

# Rambling Reporter

February 2016

## ***SCCS Budget Process 2016-2017***

*by Patrick Jensen, SCCS Superintendent*

The SCCS budget process is well under way for the 2016-17 academic year. Initial budget discussions have focused on cost increases associated with salary and benefits, along with the 2015 school tax rates and the projected tax cap.

The district anticipates an increase of contractual salary expenses of approximately \$205,000 while the cost of employee benefits will increase \$60,000. Fortunately, we also anticipate a drop of \$100,000 in retirement related expenses. As most budget lines will remain flat, the only major expense increases anticipated for the next school year would be those associated with the creation of a new school resource officer position and the addition of special education placements at BOCES, which are eligible for additional state aid.

On January 11, 2016, the SCCS Board of Education discussed equalization rates and their impact on school and library tax rates. School tax rates for towns within the Southern Cayuga Central School District remain the lowest in the county. The 2014-15 tax rate at 100% equalization

at \$14.16 per thousand dollars dropped to \$13.34 per thousand dollars for 2015-16. In addition, the combined wealth ratio for the district has dropped from .994 to .904, which will result in a higher rate for state aid reimbursement.

One of the unique challenges facing all districts and municipalities across the state this year will be a near zero tax cap. As the cost of fuel has decreased significantly, the cost of living index and the projected tax cap will limit many districts' ability to generate additional revenue through property tax. Fortunately, the Governor's budget proposal (January 2016) will restore approximately \$193,000 in gap elimination funding to the district.

The SCCS Board of Education will continue to reexamine costs and discuss specific strategies to lessen the burden to the local taxpayer. Board meetings are scheduled for February 22, March 7, and March 21. In addition, community presentations will take place during the regularly scheduled town meetings in Genoa, Scipio, and Venice; dates to be announced.



***Southern Cayuga goes solar!*** As part of the current capital project, solar panels have been installed on the roof of the school building.

## Southern Cayuga Anne Frank Tree Project Announces 2016 Events

by Tricia Ottley

This year's theme for the Southern Cayuga Anne Frank Tree Project (SCAFTP) is "Human Rights: What Difference Will I Make?" In the true spirit of the Project, the SCAFTP Committee has planned a year full of inspiring programming to cultivate and promote understanding, tolerance and justice within the school and community. Several events will highlight the Lost Boys of Sudan, a name given to over 20,000 displaced or orphaned young boys during the Sudanese Civil War. In 1987, the boys walked over a thousand miles to seek refuge in Ethiopia; over half died along the way. In 2001, nearly 4,000 Lost Boys came to the United States seeking peace, freedom and education.

Please join us on March 11 for our Community Movie Night to watch *The Lost Boys of Sudan*. This critically acclaimed documentary follows two Sudanese refugees on an extraordinary journey from Africa to America. Free pizza will be offered at 6:00 at the Southern Cayuga High School cafeteria, followed promptly by a 6:30 free movie showing.

Our Community Read will be held May 4 and will feature *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. This powerful book is based on the true story of Salva, one of some 3,800 Sudanese "Lost Boys" airlifted to the United States beginning in the mid-1990s. Ms. Parks will be the distinguished guest speaker at our Community Presentation on May 20. This event will

include a catered dinner, tree site tours, awards ceremony, book sales and signings. To view a complete list of student and community programming sponsored by the Southern Cayuga Anne Frank Tree Project, please visit us online at <http://sccsannefranktree.org/event-schedule>.

### More Progress Made in Build-Out of the Anne Frank Tree Site

The Southern Cayuga Anne Frank Tree Project received a donation of two benches to be installed at the Anne Frank Tree Site from Bob Davidson, President of Exhibits and More in Liverpool, NY ([www.exhibitsandmore.com](http://www.exhibitsandmore.com)). Mr. Davidson also created the signage to be installed this spring to direct visitors to the tree. SCAFTP partnered with the Harriet Tubman Center for Justice and Peace to secure funding for the project through the Cayuga Community Fund. In the picture Phil Donovan, Southern Cayuga Anne Frank Tree Project site designer and Bob Davidson, President of Exhibits and More, hold one of the new signs.



## School Board Elections

If you are interested in being a school board member, please call or visit the district office for a petition, which must be signed in ink by at least 25 district voters, and returned to the district clerk in the business office no later than 5:00 on Monday, April 18. Election day is Tuesday, May 17.

School board seats carry three-year terms. A candidate for the school board must be a qualified voter of the school district, must be able to read and write, must be a resident of the district for at least one year prior to the election and cannot be employed by the board on which they serve. New school board members are required to complete financial management training.

There are three seats up for election this school year.







SCHWEINFURTH ART CENTER

## BOTH ENDS OF THE RAINBOW

Annual exhibition of student and senior artwork; January 31 - March 6

*Exhibit Sponsored by:*



**Gallery Hours:** Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 5pm, Sundays, 1- 5pm.

Suggested Admission: \$3 Adults; Art Center members & children 12 and under are free.

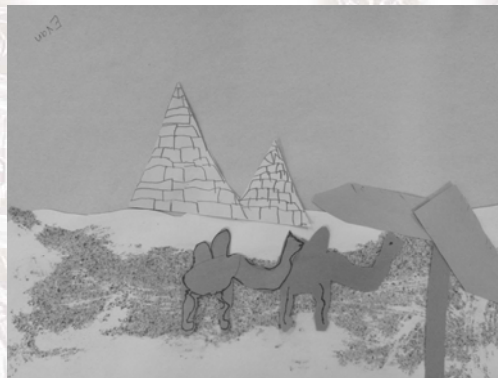
205 Genesee Street, Auburn, NY (315) 255-1553 ▪ [www.myartcenter.org](http://www.myartcenter.org)

Southern Cayuga students with artwork in this exhibit are Lana Brotherton, Avery Colton, Gracie Delaney, Taylor Gullivar, Celeste Herrera, Bristol Hill, Kaylee Laboon, Ana Marsh, Lindsay Morales, Elisa Soch, Teagan Stroman and Abigail White.



This exhibit also includes work that is published in the annual *Three Lakes Sampler*. SCCS students who have work featured in the publication this year are Jacob Henry, Reagan Binns, Emma Bailey, Ellie Miller, Ian Gentry, Lindsay Kennedy, Anthony Canino, Colton Evener, Tae Moon, JD Hauptfleisch, Melinda Breeds, Declan Shaw and Tucker Purrington. **Congratulations to all these students!**

### *Student Artwork Samples*



## Health and PE

by Cathy Murray

SCCS took third place in the “Get Moving” video contest for the Central Region APHERD competition. The student developed “Macarena: instructional and flashmob” video was recorded during a unit in Ms. Murray’s junior/senior PE elective offering last year. The prize earned \$200 in PE equipment for the district.

In 7th grade health during the nutrition unit students are learning basic cooking skills and preparing a brunch dish in preparation of catering the senior breakfast in June. Common core skills in math and ELA are reinforced, as are 21st century skills.

## Modified Volleyball Teams Wrap Up Their 2015 Season on a High Note

by Anita Furness

It has been an exciting season for the Southern Cayuga modified volleyball teams. Practices began October 22 in the high school gym with the entire SC volleyball community there. The modified players buddied with current JV and varsity teammates. It was powerful watching the present and the future come together. Matches concluded on December 15 with a trip to Trumansburg and an end of the season party on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade players were Dalilah DeCoudres, Alli Frazier, Alena Freary, Sandra Raymundo, Kelsey Rajman, Kylie Rejman, Kadi Rossbach, Skylar Starrett and Evelyn Valdez. The growth and skill improvement over this short but intense season was monumental! Mrs. Furness was very happy with the skill level of her girls on that last day of practice.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade players were Sarah Beyea, Emma Covey, Liza Dhameeth, Cassie Krebs, Victoria Majka, Amanda Rosekranz and Ashley White. Rookie coach Maria White and the girls’ team are VERY PROUD of their undefeated season!! With a small roster it was easy to get everyone lots of “touches” and floor time. The last team to go undefeated was the 2006 team of Rebecca Campbell, Kennedy Giancola, Julia Leonard, Megan Pettit, Madeline Purser, Hannah Reynolds, Sarah Rocker and Holly Signor (pictured here).

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade team and the modified coaches would also like to again say THANK YOU to the Dhameeth family for treating us to a celebratory dinner. It was a good time with lots of memories made and pictures taken. Good luck to all in the fall of 2016!



7th Grade Team



8th Grade Team



2006 Team





## FFA News

by Megan Bunnell, Southern Cayuga FFA Reporter

Our Southern Cayuga FFA Chapter welcomes Ms. Marci Pitman, our new agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor. We hope to achieve many great things with her this year. We are also very thankful to have had Mrs. Dunsmoor to help us during this challenging transition.

At our December FFA meeting, we were honored to have Lindsey Palmer, our 2015-2016 New York State FFA Sentinel, come to see what our FFA Chapter has in mind for the future. She played a game with us, which helped her learn more about our chapter. The game was called "Where the Wind Blows." a great game to see what other members have and have not done.

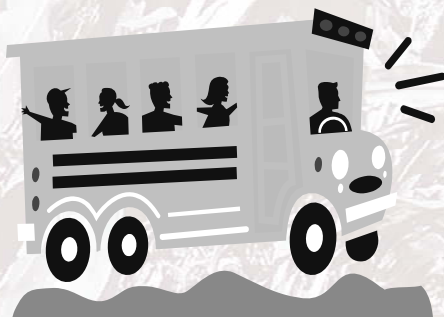
Our chapter then practiced for our Career Development Events (CDEs), which are leadership/public speaking events that all FFA members have an opportunity to participate in. We practiced extemporaneous speeches with random objects we pulled out of a bag Ms. Palmer had brought. This was a fun way to practice talking in front of a crowd and trying to create a speech in little time.

At the end of January a group of chapter members went to an FFA event in Syracuse called 212/360, a leadership conference that all FFA Chapters across New York have the opportunity to go to. Our attendees brought back new knowledge to share with the rest of the chapter.

The week after February recess is National FFA Week, which will be packed full of activities to help recruit new members. February 22 is our regular monthly meeting and anyone from the school is encouraged to come. On February 26 Ms. Pitman will take a group of FFA members to the NYS Farm Show.

We are currently practicing for our CDEs; competitions will be held at the Tully Junior-Senior High School at 4:00 March 1. We will compete in events from prepared public speaking to job interviews and giving extemporaneous speeches.

Lastly, all of the chapter members thank the community for being so helpful in our annual fundraiser, the fruit and cheese sale. We are also looking for some community members to help judge the CDEs in Tully on March 1. Thank you for your support!



## School Transportation Requests Due April 1

Parents wanting transportation to and from private and parochial schools and daycare centers need to submit their application requests to their home school district by April 1 for the 2016/17 school year. Parents must file an application every year, even if they are currently receiving transportation services. For further information please contact the district office or the transportation department.

## Dinner and A Game Skillet & Embers serves up a fabulous evening!

by Carin Kopp

Five years ago, the Inns of Aurora offered to sponsor a dinner at SCCS in part to thank the community for providing the Inn with a strong base of employees, as well as to support efforts to nurture the active and creative minds and bodies of students in our community. Their commitment has remained steady and strong as we celebrated the 5<sup>th</sup> annual "Dinner and A Game" at SCCS on January 15.

The remarkable Skillet & Embers team, a catering subsidiary of the Inns of Aurora, arrived at SCCS on a mild winter afternoon ready to perform their magic of transforming a normal high school cafeteria into a fine dining establishment. Excitement had been building all day as the students looked forward to hosting two varsity basketball games that evening between SCCS and their local rival, Moravia.

*"I believe local businesses such as ours can and should play a strong role in building communities, by linking neighbors in a web of economic and social relationships and by contributing to local causes. Many of our employees are either graduates of SCCS and/or have children attending school in the district. We are proud to be your partner and to contribute to building community spirit by doing what we do best!" Sue Edinger, General Manager, the Inns of Aurora.*

Executive Chef Kevin Sennett, along with Nancie Arquette, and their co-workers quickly got to work in the kitchen organizing a gourmet meal serving over 350 guests effortlessly. Their professionalism and hard-work ethic shined brightly! Weaving through the high school café, one could hear community members raving about the food. One gentleman said, "This is a real home run." Another echoed his words and said, "Best meal I have ever had!" Both Southern Cayuga and Moravia families were awed by the gift given to our SCCS community. Not only does the generosity of the Inns of Aurora provide a unique opportunity for guests to enjoy a five star cuisine, it also creates a special time for Southern Cayuga residents to come together as a community. There was a remarkable array of folks in attendance, from one "old time" family with three generations represented at the event to a family that had just moved here from California. There were clusters of acquaintances visiting together who know one another as neighbors, church members, volunteers, co-workers and classmates. We had 20 SCCS students happily volunteering their time, whether they were organizing dining area tables, wrapping silverware, collecting tickets or bussing tables. The event spurred the SCCS High School to host their winter pep rally followed by the annual Snowball dance the next evening. So many good things came from our annual "Dinner and A Game" including strong fundraising for the SCCS Boosters Club, enabling us to 'make good' on the original premise of the gift given to our district by the Inns of Aurora. We will "pay it forward" with the funds raised to support SCCS based clubs, academic classes and athletic programs while also hosting and supporting school initiatives to build spirit and unity among students and community members.

SCCS Boosters Club and the Inns of Aurora established a shared mission five years ago to build community spirit while giving back to those who live and work in the Southern Cayuga area. On behalf of the SCCS Boosters Club, we thank Sue Edinger, General Manager, her team and the Inns of Aurora for creating something quite special and unique in our home community of Southern Cayuga.





*Varsity basketball players volunteering their time to roll silverware for the Dinner & a Game event*



*Guests enjoying the buffet provided by Skillet & Embers*



*Student spirit at Dinner & a Game*

### **The Southern Cayuga Boosters Club**

expresses their tremendous appreciation to the supporters of the  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SCCS Boosters Club Basketball Fundraiser**

**We encourage you to support those organizations which support the Southern Cayuga Boosters Club!!**

Allen Farms  
Alnye, LLC  
Aurora Ridge Dairy, LLC  
Barn Warrior CrossFit  
Beyea Performance Fabrication  
Wayne and Trisha Bowman  
Dick and Cathy Burns  
Cayuga Lake National Bank  
C-K Family Dental  
Colella's Embroidery & Printing  
Community Medical Center  
Cuddy & Ward LLP, CPA's

David J. Dempsey Insurance  
Dodge City Clippers  
Dugan's Country Grill  
First National Bank of Groton  
Franklin Ag Services, LLC  
Genson Overhead Door, Inc.  
Helena Chemical Company  
Jackie Tyrrell, Andrews Agency  
King Ferry Golf Club  
King Ferry Pizzeria  
King Ferry Print Company

Land of Lakes Realty,  
*William/Nathan Krause*  
Ledyard Farms  
Miller Tilling  
Osterhoudt Farms, LLC  
Pine Hollow Dairy, LLC  
Greg and Heather Rejman  
R. Dean Winspear  
Skillet & Embers  
Walter Excavation

## Athletic Accolades

by Cathy Haight

Two girls' basketball players were recently honored by the local media. Jayde Lyon was named the Fueling Excellence Athlete of the Week by ESPN Ithaca for her double-double on December 22 versus Groton. Go to the High School Sports tab at ESPN Ithaca Radio to listen to her audio interview. Emily Kopp was named the Rochester Time Warner Cable News Scholar Athlete of the Week for the second week of January. Her television interview video can be found on the TWC Rochester news sports page.

February brings swimming championships and play-off basketball. The players have appreciated your support throughout the regular season. Now let's pack the stands and root our Chiefs on to victory.



## PTO Corner

by Brenda Meade, President

Spring will bring two exciting opportunities for the PTO. We will be doing a clothing sale again this year. We have had requests for youth clothing with the Southern Cayuga logo. We will send home information with the students in the very near future.

In April, the PTO will hold its third annual Community Activity Night. We will open the pool for swimming, have physical activities in the gym, have numerous activities in other areas of the school and snacks available for purchase in the cafeteria. Again, look for more information coming home soon.

As you go about doing your spring cleaning, please remember the used clothing shed in the parking lot near the greenhouse. The PTO receives funds for every pound that is donated in the shed.

***"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents." ~Jane D. Hull***

## National Junior Honor Society

by Kaley Driscoll and Victoria Majka

Southern Cayuga's National Junior Honor Society is holding a book drive for the month of February in honor of "Love to Read" month. Books can be dropped off at school, both at Emily Howland and the High School. The book drive lasts throughout the month of February. All the donated books will go to students right here at SCCS. If you have any questions or require help, you can contact a NJHS member or Mrs. Picciano. Every book donated counts, and we appreciate your support.

## Attention Parents /Guardians of Preschool-Age Children

by Sharon Botsford, Elementary School Nurse



We are updating our list of the pre-school-age children living in our district. If you have pre-school-age children at home, please call the elementary school nurse to see if they are on the list. If you have already filled out the paper that was attached to your school-age child's data sheet, thank you.

We generate our mailing list for the incoming kindergarten class and pre-school class from the data we have in our computer system. Please help us make the list complete by calling 315-364-7284 or emailing at [botsfords@southerncayuga.org](mailto:botsfords@southerncayuga.org) with information about your pre-school-age child. Thank you for helping with this matter!



## Odyssey of the Mind Teams Prepare for Regionals

by Elaine Meyers and Mark Johnson, Odyssey Coaches

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving competition for students of all ages. This year SCCS has two 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams preparing for regional competitions on Saturday, March 12. Our teams have selected a problem from an Odyssey list and are in the process of solving the problem by creating characters, scripts, settings, lighting and props. They will compete with teams who are solving the same problem and will be judged on how well the problem is executed, the style of the presentation and their ability to work as teams and spontaneously solve problems. Teams began working in October of 2015 and will have had 25 work sessions before they compete. The process involves a unique combination of teamwork, work, experimentation, creativity and play. Our photos capture the teamwork and play of our process.



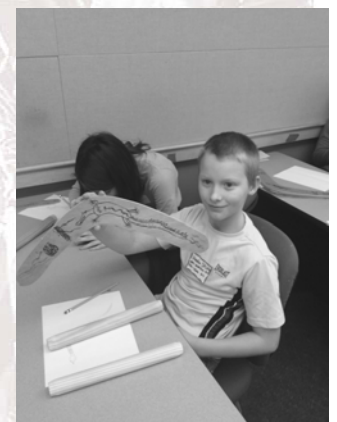
## Mini Courses 2016

by Tim Amory

On January 12 & 13, the entire 5<sup>th</sup> grade traveled to Cayuga Community College to participate in the annual presentation of Mini Courses. This program, which is open to all the school districts in our BOCES consortium and is part of the Talented and Gifted Program, is a unique educational experience that includes a wide variety of workshops presented by local professionals, artists and craftspeople. Southern Cayuga Students were in groups with students from other districts and each workshop was two parts, one the first day and then the second part on the following day.

Students had the opportunity to work in a college science lab, design a rollercoaster, create drawings based on Aboriginal Culture or the Artist M.C. Escher, as well as weave a basket out of reeds, Irish Step Dancing, learn magic and investigate reliability and validity of web pages. The instructors also presented the statistics relating to baseball, a history of rock and roll, pop-up books, meteorology, electrical contracting, and floral arranging.

All the students benefitted a great deal from the exposure to a wide spectrum of subject matter, as well as having the opportunity to travel to a college campus, and be part of a program that includes students from other schools within the learning environment. The Mini-Courses are a multi-dimensional learning opportunity that keys on the importance of providing an environment that supports a variety of learning styles and personal interests.





## Senior Project

by Bill Mullarney

As part of her year-long Senior Project in English 12, Julie Underwood is working with the Red Cross to organize a Blood Drive at the United Church of Genoa on Saturday, April 30.

Julie chose a community service focus area for her project. There are seven other focus areas seniors can choose from, ranging from job shadows and internships to teaching/mentoring, the arts or personal development. For example, we have seniors working with younger students in the elementary school or the high school, creating a collection of short stories and a graphic novel, or doing a wide-variety of job shadows in the area, from athletic training at Ithaca College and Cornell University to veterinary technicians in Auburn to medical professionals at Victory Sports Medicine to occupational therapists from Lifespan to speech pathology here at Southern Cayuga or information technology at Envisage. These are only examples; there are more which will be happening soon. Area people and businesses have been generous in allowing our students to come into their workplaces, and some have even offered to take students before being asked.

Please consider helping Julie complete her Project successfully by contacting her to sign up for a slot to give blood in April. Information is available on the poster.



**UNITED CHURCH OF GENOA  
BLOOD DRIVE  
SPONSORED BY  
JULIE UNDERWOOD  
SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016  
8:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

**Please contact Julie Underwood @ 283-7657  
or email: [underwoodjblooddrive@gmail.com](mailto:underwoodjblooddrive@gmail.com)  
to schedule your lifesaving appointment.**

**Remember to eat well and drink plenty  
of fluids before you donate.**

**Please Bring ID!!!**

If you donated on or before March 5 (Whole Blood) or January 9 (Double Reds), you are eligible to donate.

**Save time using the New RAPIDPASS system!!**

Save time at your next blood donation by using RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of your donation, prior to arriving at the blood drive. To get started, visit [redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) and follow the instructions

Be rewarded for leading efforts that help save lives. Learn more about the High School Leadership Program today at [leader.redcrossblood.org](http://leader.redcrossblood.org).

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

© 2015 The American Red Cross | 116405 | 2015-APL-01219



## SPCA Donations

by Steve Anderson

The sixth grade class welcomed Jim Bouderau, director of the Tompkins County SPCA, into their class to present him with a check from their recent fundraiser. Members of the Emily Howland Student Council organized a "hat and pajama day" allowing students to wear hats and pajamas for \$1 per piece. Overall, the school raised \$500 for the SPCA. Jim spent some time with the sixth graders describing how each dollar raised helps the agency and commended the students on their efforts. Well done, Emily Howland!



## Technology in Action!

by Daniel Holden

With the school year progressing along rapidly, the Technology students find themselves challenged by many varying activities.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Engineering by Design students recently completed the “Boomilever” case study. This case study pitted student teams in a head-to-head competition of design and fabrication in an effort to build the structure that held the most weight while having the least mass. The focus was to design and fabricate a structure much like an arm on a crane from which a bucket was suspended in which sand was added until failure. The competition was stiff, with all teams doing a fine job, but overall the team of Maddie H and Brooke W led all classes with a structure that had a mass of 63 grams and held 10, 509 grams, resulting in a calculated efficiency of 1,214.88. Well done!



Photo courtesy of Jacob Schmitt

The high school Production Systems classes recently completed the community service project of designing and fabricating toys for tots. Since that time, many students have continued the giving spirit by designing and fabricating furniture items that the faculty and staff have requested. Meanwhile, others are in the process of creating items for personal use that they might not otherwise have an opportunity to create. Either way, as you can see, we are learning and creating items with our own hands, which is most rewarding.

The Energy Applications class just completed a solar unit which culminated with the fabrication of model solar-powered cars. The student teams designed and built scale-size vehicles that were powered by photovoltaic cells and a motor attached to the vehicle, which in turn were then timed over a given distance. The teams were tasked with calculating the speed of the vehicle as well as calculating voltage, amperage and finally wattage. While waiting for the weather to warm up, the students find themselves preparing for our traditional Metric 500 CO<sub>2</sub> races. Parents, it's time to blow the dust off of your old cars and show your daughter/son how it was in the old days.



## Guest Speaker

by Cathy Haight

On Friday, January 29, the Athletic Department hosted a guest speaker to discuss college athletics. Kevin Collins, a former Ithaca College wrestler who placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation in 2015, presented during both the freshmen/sophomore and junior/senior lunches. Over 60 student athletes heard him speak about the recruiting process, choosing a college and the similarities and differences in Division I, II and III athletics. His four key points included how to market yourself to coaches, the importance of academics, hard work equals results and making good choices about a social media presence.

## SOS Leaders Test Their Skills at Destiny

by Tanya Thompson

“You can do this.” “I know you’re scared but you will be okay.” “I’m right here.” “Great job, you did it.” These are some of the things our SOS members said to each other during our team building activity at Destiny USA. Together they become stronger peer leaders and SOS members by practicing some of the same skills they would use if helping a peer through something challenging. As advisors, it is great to watch those who have experienced this trip before grow in confidence and become great coaches and mentors to our new members. Together we reflect on the value of this experience in teaching us valuable lessons about overcoming our own fears, finding strength in each other and how this applies to being a Source Of Strength for others.



## Aurora Free Library

by Sandy Groth

A big thank you to all who gave during our annual appeal and to all who provided feedback for our long range plan! We truly appreciate it! Please continue to let us know how we can serve you better!

With your library card you can download ebooks, audiobooks and even magazines through Zinio. Check out how on our website or ask us! You can even register for a card on our website!

Have you seen our World’s Smallest Art Gallery yet? If you have a piece of art you would like to display, please let Susan know at [susanmac@mac.com](mailto:susanmac@mac.com).

We are gearing up for our trip to the Teen Book Festival on Saturday, May 14. Over 30 wonderful authors including Laurie Halse Anderson, Jennifer Donnelly, Ridley Pearson, Jesse Andrews, Mercedes Lackey and Scott Westerfeld will be there. We hope many teens can join us!

Thanks to the Triad Foundation we have a new Bilingual Early Literacy Station at the library. Please check it out as well as our new castle!

## Hazard Library

by Lisa Semenza

At Hazard Library in February:

We will continue to collect hats, scarves, mittens, blankets & cocoa for the King Ferry Food Pantry. Drop off donations at the library.

Play **Snow Day Bingo** and win a prize! Details and game boards available at the library.

**Snowy Day Game Day Program for All Ages** on Tuesday, February 20, during library hours. Board games & electronic games as well as coloring & crafts! Fun for the whole family!

Don’t forget to borrow a book to read during break. See you at the library.

### Hazard Library

2487 State Route 34B  
Poplar Ridge NY 13139  
Phone 315-364-7975  
[www.HazardLibrary.org](http://www.HazardLibrary.org)  
[librarian@hazardlibrary.org](mailto:librarian@hazardlibrary.org)  
Facebook Hazard Library Association  
Tuesday 9 to noon and 2 to 8  
Thursday 1 to 8  
Saturday 9 to 2

### Aurora Free Library

370 Main Street  
Aurora NY 13026  
Phone 315 364-8074  
[www.aurorafreelibrary.org](http://www.aurorafreelibrary.org)  
Facebook  
Monday & Friday 3 to 8  
Wednesday 10 to noon and 3 to 6  
Saturday 10 to 3





## ***Kindergarten Registration Information***

*by Sharon Botsford; 315-364-7284*

**Kindergarten registration** will be held on **Friday, May 13**, at the **Emily Howland Elementary School from noon to 3:45 pm**. A child must be five (5) years old on or before December 1, 2016, to be eligible to start school. Under current law, children who turn six after December 1, 2016, must begin school no later than the first day of school the following September.

Our mailing for next year's incoming kindergarten students will be sent out in the beginning of March. If your child is eligible for kindergarten and you didn't receive a letter, please call me at the number above.

**Pre-Kindergarten informational night** will be **Monday, April 4**, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at Emily Howland Elementary School Cafeteria. Children who turn four (4) on or before December 1, 2016, are eligible to attend our pre-kindergarten program. A mailing will be sent out in the beginning of March. If your child is eligible for pre-kindergarten next fall and you didn't receive a letter, please call me.

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## ***Results from the Economics/Physics Fuel Project***

*by Carl Scheffler*

For the first time ever, the Southern Cayuga Physics and Economics classes have joined together to produce an answer to the following question: With oil prices rapidly declining, which type of fuel is the most economical for home heating? After extensive surveying, analysis, debate and research, each team has presented their findings and the answers are in.

From the results of our survey, the class decided to investigate some of the most common fuels in the area. The types of energy sources studied were Solar, Electric, Natural Gas (including Propane), Wood Pellets, Fuel Oil and Hardwood. With these factors considered, environmental, economic efficiency and accessibility, Natural Gas was the first choice after tallying all of the votes from the classes. Why? Gas is relatively inexpensive, easily accessible and very clean. With 192 million Joules per dollar and still going down in price, Gas is an obvious economic

choice.

Although Gas was almost unanimous in the voting, the class's second choice was a source of contention and debate. However, Wood Pellets came out on top, receiving just one vote more than Electric energy.

Many of the students said the Wood Pellets were environmentally friendly because the manufacturing process uses the whole plant, the fuel is readily available and it is renewable. Electric was the close third choice because of its safety, convenience and lack of waste in the house. For comparison, Wood Pellets have approximately 64 million Joules per dollar.

We thank everyone for your survey information in support of this project and we hope this information either reinforced your beliefs or helped you see how the price of fuels has changed and may continue to go lower for the next few years.

### **Experimental Results and Class Recommendations**

<b><u>Fuel</u></b>	<b><u>Energy Content in Mega Joules/\$</u></b>	<b><u>Availability</u></b>	<b><u>Environmental Impact</u></b>
Natural gas	192	Readily	Clean burning, efficient
Electric	27	Readily	Clean, safe, but fossil based
Wood Pellets	64	Readily	Air Particulates, ash disposal
Solar	49	Limited	Little impact, but requires back up
Fuel Oil	62	Readily	Waste gases are toxic
Hardwood	6	Readily	Air particulates, but renewable

## Holiday Share

by Mary Ferro, SCCS Backpack Coordinator and Ann Marie Brown, SCCS HS Nurse

Good News! For those in the community who may have been disappointed thinking the Holiday Share Program was discontinued at Southern Cayuga, it was not, it was just rebranded. It has been a wonderful service to the families and students in our community for many years, and we are happy to report that the tradition of the Holiday Share has been kept alive here at SCCS. In an effort to simplify things for everyone, we combined with the Christmas Elf of the Cayuga Seneca Action Agency (which can be found highlighted in *The Citizen*). This agency serves all of Cayuga County, including families of our district that have a need. All families in our district who contacted us were referred and were included if they met the income guidelines.

For us, this allowed the elimination all of the clerical and paperwork involved. Many, many hours had been spent in the past on letters, forms, making tags, matching tags with gifts and matching gifts with children and distributing gifts. This year we collected gifts from donors and sent them to the Christmas Elf to be matched and distributed to families.

For the families, this allowed them to pick up their gifts at one location, as in the past many were getting gifts here and with the Christmas Elf. The consolidation made for less driving for these families.

We had some really wonderful local donations this year for the Holiday Share Program, the Backpack Program and the King Ferry Food Pantry. For donors who wanted their gifts to stay right here in Southern Cayuga, we did a few extra special things at the King Ferry Food Pantry, who combined efforts with several local churches in an effort to reach all of our residents. We purchased blankets, socks, mittens, hats, extra food items and other nice items for Christmas gifts that might not be quite what the Christmas Elf was giving.

A BIG thank you goes out to all who helped this year! A special thank you to CLNB for their angel tree and the Genoa Pit Stop, who collected donations from customers. Thank you also to the many generous local businesses and individuals who helped with our success. While change is sometimes hard, this streamlined the process for us here at SCCS and for those receiving gifts. In the end we would call the program a great success this year!!



## Marine Biology Students Dive into Learning

by Erica VanNostrand

The Southern Cayuga marine biology class taught by Ms. Rejman spent January 24 scuba diving in the school's pool. Starting early in the morning, students met in the pool and geared up to dive. Henry McDonald, a certified scuba instructor from Finger Lakes Scuba in Auburn, brought suits and equipment. Students were then allowed to swim at their leisure and gain confidence with the equipment strapped to their bodies. Students took their pulse readings right before getting into the water, then again while underwater, to compare the results. Results will now be used in lab conclusions to be done in class.





## Southern Cayuga Scholarship Foundation

by Marian Brown

Thanks for another great SC Scholarship Foundation Phonathon! The board of the Southern Cayuga Scholarship Foundation thanks everyone involved for another phenomenally successful fundraising Phonathon. All 21 student Phonathon volunteers did a great job: Cody Butzer, Avery Clark, Claire Colton, Alexcis Coningsby, Dylon Conklin, Jon Dean, Dalton Elser, Jessie Farkas, Mitch Fessenden, Monica Groth, Hunter Kermidas, Emily Kopp, Tanner Marshall, Molly Murphy, Sam Nolan, Sam Schneider, Liam Sloan, Jack Stebbins, Samantha Tratt, Sarah Van De Valk, and Erica VanNostrand.

Over the two nights of calls to district residents, our Phonathon operators received over \$7,500 in firm pledges of support. We expect to exceed our fundraising goal of \$12,000! All donated funds will be distributed back to our school community in the form of scholarship awards made later this spring. All funds raised locally by the SCSF are awarded locally and provide financial support for graduating SCCS seniors going on to college or vocational programs, or for district college students continuing their studies.



We thank all our donors for their generous financial support. If you haven't yet sent in your pledge payment, we would appreciate receiving it by March 31. If we didn't reach you during this year's Phonathon and you wish to make a fully tax-deductible donation of support, please send your check made payable to Central New York Community Foundation, Inc., 431 East Fayette Street, Suite 100, Syracuse New York 13202, noting SC Scholarship Foundation in the subject/memo line on your check.

## Sixteenth Annual Family Science Night at Southern Cayuga

Thursday, March 17, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Emily Howland Cafeteria

If school is cancelled on the 17th, the date will be Thursday, March 24.

by Frank Benenati

For more information, contact Mr. Benenati at [benenatif@southerncayuga.org](mailto:benenatif@southerncayuga.org) or send a note. *Good Luck and get those creative ideas flowing!*

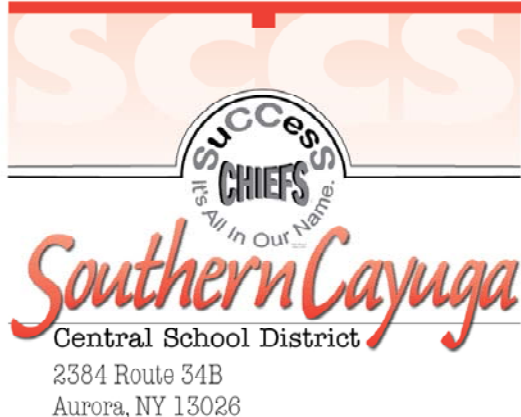
Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

We, the parents/guardians of the above student are interested in helping our student participate in Family Science Night on Thursday, March 17, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Emily Howland Cafeteria. Please send home the registration packet with our student. The snow date is Thursday, March 24.

Parent/Guardian name, phone and email \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, we are interested in helping set up this program. Please include contact information, comments and suggestions with this paper. Please return this form to Mr. Benenati as soon as you can and you will receive a Registration Packet with more information. This form does not register you for Family Science Night.



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## Rambling Reporter

### *Genoa Historical Society Events*

February 20, Fun Fest — grades preK to three

March 13, Irish Fest — traditional Irish music and dancing

April, date to be announced — bird migration tour with Bruce Manuel

May 15, Guest Author — Mary Kay Worth reading, 1:00 to 3:00

### *SCCS Board of Education*

President: Ann LaFave

Vice President: Dave Wiemann

Members:

Susan Gloss

Dave Harvatin

Bruce Kopp

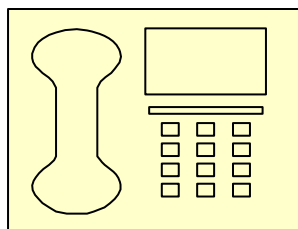
Larry VanDeValk

Dean Winspear

### *District Phone Numbers*

District Office	364-7211
Business Office	364-8711
Director of Special Education	364-5570
Jr/Sr High School Office	364-7111
Emily Howland Office	364-7098
Athletic Office	364-5924
Bus Garage	364-8652

*Board of Education agendas and minutes can be found on our website. [www.southerncayuga.org](http://www.southerncayuga.org)*



### *School Messenger*

Please be sure the district has your correct emergency contact information, including your phone number(s), email address and mailing address. You can add or revise your information from a link on our website, or by calling 315 364-7111, ext 2114.