

High School Highlights

Volume 3 Issue 3

2nd MP 2008-2009



Mission Statement: The challenge to the Southern Cayuga CSD is to create an environment that promotes the pursuit of excellence and a lifelong love of learning. This is achieved by encouraging high expectations, self-motivation, self-esteem, and positive values throughout our school community.

SCHS Newsletter

Principal Message

Greetings and Happy Holidays to you and your family! This newsletter brings us into the winter season and unfortunately into cooler weather and snow! It also is a great time for all of us to provide encouragement for our students learning efforts. With that, I hope that you and your child will be able to look at his/her goals that were set this year and assess their success. Goals are a very important part of success for our students no matter the endeavor. With the start of the 3rd marking period, please take the time to help your child develop a plan to achieve their goals. You can help your child reach his/her goals by:

1. Reviewing their planner each week to ensure assignments are written in a way that they can be completed.
2. Providing a set time and quiet place for homework completion.
3. Setting up specific times to review the plan that the child has set in place.
4. Developing a system of rewards to honor your child's commitment to the plan.

If there is anything that I can do to assist with this effort please do not hesitate to contact me.

January 2009 Regents Exams

Exams this year will be from January 27-30. We will run a normal schedule for all students during these days. Students taking exams during this time will be provided any missed work to complete outside of class. Exam times are 8:00 a.m. for morning session and 11:30 a.m. for afternoon session.

The scheduled dates for the exams can be found on page 4 of the newsletter.

Should you have any questions regarding review please contact the HS office or your child's teacher.

SCHS discipline philosophy update

As I discussed in the last newsletter, there are four main pillars to our work constructing a new philosophy. They are: **Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Kind.** At the PAC meeting on 10/2, I shared the proposed timeline to construct a new discipline philosophy. We met with the student group on 10/7 and the staff group on 10/14 to get their input. Next, we met with both groups together on 10/28 and constructed a draft discipline philosophy. That work was shared with the PAC on 11/20. The student/staff group and I will continue to work on this initiative throughout the upcoming months. Our goal is to have a draft philosophy in place by April/May 2009.

SCCS Long-range educational plan update:

A group of 22 people representing different school and community stakeholder groups met last month with the assistance of a professional facilitator and constructed a long-range educational plan. From the work completed the group set 11 district strategies. There are three main priority areas for the future:

1. Develop, implement, and evaluate the effectiveness of the Quality Improvement Plan (QUIP) to improve the performance of students with disabilities in ELA and Math.
2. Improve district stability by reducing turnover among teachers and administration.
3. Provide programs for students that develop essential skills for success, including the expansion of student mentoring and High School Success.

For the full Long-range education plan, please go to the HS website at:

<http://www.southerncayuga.org/High/HighIndex.htm>

Parent Advisory Council

To date, we have held two parent advisory council meetings and will meet again on **1/29/09 at 6:00 p.m.** to further discuss the SCCHS initiatives.

As always, if there is anything I can answer or assist with, please do not hesitate to call or email me at 364.7111 or CarnicelliL@southerncayuga.org.

Sincerely,
Luke Carnicelli, SCCHS Principal

Inside this issue:

Content Page

Class Highlights	2-3
January Regents Exams	4
SCCHS Calendar	4
Student Spotlight	5
General Announcements/	6
Telephone ext.	
SCCHS Contacts	6

SCHS Class Highlights

English (Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Mullarney, Mrs. Poorman, Ms. Perkins)

On December 17, tenth grade English students traveled to Emily Howland Elementary to take part in the annual December Connection Project created by teachers Elishia Perkins and Pat Armstrong. Sophomores, working in pairs, write and illustrate an original children's story and then visit classes at EH to read the stories to elementary students. Many of the sophomores were read to by "the older kids" when they attended Emily Howland during their formative years. Emily Howland teachers Jennifer Lesch and Diane Kulas helped to organize the event.

Math (Mr. McGarry, Ms. Houseknecht, Mrs. Howell, Ms. Chapman)

As you may be aware the math curriculum in NYS has shifted from a 2 course (math A & B) to a 3 course (Integrated Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2/Trigonometry) structure. Below is a listing of the phase out phase in schedule for the new curriculum.

	Math A	Math B	Algebra	Geometry	Algebra 2/Trig
2006-07	X	X			
2007-08	X	X	X First admin. in June 2008		
2008-09	X Last admin. in January 2009	X		X First admin. in June 2009	
2009-10		X Last admin. in June 2010	X	X	X First admin. in June
2010-11			X	X	X
2011-12			X	X	X

Science (Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Lanning, Mr. Scheffler, Mr. Dempsey)

The SCHS chemistry classes have been experimenting with sugar solutions in order to discover the differences between unsaturated, saturated, and super saturated solutions. Students must predict how much sugar will dissolve in 100 grams of water (about 3.5 ounces) at room temperature, and then follow a scientific procedure to prove or disprove their hypothesis. Most students are surprised to learn that 100 grams of water will dissolve about 115 grams of sugar at normal room temperature. Until the water can't dissolve any more sugar, the solution is considered unsaturated. When the water will not dissolve any more sugar, the solution is saturated. So how do you get a water solution super saturated? As the students found out, one must heat the solution to a higher temperature and more sugar will dissolve in the same amount of water. After super saturating their solutions, students added food color and flavorings because super saturated solutions aren't stable and tend to lose the sugar in excess of saturation. The excess sugar crystallizes on string or coffee sticks and makes some pretty good rock candy (depending on what combination of flavorings one adds)! Yes, you can try this experiment at home! Our next "event" is a field trip to Cornell University's Plant and Soil Science laboratory where our students from agriculture and chemistry will observe and participate in the preparation and testing of soil samples for pH, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium content, and water samples for various inorganic ions.

The SCHS astronomy class has been studying meteor impact craters and the relationship between the crater size and the size and speed of the meteor that made them. First they must predict whether size of the meteor or its speed has any effect on the crater diameter. Dropping steel ball bearings of various sizes, from various heights, into sand creates craters. By measuring the crater diameter from each situation, students are able to gather evidence to support or disprove their hypothesis. The data is then graphed on the computer and a trendline established relating meteor crater diameter to meteor energy. Since meteors that leave craters are considerably bigger than ball bearings, students extrapolate the data following the trendline until it reaches a meteor crater (like in Arizona or Mexico) of known diameter. Students then can tell how much energy the meteor had to create the crater and work backwards using various formulas to compute the speed and the mass of the original meteor. While the calculations can be somewhat tedious, students get a real feel for some of the work modern astronomers do. We are still planning our class trip to New York City to visit the American Museum of Natural History and the Hayden Planetarium. The tentative date for the trip is March 19. Students wanting to attend will need signed permission slips and a monetary deposit. More information will be forthcoming with regard to the trip.

The SCHS physics class has been studying harmonic and pendulum motion, energy conversions, and conservation of momentum with regard to collisions. Students obtain the theory and the physical laws governing these aspects from class notes and reading assignments and get further enrichment and reinforcement from the laboratory exercises. We see applications of the laws of physics in everyday life; understanding the basic physical principles of our world is essential to design and engineering of new and innovative products. We hope to soon visit Cornell University's Nanotechnology and Material Sciences center.

The Earth Science Classes, on December 9, tracked a Winit employee with a GPS locator throughout New York State. With the use of MapQuest, and White Pages we were able to locate even where they stopped for Lunch.

Living Environment class is studying the cell in depth. Students have researched the various organelles and created models to present to the class.

Forensics class is working to create a data base of "known" amino acids to be used to identify their "unknowns". They are perfecting their laboratory techniques and keen observation abilities. They will then have to defend their results. Forensic science is all about comparing "Knowns" to "Unknowns" to make an identification.

SCHS Class Highlights

Foreign Language (LOTE) (Mrs. Herstine & Mrs. Rejman)

The Freshmen in Spanish II have been learning that holiday customs can be quite different in Spanish-speaking countries, especially when Christmas comes in summertime in South America.

The Spanish III students have completed reading a novel written entirely in Spanish.

The Spanish IV students are more than halfway through their college course from Cayuga Community College.

French: see page 5

Social Studies (Mrs. Casper, Mr. Clapper, Mrs. Newton, Ms. Netti)

9th Grade Global History students completed a computer based scavenger hunt activity on ancient Rome and Greece for the 6th Grade students in Mrs. Eisenschmitt's class to complete. They are looking forward to sharing this project with the students.

The 10th grade Global History students are completing their unit on Imperialism and will be working on a cross curricular unit on World War I with the English classes.

The 11th grade US History and Government classes and AP US History Class are currently studying the reform movements and the events leading to the outbreak of the Civil War.

The 12th grade SU Public Affairs class continues to work on their policy research papers. They are currently planning on hosting a Chicken Barbecue at the Scipio Fire Department to raise money for their March trip to Washington D.C.

The Local History class completed a project on the area one room school houses and they traveled to Gettysburg National Park in November to complete a project that honors the veterans from Genoa that fought in this battle. This report will be distributed to the Genoa Historical Association and the Rural Life Museum in January. They also traveled to the Cayuga County Historian's office to find out how Sheila Tucker, the County Historian completed the research necessary for the book *Uncovering the Freedom Trail in Cayuga County*. The class was also able to meet the new curator of the Cayuga Museum who gave them the opportunity to see firsthand the extensive collection of that museum as found in their attic archives. When visiting the Seward House, the students were given special permission to see William H. Seward's bedroom which is not normally shown to the public. By visiting these backrooms and attic areas the students were given the chance to find out how local museums are attempting to restore and renovate their collections for the public.



(Top) Gettysburg Trip – at the Eternal Flame. Students from the left to right include: Kyle Hurd-Perez, Lucas Schonfeld, J.D. Tyrrell, Lewis Morse, Kelly Berry, Beth Rocker and Liam Trojner-Riley.



Last year's Local History Class Project – a Tour of the Historical Markers in Southern Cayuga County has been finally completed and copies can be found in the Hazard, Aurora and Union Springs Libraries. This project took over a year to complete due to the return missing markers by the county highway department and due to the final editing that was conducted by the local and county historians. A few additional interviews that took place this fall as well to enrich the historical descriptions and stories behind each marker. This book includes a photo of every historical marker that is found in our school district, its location and its historical significance and stories in an auto tour format. It provides the story behind each of the 43 markers found along our highways in our district.

(Left) The Indian Fields, which is located on Rte 34 just south of Venice Center. It is one of the markers that was re-erected this summer by the highway department and was added to the Tour of Historical Markers.

Art (Ms. Fedorka, Mr. Bakija)

Students in Photography class continue to learn design and composition, and are using portraits they took to create a hand made book.

Sculpture class students are currently up to their elbows in clay, as they design and build a group of thematically or visually linked ceramic vessels.

Studio in Art students explore radial symmetry in the creation of colorful tempera paintings on an underwater theme.

An array of masks made by Studio Art II students, using their face as the basic form, are on display in the HS library. (see the picture to the right)

Drawing/Painting students are putting finishing touches on beautifully rendered pencil drawings of driftwood.

“A Room with a Lake View”- Drawings, sculptures, photographs and other student art inspired by Cayuga Lake will be on display at The String Room Gallery on the Well's College campus, January 5th - 23rd. **Please join us at the opening reception on Mon. January 5th, 7- 8:30pm.**



(Top) Will Heatherington preparing his mask

Band/Chorus (Mr. Harris, Ms. Wadhams)

On December 19th the Band and Chorus will perform at the Annual Senior Citizen Concert at the High School.

January 2009 Regents Exam Schedule

JANUARY 27	JANUARY 28	JANUARY 29	JANUARY 30
8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Living Environment Mathematics B RCT in Global Studies	Comprehensive French Comprehensive Spanish Earth Science RCT in U.S. History & Government	U.S. History & Gov't RCT in Reading	Global History & Geo RCT in Writing
11:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	
Comprehensive English: Session One RCT in Mathematics	Comprehensive English: Session Two RCT in Science	Mathematics A Integrated Algebra Chemistry Physics	

SCHS '09 Calendar

December 22

BOE, 7:00 p.m.

December 24-January 2

No School - Holiday Recess

January 12

BOE, 7:00 p.m.

January 13

National HS inductions
7:00 p.m.

January 19

No School - MLK Day

January 24

SAT

January 26

BOE, 7:00 p.m.

January 27-30

Mid-Year Regents Exams

January 30

End of the 3rd marking Period
End of the 1st semester

February 4 & 5

SC Scholarship Foundation
Phon-A-Thon

February 5 & 6

Area All-State Music, Ithaca

February 9

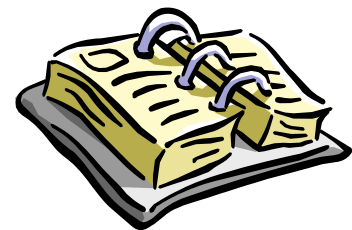
BOE, 7:00 p.m.

February 10

SAT registration deadline

February 11

Report cards mailed



Student Spotlight

SCHS Students participate in WCNY's Double Down Tournament

Submitted by: Mr. Scheffler, Advisor

Our Southern Cayuga Academic team will air on PBS in the upcoming weeks. The team's first round win against Syracuse City School District's Henninger High will be on Syracuse's WCNY channel 24 (your cable channel may be different) on Sunday, December 28th, at 6 pm. The team's second round loss to Cooperstown will not be broadcast until Sunday, February 1st, at 6 pm. Tune in and watch some of our students as they launch their television careers! Brian Littlejohn, Michael Sharshon, and Elizabeth Tyrrell star in the first round action, with Michael Sharshon, Carly Signor, and Elizabeth Tyrrell performing in the second taped session.

On December 3rd, after losing the first game in league play to Jordan-Elbridge, our Masterminds team defeated Union Springs to take second place in the league standings. The team traveled to Union Springs High School on December 17 (after school) for the second segment of the round-robin tournament. The after school Masterminds competitions get underway about 3:30 and last until around 6 pm.

SCHS Students participate in making quilts for Christmas

Submitted by: Mrs. Rejman

French IV and V students are reading the novel by Victor Hugo called Les Misérables. To follow along with themes in the novel, the French students have been sewing quilts. That's right! We will be donating these quilts to our community members for the holiday season. Learning French, life skills, and human compassion has been very rewarding and a lot of fun.



(Top) Brian Littlejohn and Carly Signor preparing their quilts



(Top) Neil Cooper preparing his quilt

General Announcements

TELEPHONE/VOICEMAIL DIRECTORY EXTENTIONS

Please dial 364-7111 and enter the following numbers:

Superintendent's Office: x1100; HS Office: x2103; Bus Garage: x5110; Guidance: x2114; AD Office: x2508

SCHS PARENT GUEST SIGN-IN/FRONT ENTRANCE

Upon entering the HS please sign-in at the front window in the vestibule area. Our inner door will remain locked for the duration of the school day. At 2:31 p.m. they will remain open for after school activities.

The HS front doors will also remain open on Saturday for activities.

STUDENT CELL PHONE REMINDER

Student cell phones are asked to be off and away during the school day. We are seeing an increase in text messaging, thus disturbing instruction during the school day. Please remind your child that cell phone use is allowed before 7:45 a.m. and after 2:31 p.m. Many thanks for your cooperation regarding this issue.

SCHS Contact Info.

The following are e-mail contacts for SCHS teachers. You can also leave a voicemail message for a teacher at 364.7111.

<u>Job Title</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
Athletics Dir.	Terry	UNDERWOOD	underwoodt@southern cayuga.org
Physical Education	Cathy	MURRAY	murrayc@southern cayuga.org
Physical Education	Greg	OTIS	otisg@southern cayuga.org
Art	Peter	BAKIJA	bakijap@southern cayuga.org
Art	Mary	FEDOKA	fedorkam@southern cayuga.org
CTE - Agriculture	Andrew	MILLER	millera@southern cayuga.org
CTE - Ag Science	Patrick	BRENNAN	brennanp@southern cayuga.org
CTE - Business	Susan	CARTER	cartersusan@southern cayuga.org
CTE - Business	Maureen	HOLMES	holmesm@southern cayuga.org
CTE - Technology	Matthew	BANCROFT	bancroftm@southern cayuga.org
CTE - Technology	Daniel	HOLDEN	holdend@southern cayuga.org
English-11	William	MULLARNEY	mullarneyw@southern cayuga.org
English-10/12	Elisha	PERKINS	perkinse@southern cayuga.org
English-9	Ann	POORMAN	poormana@southern cayuga.org
English-10/12	Patrick	ARMSTRONG	armstrongp@southern cayuga.org
French	Beverly	REJMAN	rejmanb@southern cayuga.org
Spanish	Margaret	HERSTINE	herstinem@southern cayuga.org
Librarian	Dawn	SEDORUS	sedorusd@southern cayuga.org
Mathematics	Daniel	MCGARRY	mcgarryd@southern cayuga.org
Mathematics (LTS)	Ashley	HOUSEKNECHT	houseknechta@southern cayuga.org
Mathematics (MS/HS)	Audra	CHAPMAN	chapmana@southern cayuga.org
Mathematics (MS/HS)	Mary Beth	HOWELL	howellm@southern cayuga.org
Earth Science	Michael	DEMPSEY	dempseym@southern cayuga.org
Physics/Chemistry	Carl	SCHEFFLER	schefflerc@southern cayuga.org
Health	Susan	MACKEY	mackeys@southern cayuga.org
Living Environment	Michele	SHAW	shawm@southern cayuga.org
Env Science/ LE (MS/HS)	Simone	LANNING	lannings@southern cayuga.org
Social Studies-12	Christopher	CLAPPER	clapperc@southern cayuga.org
Social Studies-11	Barbara	CASPER	casperb@southern cayuga.org
Social Studies-10	Victoria	NEWTON	newtonv@southern cayuga.org
Social Studies-9	Julie	NETTI	nettij@southern cayuga.org
Special Education	Steve	WASILESKI	wasileskis@southern cayuga.org
Special Education	Bonnie	SPINGLER	spinglerb@southern cayuga.org
Chorus (LTS)	Megan	WATHAMS	wathamsm@southern cayuga.org
Band	Greg	HARRIS	harrisg@southern cayuga.org



Southern Cayuga High School does not restrict students on the basis of race/ethnicity, religion, physical handicap subject to medical eligibility, sex/gender. This statement will apply to all academic and extracurricular activities.
