



The Sand Pebble

Monthly Newsletter of Sand Creek Middle School

January 2012

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Early Winter Edition

Tuesday, January 3

- Classes resume.....*Welcome Back!*
- Board of Education meeting - 7 PM at District Office
- Registration at DO for Continuing Ed classes

Tuesday - Thursday, Jan 3-5

Thursday, January 5

- Spelling Bee - 9 AM (snow date - January 6th)
- PTA meeting - 7:00 PM



Wednesday, January 11

- **Mid-term Exams begin - see schedule below**
- Sand Creek Dollars for Scholars - 7 PM



Friday, January 13

- Grade 7/8 Winter Blues Dance - 7 - 9:00 PM

Monday, January 16



- **NO SCHOOL** - Dr. Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, January 17

- Board of Education meeting - 7 PM at District Office

Thursday, January 19



- Grade 8 Parent/Student Scheduling meeting - 5:30 PM at the high school

Friday, January 20

- Marking period ends

Monday, January 23

- Continuing Education classes begin
- Souper Bowl Can Drive begins

Friday, January 27

- Grade 5-8 "So You Think You Can Sing" Night - 7 - 9 PM



Tuesday, January 31

- Board of Education meeting - 7 PM at District Office

MID-TERM EXAM SCHEDULE - GRADES 5-8

<u>ELA</u>	January 11-13 January 13	grades 5, 6, 7 grade 8
<u>SCIENCE</u>	January 19/20	grades 5 - 8
<u>SOCIAL STUDIES</u>	January 20/23	grades 5, 6
<u>SPANISH/ FRENCH</u>	January 11/12	grades 7, 8



2nd Quarter Winding Down!

The 2nd marking period ends on January 20th. Please encourage your child to work especially hard over the next few weeks to be as successful a student as possible. Report cards will be mailed home on Wednesday, February 1st. Please remember that 70 is a minimum passing grade for all subjects.

Food Drive



Our "Souper Bowl" food drive is set to begin January 23rd and will end on February 3rd. We are collecting any non-perishable food items to benefit the people who live in the Sand Creek community. If you have any questions, or if you would like to get involved, please call Judy McDonald - 459-1333, extension 4018. Thank you.



ATTENTION GRADE 8 PARENTS AND STUDENTS

A parent/student scheduling program will take place on Thursday, January 19, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium to finalize student schedules. During the program you will have the opportunity to visit freshman elective classes as well as hear detailed information regarding class offerings and high school graduations requirements. Please mark you calendar and plan to attend with your child.

Dear Students and Parents,

Happy New Year! It is 2012 already, and with the New Year comes those pesky resolutions. Besides keeping your room clean or eating healthier, what are your resolutions for school? If you're a student, you may be thinking this year you want to complete all of your assignments on time, join a club or make honor roll. If you're a parent, maybe you want to find more family time in today's busy world. As the principal, my resolution is to continue to find new ways to get students involved in school.

Whatever your resolutions may be, I am sending you my best wishes for a healthy and happy new year!

*David Perry,
Principal*

JEANS FOR TEENS

Our Jeans for Teens program will be collecting jeans and khakis that would fit kids, teens or adults. All donations will be collected by the 8th grade students and donated to our local Aeropostale store as part of their annual effort to help homeless teens and local shelters. The collection process will begin shortly after the holiday break. More information is forthcoming. When you are making room for all of the new duds you get during the holidays, we hope you will set aside all your old jeans and khakis to donate to our annual Jeans for Teens Program.

Continuing Education Registration

Walk-in registration for Spring Continuing Education classes runs January 3-5 at the South Colonie District Office, 102 Loralee Drive, from 9 am until noon, and 1-3 pm. There is an additional evening registration on January 4 from 4-6 pm. Mail-in registration for classes is ongoing and encouraged. Classes begin the week of January 23.

A Reminder About Daily Attendance Calls

Parents/guardians, **please call** the office when your child will be absent or tardy from school. Sending a written excuse when your child returns to school after an absence is no longer the policy. It is necessary to verify each student's absence **on the day(s) of their absence**. Please call the office at 459-1333 (press #2 for attendance). Thank you for your cooperation.

SPORTS COLUMN

JANUARY EVENTS



Girls' Basketball Schedule

Boys' Basketball Schedule

Tues.	1/3	4:15	Bethlehem @ SC
Thurs.	1/5	4:15	SC @ Mohonasen
Tues.	1/10	4:15	Shaker @ SC
Thurs.	1/12	4:15	SC @ Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake
Thurs.	1/19	4:15	SC @ Columbia
Thurs.	1/26	4:15	Averill Park @ SC
Tues.	1/31	4:15	Niskayuna @ SC

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Thurs.	1/5	4:15	Mohonasen @ SC
Tues.	1/10	4:15	SC @ Shaker
Thurs.	1/19	4:15	Columbia @ SC
Tues.	1/24	4:15	SC @ Saratoga Springs
Thurs.	1/26	4:15	SC @ Averill Park
Tues.	1/31	4:15	SC @ Niskayuna


Modified Wrestling (7/8) Schedule

Wed.	1/4	4:15	SC @ Columbia
Wed.	1/11	4:15	Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake @ SC
Fri.	1/13	4:15	SC @ Guilderland
Wed.	1/18	4:15	Shenendehowa @ SC
Fri.	1/20	4:15	RCS and Schenectady @ SC
Thurs.	1/26	4:15	Ballston Spa @ SC



January 2012 Day Cycle Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 No School	3 School Resumes Day 6	4 Day 1	5 Day 2	6 Day 3	7
8	9 Day 4	10 Day 5	11 Day 6	12 Day 1	13 Day 2	14
15	16 No School Martin Luther	17 Day 3	18 Day 4	19 Day 5	20 Day 6	21
22	23 Day 1	24 Day 2	25 Day 3	26 Day 4	27 Day 1*	28
29	30 Day 2	31 Day 3	*Beginning of Second Semester at CCHS, must be a Day 1			



WANTED:
SUPPLIES TO DONATE TO THE
MOHAWK HUDSON HUMANE
SOCIETY

This is part of their wish list:

- Canned/Wet Cat and Dog Food (NOT dry foods)
- Paper Towels
- Cat Litter
- Postage Stamps
- Copy Paper
- Peanut Butter
- Wee Wee Pads
- Dog Toys
- Plastic Cat Toys (no catnip)
- Rawhides
- Hand Sanitizer
- Kongs (large or extra-large)
- Cat Beds
- Towels
- Blankets - smaller/thinner (such as receiving blankets)
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Pooper Scoopers for Dogs (long-handled metal)
- Large Spray Bottles
- Swiffer Sheets
- Small Animal Bedding (shavings, straw or paper - no cedar)

We will be taking donated items in your child's homeroom during the weeks of January 9th - 20th. All donations will be greatly appreciated by the animals in the care of the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society.

**PLEASE HELP THOSE WHO CAN'T
HELP THEMSELVES**

Sponsored by Sand Creek's 7th grade Meteorite team.

Rocky Reaches into his Frog Box to See Who Seeks Advice



A reader writes:

I'm having a problem keeping in touch with my best friend. I don't like to call because it makes me sad. How can I stay in touch with my friend?

Rocky responds: One of the hardest things about moving away is saying goodbye. When I moved to Sand Creek I left my family and friends. I miss them, but I know that it is OK to be sad when I can't be with them. If it is too difficult at first to call, try writing your friend instead. Let her know that you're interested in what's going on with her. She'd probably like to hear what you're up to, too.

A few years ago, letters and phone calls were the main forms of long-distance communication, but today, thanks to the internet and cell phones, there are more options for keeping connected. Combine the old with the new! Just a quick note or call can get you caught up with your friend and let her know that you were thinking of her. You may have some friends whom you email all the time, others whom you may call once in a while, and a few whom you'll get together with.

1. Write a letter. Letters can be a great way to let your friend know what's going on with you. Not sure how to start? Write as though you're talking to your friend. Tell her how much you miss her and then share what's going on in your life. Include a photo or drawing and finish it off with smiley faces!
2. It's fun to get mail! Send a card to let your friend know you're thinking of her. Pick something that you think will make her laugh or one that describes your friendship. A postcard is inexpensive and it's a nice way to say 'hello'.
3. When you're ready to make that first call simply pick up the phone. Just check in to say 'hi'. It doesn't have to be a long conversation.
4. Texting is another quick and easy way to keep in touch.
5. Email is a great way to send a quick note to a friend. Email photos of things you've been doing or send an e-card. Use instant messaging or if you have the capability, it might be fun to 'Skype'.
6. With your parents; permission, make plans to get together. If you don't live close by, it takes some pre-planning to coordinate schedules and organize transportation. Weekends and vacations provide more flexibility to schedule time just to hang out. A sleep-over gives you extra time to catch up.

Ms. Davidson's mother sometimes lived long distances from her family. Ms. Davidson asked her how she kept in touch with her family and friends. Mrs. Davidson said it took time and effort, but it was worth it to stay connected. She shared that phone calls were too expensive so she wrote letters. When it was really important to get a message fast, she would use a telegram. She said rather than feeling sad, when she wrote a letter she didn't feel as lonely. Although sometimes it took a long time, it made her feel really good when she received a response back! Mrs. Davidson has had a stroke so it is now difficult for her to write or type. She is unable to email or text, so she likes to keep connected to family by phone. She said she would have liked to have been able to 'skype' her husband while he was serving in the military during WWII.

Time and distance may separate and change friendships, but if you're creative and committed, you'll find ways to keep in touch with your friends, even ones who live far away. Don't wait for your friend to make the first move. Make it your responsibility. Elisabeth Foley writes, 'The most beautiful discovery true friends make is that they can grow separately without growing apart.'

For your safety, get your parent's permission before using email or joining Give only your family and close friends your email and phone numbers and do not share your passwords. If you are using a cell phone and also text make sure you ask your parents what their plan includes. A big phone bill might get you restricted from future use. Ensure that your photographs are appropriate. Let your parents know if you are being bullied or have other concerns about someone who is communicating with you (by phone or on-line).

Rocky

