

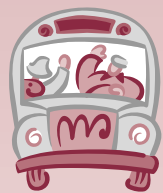
in

south
colonie
central
schools

focus

Preparing World Class Citizens

November, 2008



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November kicks off Stuff the Bus with Toys for Tots

South Colonie campaign enters second year helping needy families in the area

Santa's sleigh will be colored yellow again this holiday season, thanks to the efforts of the South Colonie Central School District.

For the second straight year, district employees, students and their families are teaming up with the U.S. Marine Corps to continue its unique campaign to "Stuff the Bus" with Toys for Tots.

Toys For Tots, sponsored by the Marine Corps since 1947, annually provides some 60,000 Capital District children with toys for the holidays. New, unwrapped toys are collected at various locations in November and December, and distributed to needy youngsters in time for the holidays.

There are two major phases to the Stuff The Bus campaign:

- **Public Phase — Friday, November 28:** "Black Friday" marks one of the major kickoffs to the campaign. South Colonie school buses will be parked at Northway Mall outside the Jo-Ann Fabrics store, and at the Kohl's Plaza on Central Avenue. Volunteers will be collecting new, unwrapped toys from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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Roessleville Elementary School Fun Run

Roessleville Elementary students participate this fall in the school's annual Fun Run, which encourages youngsters of all ages to find enjoyment in exercise and good health practices. Every student who finishes the race earns a ribbon. More pictures are posted on the Roessleville web page.

Sand Creek stands as one in launching new anti-bullying program

Giant 'hug' unifies middle school community

In a tremendous sign of unity, the entire staff, student body and parents of Sand Creek Middle School stood outside their school this fall, holding hands and forming a large human chain around their building. When the sign was given, they stepped forward as one and gave their school a giant "hug."

The loving gesture kicked off Sand Creek's new anti-bullying program, encouraging all students in grades 5-8 to take responsibility for getting along and helping one another as they learn.

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... S.C. anti-bullying

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The initiative, called Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, is based on the 1993 book by Dan Olweus, "Bullying at School: What We Know and What We Can Do." In the book, Olweus outlines strategies schools can use to tackle the problem of bullying.

The program, which is grant funded for the district, is unique because it doesn't focus on the bullies or those being bullied, said Associate Principal Jill Penn.

Instead, the program is based on four principles students are learning through yearlong workshops, coaching and role playing where they are the force that stops bullying in its tracks. Those principles are:

- We will not bully others
- We will try to help students who are bullied
- We will try to include students who are left out
- If we know that somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult

These rules are printed on posters throughout every classroom and the penalties for not abiding by these principles are clearly spelled out. Weekly classroom meetings serve as open forums where students talk about any encounters they might have had, anything they might have witnessed and how they handled the situation.

To get the program rolling, Sand Creek held a giant morning pep rally in October before spending an entire school day participating in anti-bullying team building activities. They wore bright colored shirts sporting the slogan, "Don't Bully, Be Happy," and created banners and posters reaffirming their commitment to the program (*see photos left*). The school "hug" capped off the day. (*see photos left and below*). The evening before, the school held Creekfest 2008 with a large carnival, school group-sponsored games and booths to raise funds for various programs and charities.





OfficeMax 'sur-plies' for Saddlewood K teacher

The local OfficeMax store in Colonie selected Saddlewood Elementary School and kindergarten teacher Anne Hoffman winners in the company's "A Day Made Better" national educator recognition event.

Hoffman was one of 1,300 teachers across the country and four from the Capital District surprised on October 1 with a big orange box of office supplies for her school. OfficeMax representatives secretly arrived early that morning and presented Hoffman with a bouquet of flowers and \$1,000 worth of supplies during the school's Morning Program.

"I'm overwhelmed by it all," said Hoffman, surrounded by her very excited kindergartners. "It's great to be appreciated. I'm happy OfficeMax has adopted our school because I know it will be a great benefit to our teachers and our children." (*Read more about this on the Saddlewood web page.*)

Miss USA/CPB visits Roessleville to launch safe toys campaign

Roessleville Elementary School was selected for an interesting student learning opportunity this fall that involved Miss USA visiting the school to discuss toy safety with the children.

The New York State Consumer Protection Board (CPB) is raising awareness about toy and juvenile product safety through a public service campaign. The CPB teamed up with Mohawk Dairy, which carries a message about a toy safety club and toy recalls on each half-pint carton of low-fat milk it distributes to South Colonie and other schools. Miss USA 2008, Crystle Stewart, has been enlisted as a spokesperson for the campaign.

In October, Miss USA, the CPB, the New York State Dairy Food Association, and Mohawk Dairy visited Roessleville to speak with students about the campaign. The CPB filmed the event, and will use a portion of the film for a public service announcement narrated by Miss USA.



Shaker Road helps out in Africa

Last year the Shaker Road Elementary School Community collected money for Joining Hearts and Hands, a not-for-profit organization helping impoverished children and families in Kenya. Shaker Road and founders Bill and Joanne Cala, are working together to develop a sister-school relationship. The goal is to broaden our students' understanding of the world, while providing funds to help update schools, latrines and living conditions for other school children. The Shaker Road community has so far raised enough money to build a water tower in a local school village and provide a scholarship for a student to continue studying in high school as funded education stops at eighth grade.



Miss USA greets Roessleville Elementary School students this fall.



The Colonie Lodge of Elks #2192 continued its tradition this year of providing all third graders in South Colonie with their own personal dictionaries (like these children at Saddlewood Elementary School). The Elks believe students should leave third grade as good writers, active readers and thinkers.

No. 9 ranking for South Colonie

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

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 English Language Arts, math, science and social studies.

Energy Star label

Shaker Road and Lisha Kill have recently joined the list of South Colonie schools earning an Energy Star label from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

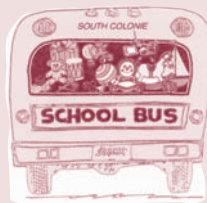
That brings the list to six schools earning this prestigious label, which signifies that these buildings operate more energy efficiently than 75 percent of the schools in the United States. The other schools are Veeder, Saddlewood, Roessleville and Sand Creek.

The Energy Star designation is one more mark of success for the district's multi-year energy conservation initiative. Since 2001, South Colonie has exceeded its energy savings projections and avoided more than \$2 million in energy expenses.

... Stuff the Bus

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- **School Phase — Week of December 1:** Each of the district's five elementary schools will designate one day during this week for students to bring in a toy for the Stuff the Bus campaign. Collection boxes will also be stationed at the two middle schools and Colonie High School during the week.



The elementary school donation days are as follows: **Monday, December 1** — Forest Park School, **Tuesday, December 2** — Saddlewood School, **Wednesday, December 3** — Shaker Road School, **Thursday, December 4** — Roessleville School, and **Friday, December 5** — Veeder School.

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