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STAFF

South COLONIE Fall 2008

NEWSLETTER



*Congratulations to Jim Kochan, whose hard work and dedication to the children of South Colonie District, earned him an award from the Hudson Valley AAA chapter.*

## AAA Award for South Colonie's school bus driver Jim Kochan

**C**ongratulations to Jim Kochan who was among a group of school bus drivers honored recently by the Hudson Valley chapter of AAA for their dedication during the 2007-08 school year.

Kochan was nominated for the AAA award by the South Colonie Transportation Department for his exceptional accident and safety record, attendance and job performance, interaction skills with students and staff, and acts of heroism.

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## South Colonie Central Schools welcomes new district staff

- Beau Adkins ..... Forest Park/Roessleville Special Education Teacher
- Thomas Alexander ..... Colonie High School English Teacher
- Barbara Amirault ..... Shaker Road Special Education Teacher
- Melissa Austin ..... Colonie High School Food Service Helper
- Ashley Baldwin ..... Lisha Kill Mathematics Teacher
- Sophie Belokopitsky ..... Lisha Kill School Monitor
- Kelly Boyea ..... Veeder Special Education Teacher
- Jennifer Brooks ..... Lisha Kill School Psychologist
- Kristi Bullis ..... Veeder Special Education Teacher
- Michelle Buonanno ..... Forest Park Elementary Teacher
- Kathryn Chandler ..... Colonie High School Art Teacher
- Deborah Colagiovanni ..... Lisha Kill Food Service Helper
- Elizabeth Courcelle ..... Roessleville Elementary Teaching Assistant
- John Curran ..... Lisha Kill Science Teacher
- Dawn Decker ..... Colonie High School Monitor
- Lori DiPace ..... Saddlewood School Monitor
- Laura Ebel ..... Colonie High School Food Service Helper
- Dominick Esposito ..... Lisha Kill Custodial Worker
- Lindsay Frament ..... Shaker Road Elementary Teacher
- Jean Freedman ..... Roessleville School Monitor
- Nancy Gallagher ..... Sand Creek Food Service Helper
- Mary Ann Gerstenberger ..... Veeder School Monitor
- Lauren Habib ..... Roessleville Elementary Teacher
- Christina Haas ..... Shaker Road School Monitor
- James Haughney III ..... District Office Network Administrator
- Andrew Hawthorne ..... Lisha Kill School Monitor
- Michelle Holtslander ..... District Office Senior Account Clerk/Insurance
- Rea Jones ..... School Bus Driver
- Kristen Karbowski ..... Lisha Kill Elementary Teacher
- Tina Krom ..... Veeder Teaching Assistant
- Tracy Krom ..... Veeder Teaching Assistant
- John Krug ..... School Bus Driver
- Robert Lemerise ..... CALC Teaching Assistant
- Marisa Lotano ..... School Monitor/Bus Garage
- Laura Louis ..... Veeder School Monitor
- Denise Maksail ..... Lisha Kill Foreign Language Teacher
- William Malcolm ..... Colonie High School Social Studies/Teaching Assistant
- Aine Masterson ..... Shaker Road Remedial Reading Teacher
- Corinne McDermott ..... Sand Creek Social Studies Teacher

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## ... bus driver award

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Now in his fourth year as a driver for the district, Kochan has had the added responsibility of transporting children with disabilities to Veeder Elementary School and Sand Creek and Lisha Kill Middle Schools.

During his first year on the job, one of Kochan's passengers suffered a seizure while riding on his school bus. It was Kochan's quick thinking and calm nature that enabled him to notify emergency personnel, who transported the student to the hospital for treatment.

"You never know what to expect," said Kochan, who credits his extensive training for preparing him for the worse. "Having children of your own doesn't hurt either."

Kochan said he was surprised to receive the AAA award because "there are so many dedicated drivers out there doing the same thing every day. I work hard, but all of us do, for the safety of the children," he said. "That's really what it's all about."

Still, it's nice to have your work acknowledged, he said, and he is appreciative to his friends and family who have made it a point to stop by and congratulate him on his recent honor.

While there are many drivers he could have nominated for the award, Jim is that "special someone who immediately comes to mind," said South Colonie Transportation Director Peter Tunny.

### NEW STAFF ... CONTINUED FROM FRONT

- Lisa Mosca ..... Forest Park School Monitor
- Jessica Mullens ..... Veeder Elementary Teacher
- Christina Nicaastro ..... Forest Park Elementary Teacher
- Gretchen Oliver ..... Sand Creek Foreign Language Teacher
- Stanley Olsiewski ..... Sand Creek Custodial Worker
- William O'Toole ..... School Bus Driver
- Christine Palmer ..... Shaker Road School Monitor
- Beth Palumbo ..... Forest Park School Monitor
- John Potryala ..... School Bus Driver
- Lisa Prinzo ..... Lisha Kill Foreign Language Teacher
- Nicole Prizio ..... Lisha Kill Foreign Language Teacher
- Dominick Ragone ..... School Bus Driver
- Louis Renna ..... School Bus Driver
- Gail Rawson ..... Veeder Speech Teacher
- Paige Ristau ..... Shaker Road School Monitor
- Linda Rotchford ..... Veeder School Monitor
- Jennifer Saddlemire ..... Colonie High School English Teacher
- Mary Sandoval ..... Lisha Kill Foreign Language Teacher
- Mark Schepisi ..... Bus Garage Automotive Mechanic
- Mary Schreck ..... Roessleville Elementary Reading Teacher
- Stacey Shultes ..... Forest Park Special Education Teacher
- Richard Small ..... School Bus Driver
- Christie Smith ..... Colonie High School Physical Education Teacher
- Lee Spiro ..... Colonie High School Science Teacher
- Kevin Sroczyński ..... District-wide Custodial Mechanic
- Matthew Tarullo ..... Colonie High/Elementary Physical Education Teacher
- Joseph Topino ..... Sand Creek Custodial Worker
- Paige Tyksinski ..... Forest Park Elementary Teacher
- Diane Viglucci ..... Veeder Keyboard Specialist
- Tracy Wolff ..... Colonie High School Monitor
- Bryan Zajesky ..... CALC Teaching Assistant
- Alison Zaloga ..... Colonie High School Art Teacher
- Louise Zautner ..... Saddlewood School Monitor
- Jaymie Zeiser ..... Sand Creek Speech Teacher

## Other News & Notes

### ▶ EMPLOYEE TSA PLANS AVAILABLE

**A**n employee working a minimum of 1,000 hours per year willing to contribute a minimum of \$200 per year, is eligible to participate in a tax-sheltered annuity (TSA) plan. If you are interested in participating, please have your TSA plan agent contact Shirley Kelty at the District Office, 869-3576, X2455.

### ▶ NOVEMBER IS OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR HEALTH INSURANCE AT DISTRICT OFFICE

**N**ovember is Open Enrollment for health insurance. The district offers the following health plans: Capital District Physicians' Health Plan, Blue Shield of Northeastern New York-Traditional Blue 907 and Traditional Blue POS 211. Benefits become effective January 1, 2009. For more information and rates regarding these insurance plans, please contact the Insurance Department at the District Office, 869-3576, ext. 2450.

### South Colonie staff

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO VOTE  
ON THE BUS PURCHASE  
PROPOSITION AND PRESS BOX  
PROPOSITION THIS FALL

Thursday, October 23rd

11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

At any South Colonie  
elementary school

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!