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STAFF

South COLONIE Winter 2007

NEWSLETTER

Shaker Road Elementary says goodbye to Elizabeth Wood

▶ PRINCIPAL TAKES NEW POSITION AT SHEN

Shaker Road Elementary School students and staff bid a fond farewell to their Principal Elizabeth Wood, who resigned in December to take on a new and unique position in the Shenendehowa Central School District.

Wood was named the first Principal of Shatekon Elementary School — a school in the process of being constructed and scheduled to open next September. Between now and then she will work with Shenendehowa staff, students and families to help acclimate them to their new school — the eighth elementary school in that district. She will also help monitor the completion of the building project and the set up of the new building.

“While I am optimistic about the new challenge ahead of me, it was a very difficult decision to leave South Colonie,” said Wood, who began her career here 12 years ago as a high school social studies teacher. She later went on to serve as Associate Principal at Lisha Kill Middle School for two years and as Shaker Road Elementary School Principal for the past five years.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my work here with the students, staff and parents of this very special community,” Wood added. “May the students of Shaker Road continue to grow, learn and enter school each day with a smile!”

In her place, the South Colonie Board of Education has appointed John Haher as Interim Principal to finish out the school year. In the meantime, the administration will seek a permanent replacement for Wood to start the 2007-08 school year next fall.

Haher retired in 1999 as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction for the Scotia-Glenville Central School District. Prior to that he had been an elementary school principal and elementary school teacher throughout his career. Since retiring, Haher has served in several interim positions and principalships in Scotia-Glenville, Mohonasen and Guilderland schools. He is a graduate of Ithaca College and the State University at Cortland.



Interim Principal John Haher

The Energy Educator

▶ ENERGY CONSERVATION VERSUS ENERGY EFFICIENCY, KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

BY DISTRICT ENERGY
MANAGER JAMES BROWN

There are many things we can do to use less energy and use it more wisely. It involves energy conservation and energy efficiency. You may think these are one in the same, but they are different.

Let me explain. Energy conservation is any behavior resulting in the use of less energy. Energy efficiency is the use of technology that requires less energy to perform the same function. A compact fluorescent light bulb that uses less energy than an incandescent bulb to produce the same amount of light is an example of energy efficiency. The decision to change the bulbs is an example of energy conservation.



However, energy conservation does not require you to spend money. For example, turning off your computer at the end of the day is an example of energy conservation, as is turning off your lights when you walk out of the room. Neither of these requires spending money to save money. This is the focal point of our energy program here at South Colonie.

Often times I get questions about why our district has not replaced an item. The main argument for not replacing an item is that when we began our program, our goal was to save money without spending money. In fact, there was no budget for our energy management program at all. Any funds to support the program would come out of energy savings.

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South Colonie Food Service Director Renee Hanks (right) is honored at a fall banquet as outgoing State President of the New York School Nutrition Association. Hanks served as President from October 2005-2006. The banquet was held at the association's 55th annual conference in Rochester entitled: "School Nutrition & Education Equals A Healthy Future." The professional association for school meal personnel has 4,000 members statewide. Attending the conference with Hanks were South Colonie Superintendent Michael Marcelle (center), and Beverly Miller, Assistant Superintendent for Management Services (left). Also attending were Colonie High School Kitchen Manager Sharon Newell, CCHS Assistant Kitchen Manager Lynn Ordon and Lisha Kill Middle School Kitchen Manager Cheryl Brooks.

South Colonie News & Notes

▶ SAND CREEK TEACHER ATTENDS NYS FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Sand Creek Middle School teacher Lisa Yakel attended last fall's annual conference of the New York State Association of Family and Consumer Science Educators. Some 250 local teachers attended the two-day conference and roundtable sessions aimed at training them in best teaching practices to reflect today's educational needs of students.

Through a variety of activities, teachers were given the opportunity to develop lessons and practice using the newly revised New York State curriculum for Family and Consumer Science.

▶ LISHA KILL TEACHER AT WORLD TENNIS EVENT

Lisha Kill Middle School teacher Kathy Moehler is not only taking center court in her classroom these days but also competing on center court of the World Team Tennis matches. Moehler's New York team captured the title at the WTT Recreational League National Qualifier at Central Park in Schenectady earlier this year, and advanced to the WTT Nationals in Indian Wells, California, in November. There, her team finished in third place, overall. In Kathy's final singles set she won 6-1 over the St. Louis team.

*If you have a question for the Energy Educator you can email Jim Brown at:
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Energy Educator

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Case in point ... people have asked me why we have not replaced their window air conditioner. It's a "no brainer," they say. True, replacing an air conditioner more than 5-10 years old can save 20 percent per year versus an older model. But, that involves spending money. On the other hand, by using the air conditioner only when needed, an employee can save 50 percent per year, without buying a new unit.

The argument for replacing an item usually has to do with routine maintenance. In other words, that item is no longer performing as intended and needs to be replaced. When replacing older items as part of regular maintenance, it makes sense to replace outdated items with high energy efficient items — even if the initial cost is more than a "regular" item.

Lastly, it is important to note that replacing and/or installing some items is a given. For example, the Vending Misers we put on most of the vending machines in our district cost us \$19 each after rebates. They are endorsed by Coke and Pepsi, keep the products 1-2 degrees cooler, and the payback period is less than two months.

YOU'RE AN ENERGY LEADER

You are the success behind our energy program. You have the power to run the equipment you need when you need it. By shutting equipment down when you are not using it, you have demonstrated to others that you take energy conservation seriously and helped us avoid over \$1.5 million in energy expenses. Your actions are why the EPA has recognized our district as an energy leader.

We not only provide a first rate education for our students, we do it while operating our facilities better than most schools do. As evidence of our success, two of our buildings (Veeder and Sand Creek) have earned an Energy Star label. This means they operate more efficiently than 75 percent of the schools in our country. Impressive ... considering these buildings are not new.

Thank you for making our energy management program one that others want to emulate.