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STAFF

South COLONIE Winter 2006

NEWSLETTER



An exterior view of the new Saddlewood Elementary School library addition.

Building project taking shape

► GROWING PAINS AFFECTING ALL OF US

BY SUPERINTENDENT MICHAEL MARCELLE

Anyone who works in one of South Colonie's school buildings today and has been a part of the ongoing construction knows by now that with progress sometimes comes various growing pains. While it's exciting to see some of these building improvements taking shape half way through the school year, I wanted to take a minute to thank our staff for its continued patience and cooperation during this time period.

I understand many of you have experienced some minor inconveniences this year, whether it's temporarily moving a classroom to the library for instruction, putting up with construction noise from time to time or waiting in your car for large vehicles to maneuver around the school roads and parking lots. Again, thank you for your understanding as we all work to make our schools the best that they can be.

In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns please feel free to continue to report them to your building principal. And finally, best wishes for a very happy and productive 2006.

The Energy Educator

► WHAT BOOKS CAN TELL US ABOUT ENERGY SAVINGS

BY DISTRICT ENERGY MANAGER JAMES BROWN

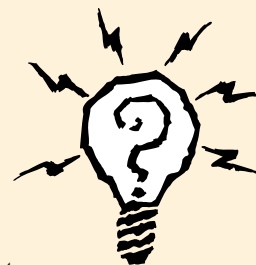
Earlier this school year I heard Sand Creek reading teacher Chris Carhart speak to a group of teachers about class sets of reading books that could be signed out by classroom teachers. She encouraged teachers to use them whenever they wanted. However, she asked that teachers be extra careful to make sure ALL books in a class set are accounted for and returned each time they are borrowed.

Why is she so particular? Chris explained that by the end of the year, many "class sets" no longer have enough books to be used with a class. And she understands how this happens. A classroom teacher

borrow a class set, and one book gets lost. To an individual classroom teacher, this might not sound like much. However, throughout the year, many teachers borrow these class sets. If each time a class set is borrowed and returned with "only" one book missing, it adds up quickly. At this rate, it only takes 12 teachers to borrow a class set before a class set can only be used by half of the class.

While listening to Chris' explanation, she made me consider how I account for student books. It is easy to overlook "only one book," but when put into perspective, it really makes you think

The same is true for our district's energy usage. If you need to use something, by all means, use it. But when



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Congratulations to our district courier Joe Willey, who took the plunge and got married over the recent holiday break on December 30th. The District Office staff gave him a nice send off with a surprise wedding gift and cake.

South Colonie News & Notes

▶ RIPPS LISTED IN TEACHERS' WHO'S WHO

Barbara Ripps has been listed in Who's Who Among America's Teachers for the second straight school year. Ripps has been a teacher in the district for 22 years, the last 17 years at Veeder Elementary. She has served on numerous educational improvement committees and organizes the Veeder Thanksgiving food drive each year. In 2001, she was named the Walmart/Sam's Club Teacher of the Year and donated \$300 of the award to purchase the Veeder Peace Pole.

▶ DISTRICT WELCOMES BACK DOMINICK RIVERA

South Colonie Schools welcomes back Dominick Rivera, who has come out of retirement to fill in as an Associate Principal at Colonie Central High School. Rivera will temporarily replace David Seaver until the end of the school year. Seaver left his position at the high school to become Director of the District's Department of Human Resources. Before retiring in June, 2003, Rivera worked in the district for 34 years as a math teacher at Sand Creek Middle School, Associate Principal at Lisha Kill Middle School, and retired after six years as Lisha Kill Principal.

▶ IN-SERVICE REMINDER FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

For teachers to receive in-service credit they must submit the information to the Human Resources Department by October 1 and/or April 1 of each school year. You must include the in-service application, ORIGINAL certificate (copies are no longer accepted) and 15 contact hours equaling one in-service credit.

Energy Educator

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not using it, please make sure it is turned off. Leaving one computer on at night, or the lights on in a classroom that is not occupied might not seem like a lot. However, when you consider the number of computers and classrooms we have in the district, it adds up quickly.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

• Question: I have a motion sensor in my room that shuts the lights off after 15 minutes. Should I turn the lights off when I walk out of the room, or just let the motion sensor do it for me?

• Answer: Turn your lights off anytime you leave a room empty, or when there is enough outside lighting. Don't wait for the motion sensor to do it.

• Explanation: For the 2004 - 2005 school year we spent over one million dollars on energy use. Our electric bill for the year was \$717,687. Lighting accounts for 20-50 percent of that amount. At 30 percent that equals \$215,306.

Just like the example with the class sets of reading books, if you do not turn off your lights during that 15-minute period, it might not seem like much time. However, if each person in the district turned off their lights for ONLY that 15 minute period each day, the district would save \$37 per day (at 30 percent). If we consider only the 182 calendar days of school, that equals a savings of up to \$6,734 per year. Now consider how many times during the day any one of us could turn off the lights as we walk out of a room (and not wait for the motion sensors to kick in) and the savings really begin to add up. We could easily save over \$100,000 per year by turning out the lights in unoccupied spaces. The more lights that are turned off, the more we save. The more computers that are turned off, the more we save. To steal a line from a familiar TV commercial — dollars not spent on energy use — Priceless.