iraq. Sgt. Mellet wanted to thank the class in person for a letterwriting campaign to troops this year. See complete story on page 4.

Two inducted into CCHS Hall of Fame

Two graduates of Colonie Central High School were honored in June as the newest inductees in the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was established in 1994 to honor South Colonie alumni who can serve as role models and a source of inspiration for students based on their variety of accomplishments following high school. To date, 39 CCHS graduates representing more than 20 different high school classes have been honored with Hall of Fame status and have their plaques and photos hanging in the high school entranceway. For a brief look at CCHS's latest inductees, please turn to page 2 of this newsletter.

IMPORTANT! Attention new parents

Enclosed in this newsletter is a census form which must be completed and mailed back free of charge so the district can begin planning for future enrollment. NOTE: Registration for ALL new students is done at Colonie Central High School, regardless of student's age or school he/she will attend.

'07 Hall of Fame inductees

Brigadier General F. David Sheppard – Class of 1970

Brigadier General F. David Sheppard is the Director of the New York State Office of Homeland Security and Commander of the 53rd Troop Command, New York State National Guard.

Prior to his current assignment he served as Deputy Adjutant General of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs. He is credited with coordinating the joint New York Organized Militia Force emergency response to civil authorities during the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center attacks. He also served as the Joint Task Force "Dual Hat" Commander in support of the 2004 Republican National Convention in New York City.

General Sheppard began his military career after graduating in 1970 by attending U.S. Army Basic Training and subsequently graduating from U.S. Army Helicopter Pilot Flight School. In 1972 after receiving his U.S. Army pilot wings, General Sheppard reported to South Vietnam and served as combat helicopter pilot flying 841 hours during his one-year tour of duty. He completed his active duty service as an Instructor Pilot before joining the New York Army National Guard in 1975. He served in a variety of other military assignments as well.

General Sheppard earned a bachelor's degree from the State University at Albany in 1988, certificate from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government – State and Local programs in 2002, and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks with a master's degree in Strategic Studies. He is a licensed fixed-wing and rotary-wing Commercial Pilot, a Foundation Board Member of Empire State College, an Executive Board Member of the Boy Scouts of America Twin Rivers Council, and an Executive Member of the New York State Governor's Medal for Valor.

His military decoration and awards include: the Bronze Star for Valor, the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, an Air Medal for Valor, 15 Air Medals for Combat Missions, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star, the Army Aviation Broken Wing Award, and the New York State Governor's Medal for Valor.

Officer Gregory Jensen – Class of 1973

Gregory Jensen has spent more than 32 years as an officer in the Colonie Police Department, and has been a strong role model for the youth of the community. He started his law enforcement career in January, 1974 as a police dispatcher, and in October, 1979, he became a Colonie Police officer.

Officer Jensen has served in various capacities within the Police Department over the years, including: working all three patrol shifts; serving in the Internal Affairs Division, The Juvenile Investigations Unit, Community Services Unit, and the D.A.R.E. Unit. Officer Jensen is certified as a New York State Crime Prevention Specialist, where he has established long lasting relationships with the local businesses and community groups.

In his 14 years as a D.A.R.E. Officer (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) which ended in 2007, he has worked very closely with the students, faculty, parents, and

Continued on page 6 ... Hall of Fame

South Colonie teacher honors

Lisha Kill reading teacher Guice earns SUNYA Award

Dr. Sherry Guice, a Reading Specialist at Lisha Kill Middle School and an adjunct professor at the State University at Albany, has been selected to receive a Excellence in Part-Time teaching award from the SUNY School of Education.

The award is given to outstanding members of the university's part time faculty in recognition of the quality of their instruction, commitment to student learning and contribution to the mission of the School of Education.

CCHS Science Teacher of the Year for Anthony DeMarco

Anthony DeMarco has been named Science Teacher of the Year by Sigma XI.

As a published researcher, teacher, and law enforcement officer, Demarco has demonstrated expertise that professional scientists recognize. His students have a range of abilities and interests and he effectively delivers science to the full spectrum of students in his classes. His goal is to expose students to the experiences of cutting edge science, and the type of dedication and sacrifice such success entails.

DeMarco recognizes the importance of all students having an understanding of science. His aim is teaching all students so that they may appreciate science and make informed decisions. He recognizes that science is not just for a few gifted individuals and his style encourages the kind of critical thinking that makes for informed responsible citizens.

Sand Creek Art Teacher of the Year for Carol Pinkans

Congratulations to Sand Creek Middle School's Carol Pinkans, who has been nominated as Region 6 Art Teacher of the Year by the New York State Art Teachers Association.



Going above and beyond PTA honors

At a PTA Council Meeting this year, in order to celebrate PTA Founder's Day, each South Colonie PTA was invited to honor members who have gone above and beyond for PTA, the school, and the children. The following PTA members were honored:

- **Colonie Central High School PTSA:** Nan Murray, Angela Kowalski, and Patty Bosen
- **Sand Creek Middle School PTA:** Trish Lamb and teacher James Brown
- **Lisha Kill Middle School PTA:** Laurie Nieckarz
- **Forest Park Elementary School PTA:** School secretary Eva Legato
- **Roessleville Elementary School PTA:** Maureen King and Kerry Yarter
- **Shaker Road Elementary School PTA:** The entire Shaker Road PTA. All 33 committees and 262 members
- **Veeder Elementary School PTA:** Mary Ann Chesky, Melissa Haley Fall, and Teresa Gulum
- **Saddlewood Elementary School PTA:** TBA

Sand Creek runner ups in Limerick Contest

Congratulations to the following seven runner ups in the Town of Colonie Library 2007 Limerick Contest. There were 434 entries from students of the North and South Colonie Districts, and the local private and parochial schools. The limericks were judged anonymously and the judges had the difficult task of selecting just five winners among the many outstanding entries and 34 runners-up. The following Sand Creek students who were chosen as runner ups: Amy Becker, Jenna Lee Ciota, Brittany Hirsch, Kara Dott, Marissa Gates, Ann Vachaparambil, and Katelyn Funari.

Encouraging students to become better citizens

Roessleville Elementary School honored for Character Education efforts

Roessleville Elementary School has been recognized as a "Capital Region School of Character" by the Academy for Character Education at the Sage Colleges.

The award was presented to the school for helping to make its young people better students, citizens and individuals. Teacher Marybeth Tedisco chairs Roessleville's Character Education and Anti-Bullying Committees.

Some of the school's programs and accomplishments considered in the award were:

- **Monthly Character Education Assemblies:** Roessleville, like the other elementary buildings in South Colonie, emphasizes 10 character education words throughout the school year.
- **Welcome Back-to-School Celebration:** Roessleville Elementary likes to show that it is a special place right from the first day. The entire school community participates in a "Welcome Back-to-School Celebration."
- **Bully Prevention Program:** The Roessleville school community identified bullying as a problem that it needed to address and approached this problem with a research based school-wide solution.
- **Mentoring Program:** As an outgrowth of the bullying prevention program, the Roessleville school community has begun to implement a mentoring program.
- **Curriculum Links:** Roessleville has worked with the entire South Colonie Central School District to integrate character education traits into the curriculum. Listed below ways that Roessleville has linked character education and curriculum:
 - **Reading Buddies:** To help make connections between students of different grade levels and build responsibility and empathy, the third grade students act as reading buddies to kindergarten students.
 - **Service Learning Projects:** Roessleville students participate in a variety of service learning projects. It is hoped that by participating in these projects the students will gain an emotional satisfaction from helping others, as well as increase self-discipline and a sense of commitment to a cause. These projects include collecting money for the Ronald McDonald House Charities, reaching out to local nursing homes, raising funds for Juvenile Diabetes, working with the local homeless shelters to collect hats and mittens during the winter.
 - **Penny Harvest:** Penny Harvest is a program that originated from an organization called Common Cents and is billed as the "largest child philanthropy program in the United States." The school community works to collect at least 25 bags of pennies (750 pounds). Representatives from the fourth grade form a "Penny Harvest Roundtable" to help determine what charities will receive donations from the money collected.

Shaker Road Elementary a 'Champion For Children'

The Northeast Parent and Child Society has named Shaker Road Elementary School "Champions for Children of the Capital Region for 2007."

The award goes to four individuals or groups making a significant impact on young people in the region. Shaker Road was recognized for the community service projects it has conducted through the school's Character Education Program.

Students, staff and parents have participated in events to raise money for Albany Medical Center's Children's Hospital this year, and Ronald McDonald House in Albany in previous years. Some of the activities have included: pajama and hat days (students donate \$1 to wear special attire), a movie night, bake sales on budget vote day in May, and a staff "Dollars for Denim" program on Fridays (staff donate \$1 each week to dress casually on Fridays. Shaker Road was recognized at a dinner sponsored by Northeast Parent and Child Society and their sponsor, General Electric Co., in May.

Soldier surprises Saddlewood Sgt. Mellet thanks class for writing letters to troops

Tech. Sgt. Scott Mellet of the Air National Guard paid a special visit to Thomi Mitchell's third grade class at Saddlewood Elementary School this spring while home in East Greenbush on leave from serving in Iraq. Mellet came in person to surprise and thank third grader Barry Betz and his class for their letter writing campaign to U.S. soldiers in Iraq. The class sent the troops letters last January and Barry's letter was to Sgt. Mellet.

District ranked No. 10 in area

South Colonie was ranked 10th out of 85 area school districts in June's annual ratings by *The Business Review* newspaper. Last year South Colonie was ranked 17th.

The rankings are based on a formula that takes into account graduation and Regents graduate rates as well as student performance on New York State standardized testing for exams in ELA, math, science and social studies.

District voters approve budget, elect two to school board

South Colonie residents voted 1,199-682 on May 15th in favor of a \$83.8 million district budget for 2007-08 school year. Voters also elected two members to the South Colonie Board of Education.

In the only contested school board race, Rick Dunn defeated David Kiehle 926-655 for the seat now held by John Monteiro, who did not seek re-election this year.

In the other uncontested race, Leonard Motto ran unopposed for his first full term on the school board. Last May, Motto was elected to fill the one remaining year on the term of a former board member who died while in office. Motto received 1,202 votes this year. Both elected officials will begin serving their new five-year terms on July 1.

... Shaker Principal

Continued from page 1

Prior to coming to South Colonie, Dollard worked for 10 years at Christian Brothers Academy (CBA) as a teacher, department chairman and Assistant Principal. He has received numerous acknowledgements for his work in education including Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 21st Century All-American Teacher and recognition from organizations such as the National Catholic Education Association and the Capital Area School Development Association.

Dollard earned a bachelor's degree in History/Political Science from the State University at Oswego, and a master's degree in Educational Administration from the State University at Albany.



Palmer named Coach of the Year

Congratulations to Michael Palmer, a physical education teacher at Roessleville Elementary School, who was named *Times Union* Coach of the Year for indoor track for the second straight year.



“The dolls have stimulated the student’ imaginations, becoming a living model for the lands they are studying.”

CCHS Teacher Sheila Ramirez

CCHS Spanish teacher Sheila Ramirez and her global doll collection.

Doll collection promotes cultural diversity at CCHS

Figurines help students visualize native dress

Who says that high school students are too old to play with dolls?

Not at Colonie Central High School, where “dress up” of these colorful plastic figurines of all shapes and sizes has become a unique way for foreign language students to learn about the culture and fashion of the various countries they are studying.

Some 30 or more dolls from different countries have been put on display this year in a large glass case outside the school’s second floor foreign language lab — a popular gathering spot these days.

The doll collection belongs to Spanish teacher Sheila Ramirez, who has been assembling this group of tiny toy ambassadors since she was a little girl.

“Everyone in my family knew very well that I loved dolls growing up so they would bring one or two from each country they visited,” Ramirez said. “They and I just kept adding to it as we traveled.”

The collection — called “Culturas del mundo” — represents a multitude of countries and states such as Alaska, Japan, Spain, Russia and more. The collection has been admired by CCHS students, faculty and staff all school year long.

Students have been involved in educational projects as well, using the dolls as a resource to discuss, research and write about country locations, culture and ethnic clothing.

“I’m really impressed how students have reacted to the display,” Ramirez said. “The dolls have stimulated the students’ imaginations, becoming a living model for the lands they are studying. They come to class with provoking thoughts and questions, and that’s certainly great to see.”

In the news...

CCHS junior to attend Skidmore Jazz Institute

Colonie Central High School junior, Brian Zink, a drummer, has been accepted into the Skidmore College Summer Jazz Institute – a two-week intensive jazz program now in its 20th year. The artistic director and drum instructor for the program is Ed Shaughnessy – the drummer for The Tonight Show (with Jay Leno) Big Band. Only 25 students from across the state were accepted.

Summer science leadership conference for Alexandra Hart

Colonie Central High School’s Alexandra Hart, Class of 2009, has been selected to participate in the National Student Leadership Conference on Forensic Science this summer at American University.

During the conference she will attend specialized workshops and classes designed to develop the skills and traits that define a leader. Professors and college students facilitate the programs and engage students in career focused, hands-on activities, simulating a career in the student’s area of interest. Trips and tours also enhance the student’s experience.

CCHS ExploraVision Awards

Three teams of Colonie Central High School students have been recognized for scientific innovation this year as competitors at the 2007 Toshiba/National Science Teachers Association ExploraVision Awards Challenge.

The teams, made up of students in Michele Cannistraci's Advanced Placement Physics class at CCHS, earned Honorable Mention honors placing them in the top 10 percent of all entries in this year's competition.

The three groups receiving honorable mention are:

- Automated Flight Deck: Christopher Macken, Gregory Sleasman, Christopher Mangano and Joseph Montanino
- Mag-Tyre: Nicholas Voerg, William Lentlie and Ryan Green
- Virtual Reality: Anson Wong, Rachel Hennings and Chad English

ExploraVision is a competition for students of all interest, skill and ability levels in grades K-12. The purpose of the competition is to encourage them to combine their imaginations with the tools of science to create and explore a vision of future technology. Students work in groups of two, three or four, simulating Research and Development (R&D) teams in today's competitive technology industry.

Each team selects a technology, or an aspect of technology, that is present in the home, school and/or community or any other technology relevant to their lives. For example, they may choose something as simple as a pencil or as complex as a quantum computer. They explore what the technology does, how it works, and how, when, and why it was invented. The students must then project into the future what the technology could be like 20 years from now. Finally, the project teams must convey its vision in both a written description and five graphics-simulating web pages.

Summer library hours

The South Colonie school libraries will be open during the summer months according to the following schedule:

School	Days Open	Dates Range	Hours
High School	Tuesday	July 10 to Aug. 28	8:30 - 12:30
Lisha Kill	Wednesday	July 11 to Aug. 22	9:00 - noon
Sand Creek	Monday - Friday	July 5 to Aug. 15	7:30 - 12:30
Forest Park	Monday & Wednesday	July 2 to Aug. 10	8:30 - 11:30
	Tuesday & Thursday	July 3 to Aug. 9	noon - 3
	Tuesday	Aug. 14 & Aug. 21	noon - 3
Saddlewood	Tuesday	July 10 to Aug. 21	8:30 - 11:30
Shaker Road	Tuesday	July 10 to Aug. 14	8:30 - 11:30
Roessleville	Tuesday	July 10 to Aug. 28	9:00 - noon
Veeder	Tuesday	July 3 to Aug. 21	8:30 - 11:30

... Hall of Fame

Continued from page 2

administration of the South Colonie Central School District. He served as one of the School Resource Officers to the five South Colonie elementary schools, Sand Creek Middle School, and Colonie Central High School, teaching thousands of children how to stay safe, and relaying the anti-drug and violence message.

He has served on the individual school crisis teams, is a Parent Advocate for the Committee on Special Education, and continues to serve on the South Colonie Safe Schools Committee.

Officer Jensen is a second generation life member of the West Albany Fire Department No. 1, where he has held many line officer positions. He is a past fire chief and a past fire commissioner, and is still an active member today. He is also a member of the former West Albany Emergency Ambulance Squad, where he served many years as an EMT.

Officer Jensen is the recipient of numerous police department and community awards. In 2006 he was named Officer of the Year by the Capital District Bank Security Officers Association for his work with financial institutions on how to both prevent and safely survive a robbery.

In 2007 he was named Officer of the Year by the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post, and recognized by the South Colonie Board of Education for his outstanding service to our students.

Gregory and Steven Jensen are the only brothers inducted into the Colonie Central High School Hall of Fame.

Times Union honors CCHS students/teachers

The *Times Union* newspaper featured three of Colonie Central High School's top seniors and their teachers this spring for making a difference in their lives. The honorees are:

Senior Elizabeth Cardella and teacher Deborah Labrake

Elizabeth Cardella has maintained a 4.0 GPA for four years. She is an outstanding writer and artist and is pursuing a college degree in animation/cartooning or graphic design. Her personal resume includes being an artist, musician, clown, President of the National Honor Society and leading church music ministry. She says of her favorite instructor, "Even while teaching a difficult course, Ms. Labrake makes reading, analyzing and writing more enjoyable to her students with her unique personality."

Senior Kelly Piche and teacher Kevin Ruane

Kelly Piche is a bright, caring, involved and exceptional young woman ranking third in the Class of 2007. She has been the class treasurer for three years, a Natural Helper, member of the National Honor Society, musical theater, a three sport athlete, volunteer at the Regional Food Bank and spends time with children at the local library. She is aspiring to be a music teacher. She says of teacher Kevin Ruane, "By challenging me, Mr. Ruane taught me to perse-

vere. He is always willing to help and listens and supports me inside and outside the classroom."

Senior Gregory Sleasman and teacher Barry Witte

Gregory Sleasman has achieved a great balance of volunteering service at Albany Medical Center, participating in athletic programs and serving as class secretary. As a member of the National Honor Society, he has engaged in many projects to benefit others. His significant extracurricular activities include captain of the varsity volleyball team, member of the Student Senate and student representative for the South Colonie Curriculum Review Board. He says of Barry Witte, "Mr. Witte has helped me challenge myself and reach my potential. He has enhanced my problem solving skills and prepared me for the future."

Times Union Scholar Athletes

Two Colonie Central High School students — Brittany Conroy and Christopher Mangano — were named Scholar Athletes by the *Times Union* newspaper. Conroy was named for volleyball and basketball with a GPA of 97.712. Mangano was named for soccer with a GPA of 96.724.

District recognizes John Monteiro

The South Colonie Board of Education honored John Monteiro for 15 years of dedicated service to the children of the district.

Monteiro, who did not seek re-election after serving three, five-year terms on the school board, was featured in the President's Spotlight at the June meeting. He was presented a clock by the district and Board President James Tim Ryan on the occasion of his retirement (see photo on the left).

"John's tireless efforts on behalf of the district and our students go well beyond the call of duty," said Superintendent Michael Marcelle. "He should take a great deal of pride in all he has accomplished and he leaves with the respect of everyone with whom he's ever come in contact. He will be greatly missed."

During his tenure on the school board, Monteiro, a Colonie Central High School graduate, has been a part of many South Colonie successes. This includes helping to plan and oversee the district's 50th anniversary celebration, several large capital projects to improve our schools and a variety of academic programs and new educational initiatives that have made South Colonie students some of the top graduates in the Capital District.



Summer building use notice for residents

South Colonie residents should note that two schools — Colonie Central High School and Usha Kill Middle School — will be completed closed this summer or partially closed due to construction activity. Summer school and all special activities will be held at other buildings.

Festival awards for CCHS bands

Two Colonie Central High School bands were honored this spring for great performances at the Festival of Music competition in Williamsburg, Virginia.

The wind ensemble, under the direction of Lon Walker, earned a "Superior" rating, and the symphonic band, under the direction of Joel Miller, earned an "Excellent" rating at the event.

The CCHS wind ensemble placed first overall in the AAA Bands category and first overall in the band festival. The wind ensemble also received the William D. Revelli Concert Band Award for achieving the highest overall score at the festival. This is the second time the CCHS wind ensemble has received this award.

The Colonie bands competed with other high school bands from the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States. A panel of college and U.S. military band directors adjudicated the band students. Afterwards, the students participated in an educational clinic hosted by one of the adjudicators. The bands also spent time touring Virginia Beach and Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Virginia.



Artist in residence Brian Chevalier works with Forest Park students to write and record a school-wide music CD.

Forest Park records music CD

Forest Park Elementary School students spent the spring writing, composing and singing original songs with the help of songwriter in residence Brian Chevalier. Each teacher met with Chevalier as a grade level to plan the topic for the song. Then the children began creating the words for their original song about a subject that they had learned about in their classroom.

Chevalier then helped to put music to the words. Chevalier then brought his recording studio into the Forest Park library so that the students could record their songs and a CD was created entitled "Forest Park On The Move." The students performed their songs in May. The CD is now available for purchase.

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
James (Tim) Ryan
Paul Gordon
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Robert Domenici
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