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Preparing World Class Citizens

November, 2010

Stuff the Bus with Toys for Tots kicks off on 'Black Friday'



For the fourth straight year, Santa's sleigh will be colored yellow this holiday season, thanks to the efforts of the South Colonie Central School District family.

District employees, students and their families are teaming up once again 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 26:** "Black Friday" marks one of the major kickoffs to the campaign. South Colonie school buses will be parked at Northway Mall near the Jo-Ann Fabrics store, at Kohl's Plaza and K-Mart on Central Avenue and at Toys R Us on Wolf Road. Volunteers will be collecting new, unwrapped toys from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- **School Phase – November 29 – December 7:** Each of the district's five elementary schools and two middle schools will designate one day during this week for students to celebrate the Stuff the Bus campaign during

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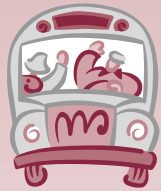
Students, like these at Veeder Elementary, dressed up for the traditional Halloween parades. View the Halloween photo galleries on the district web site.

Energy conservation program tops \$3 million savings mark

South Colonie's very successful Energy Conservation and Management program has now topped the \$3 million mark in energy savings.

In his annual report to the Board of Education in November, District Energy Educator James Brown said since the conservation program was implemented district-wide in September, 2001, South Colonie has avoided \$3,125,671 in energy expenditures for electric, natural gas and propane use. And, while the cost of these utilities continues to go up each year, the district, nevertheless, continues to pay less for electric, natural gas and propane from one year to the next.

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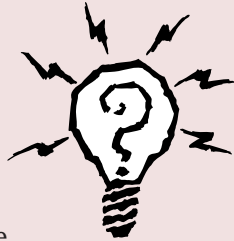
Bus vote passes ... pg 4



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How much less? During the 2000-2001 school year, the district's overall utility costs totaled \$1,340,686. In spite of an increase in cost for these utilities since that time and more square footage added on to district building space through various capital projects, the district spent \$1,160,425 on energy in the 2008-2009 school year and reduced its energy expenses again in the 2009-2010 school year to \$1,078,338.



According to Brown's most recent report, (which can be found on the district web site) if the district had done nothing to reduce its energy usage compared to the 2000-2001 school year, South Colonie would have expended an additional \$372,780 during the 2009-2010 school year, and an additional \$3,125,671 since September of 2001.

"All of this money goes back into the educational budget for providing programs to our children," Brown said.

Other evidence of success of the conservation program is in the numbers:

- The New York State energy cost per pupil is \$235.
- South Colonie's energy cost per pupil is \$182.
- The New York State average energy cost per square footage is \$1.40.
- South Colonie's energy cost per square footage is \$1.17.

To learn more about South Colonie's longstanding energy program visit the South Colonie web site.



Several South Colonie schools, including Lisha Kill Middle School, held Fall Fun Runs this year — encouraging physical fitness and healthy lifestyles among students and staff.

Rachel's Challenge inspires Sand Creek to make a difference

The Sand Creek Middle School community came out in September to hear an inspiring story that has empowered them to want to make a difference in the world.

Doug Brandl made 90-minute presentations to some 1,100 students and staff at two Sand Creek school assemblies and an evening program this fall on the life and impact that Rachel Joy Scott had on the world. Rachel's Challenge is one of America's largest character development programs and has transformed millions of lives across the globe. Participants heard the true story of a remarkable young girl who believed her life would impact the world. This unique program was designed to inspire, equip and empower students at every level and adults alike to want to make a difference in their world.



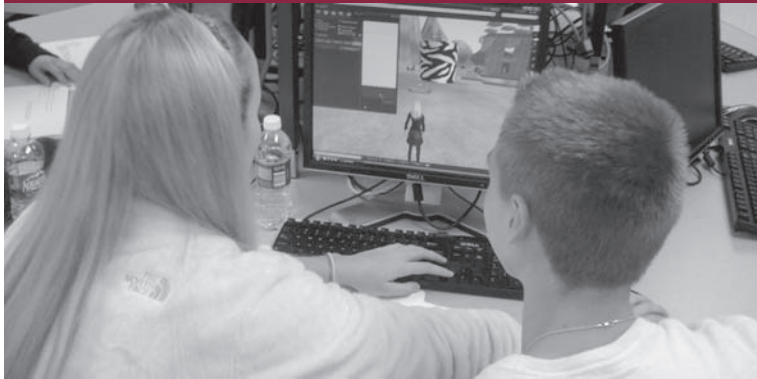
Rachel Joy Scott was the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Her acts of kindness and compassion coupled with the contents of her six diaries have become the foundation for Rachel's Challenge — one of the most life-changing school programs in America. Her message of starting a chain reaction challenged everyone to do five things:

Eliminate prejudice by looking for the best in others, Choose positive influences and role models in life, Dare to dream, set goals, keep a journal of your actions; Kind words + little acts of kindness = HUGE results and Start a chain reaction of kindness.

"This was an amazingly positive program that focused on how every person can start a chain reaction of kindness by going out of their way to show compassion," said Jill Penn, Sand Creek Associate Principal.



The Colonie High School Boys Volleyball team raised funds during October Breast Cancer Awareness Month to help fight the disease. During a Power of Pink Day, the team sold pink ribbons, bear toys and pink cupcakes during lunch periods and wore pink uniform jerseys during a recent game to create public awareness.



Colonie Central High School students placed third at the fifth annual IMPACT competition held in the fall at Siena College. This competition exposes high school students to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)-based concepts and real-world computer science applications.

Stuff the Bus campaign

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their Morning Programs or at other times. Collection boxes will also be stationed at Colonie High School during that time.

The celebration days are: **Monday, November 29** – Forest Park School, **Tuesday, November 30** – Saddlewood School, **Wednesday, December 1** – Shaker Road School, **Thursday, December 2** – Roessleville School, **Friday, December 3** – Veeder School, **Monday, December 6** – Lisha Kill School and **Tuesday, December 7** – Sand Creek School.



South Colonie News & Notes

South Colonie Launches New School News Notifier Email

South Colonie is pleased to announce the launch of the new "School News Notifier" (SNN), a system designed to help keep parents, staff and the community more in touch with what is happening at South Colonie Central Schools. SNN is an opt-in email alert system for which parents and residents can sign up to receive email alerts from the district. With SNN, district officials have the power to send updates and reminders about district activities or information about school closings and delays. Users can choose to receive any or all of the alerts, and they can unsubscribe at any time. Sign up today by clicking



on the SNN icon on the district web site. Also, you can now follow South Colonie news and announcements on Facebook.com.



\$3,000 Raised at Dollars for Scholars Fall Phone-a-thon

Thank you to everyone who supported South Colonie Dollars for Scholars' first annual Phone-a-thon, which raised \$2,920 in scholarship money for this year's Colonie Central High School graduates. Thirty-two student volunteers from the CCHS Key Club and National Honor Society manned 13 phones in October and received 158 in pledges.

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CCHS looking for business professional to mentor students

Colonie Central High School is establishing a Career Experience Internship Program (CEIP) for students and is seeking local business owners and professional willing to mentor students. Students enrolling in CEIP starting in the fall of 2011 are required to acquire 54-108 hours of unpaid experience in a work setting related to their career interest. For more information contact CCHS at 459-1220.

A trip to the firehouse

Kindergarteners from Roessville Elementary School went on a field trip to the Fuller Road Firehouse during Fire Safety Month in October.

The children had an opportunity to meet the firefighters, climb aboard a real fire truck, see and touch some of the firefighting equipment and learn about how firefighters put out fires.



Residents pass new school bus purchase proposition this fall



South Colonie residents went to the polls in October and passed the annual school bus proposition to upgrade the district Transportation Department by a vote of 653-366.

The district was seeking voter approval to spend \$634,200 to purchase seven new transportation vehicles to meet the district's annual replacement schedule. This included: five, 66-passenger school buses and two, 20-passenger school bus vans.

A bus purchase vote is held each year because the annual replacement plan of the existing fleet helps the district to maintain student safety and control repair and maintenance costs on older buses. A well thought out bus replacement plan is more cost effective and enables the district to consolidate routes and adjust its fleet as needed year to year. The replacement plan has also helped the district establish an excellent safety record with the New York State Department of Transportation.

The district is eligible to receive 50 percent of the purchase in state aid making the net cost \$328,992. The money will be borrowed over a five-year period.