

School CLOSED Dec. 23 - Jan. 1 for Christmas/New Year.



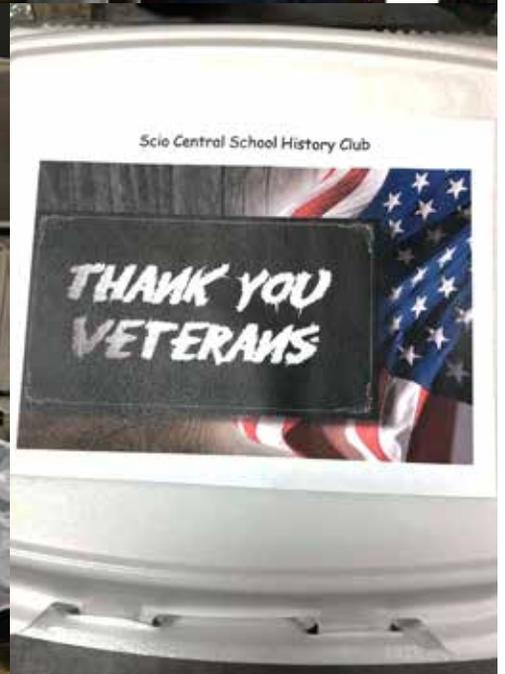
SCIO CENTRAL SCHOOL

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

January/February 2021
Volume XXXVIII, Issue #4

2020 Veterans Day Dinner Different, But Still Successful

On Thursday, November 12, the Scio Central School History Club held their annual Veterans Day Dinner to honor area veterans for their military service. This year, due to COVID-19 concerns, the dinner was served take-out style. Many delicious dinners (with dessert) were served and cards given out to local veterans and their guests. The History Club would like to thank **Joe and Tyler Nickerson** (*standing at right with Social Studies Teacher Kevin Mole*) for their help and **Cathy Farwell** (*shown below*) for cooking and making this dinner successful in thanking our veterans for their service!



News From the Superintendent:

By Mrs. Jennifer Cappelletti

As I write this letter a week before Christmas, I look back to when the school year began and where I thought we might be at this time. I was fearful we would not be in session for more than a couple of weeks. Yet here we are. We have been able to have in-person instruction almost daily since school began. Science is now on our side. Data has shown schools are not super spreader environments and are -- with the protocols we have in place, -- deemed to be a safe place for our students, faculty and staff.

As I shared with my staff last week, we are in session because so many of them are doing things to help keep us in school. I know you have confidence in the people working in this building, but I wish I could give you a view of all that is being done to allow us to keep our doors open. I am incredibly proud of this school community.

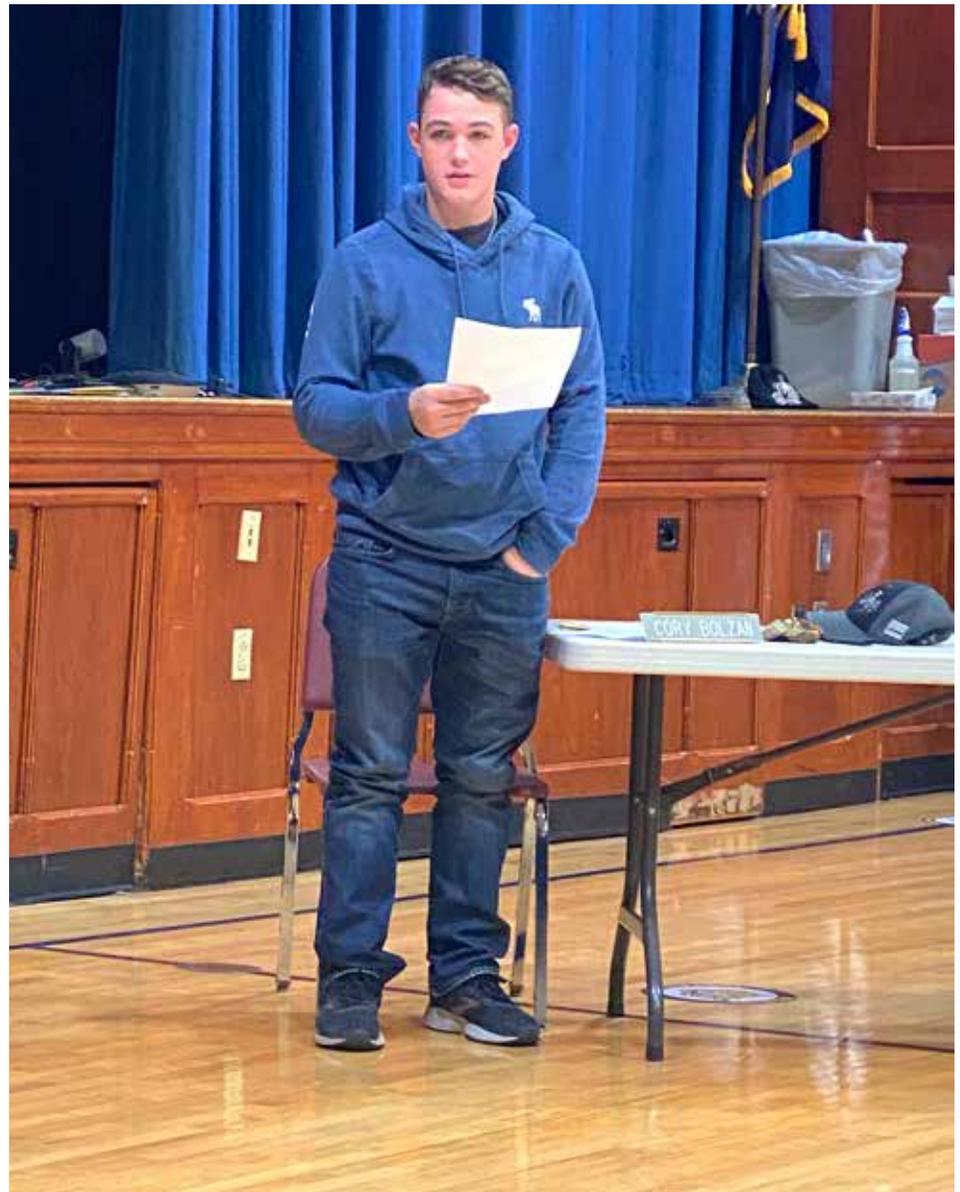
It's no secret we are short on substitute teachers and staff, which is one of our most challenging hurdles. We are so grateful for the dedication of our faithful substitutes. Our school secretary and Dr. McKinley work diligently daily to find ways to cover all of our missing staff to ensure proper supervision. We have teachers, teacher assistants, aides and administration covering additional classes, cleaners working overtime, cafeteria workers being flexible to ensure meal prep and delivery, and our mechanic, transportation supervisor and drivers covering any run we need to get our kids to school. Without all these people pitching in, our doors would not remain open.

Another area that continues to amaze me is our instructional staff's ability to adapt. Our teachers can be teaching in the classroom, while simultaneously teaching students at home, and then later connecting with a student, who did not have the internet to connect. Teachers, who have been quarantined, have also been teaching from home using technology to meet with students sitting in class and/or in their own homes. These situations make instruction much more difficult, but our teachers are making it work. Teacher aides and assistants are also connecting with students virtually and by phone: each is trying to do their part to keep our kids connected to school.

At any point, an executive order, lack of substitutes or another unknown can force us back into a daily remote situation. I am grateful for each and every day we have been in session and hope it can continue. No matter what happens, we certainly can say we have given it our all.

I would like to thank all of you parents again for your support. So many of you have been transporting your children to and from school each day in order to reduce some of

the numbers on our buses. You have supported the school by instilling in your children the need to wear their masks and follow the protocols. Your children have been fantastic! Your words of encouragement are also always appreciated. Most of all, you have trusted us with what is most precious to you. This district and community make an incredible team! None of us wanted to be on this journey, but I am appreciative that we are doing it together.



THE SCIO BOARD OF EDUCATION WELCOMED Student Board Member Cory Bolzan for the 2020-2021 school year. The senior is shown reciting his oath of office in the gym.



SCS Team Competes in Virtual Scholastic Challenge

SCS Art Teacher Tammy Straight and 11 SCS students participated in the area wide Virtual Scholastic Challenge on Monday, November 9, 2020. The academic trivia contest included teams from across the

Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES service area. The event kicked off at 8 a.m. and finished up around 3 p.m.

SCS Scholastic Challenge participants included: Senior Jeb Broach; Juniors Lily Babbit and Shawn Patrick, Sophomores Will Broach and Jordan White, and Freshman Tyler Nickerson.

According to Ms. Straight, “We had two teams with students competing from in school and from home remotely. The competition is different -- having to compete virtually -- but we had a great time, and look forward to future competitions, and hope to do it in person as soon as it is safe.”

She added, “Both (SCS) teams had four matches each in the 2020 Virtual Scholastic



Challenge. There were 13 (total) teams from nine area schools at the senior level. Scio Team 1 tied Wellsville Team 1 for fourth place overall. (Scio) Team 2 struggled but placed 11th overall. Both teams competed with only three members each.”



Pandemic Not Slowing Down Our Farm To School Progress

How do you grow plants year-round without any soil? High School Science Teacher Kyle Canfield is teaching his students how it can be done. The district now has four Tower Gardens. These vertical hydroponic systems can each hold up to 28 plants, which get their nutrients from enhanced water and use LED lights to help them grow. Hydroponic farming is one of the fastest growing sectors of the agricultural industry, and as of 2020, it is being taught at Scio Central School.

“Our seedlings are started and we had electric outlets installed in the upstairs foyer of the school. These systems will be open for the entire student population to watch and interact with as the plants grow” states Mr. Canfield, who spearheads this project.



The district installed their first Tower Garden earlier this year, before the COVID-19 shutdown, but didn't have a chance to produce food for the school cafeteria. This tower was provided by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Allegany County. Last December (2019), Living Environment Teacher Kyle Canfield and Farm to School Coordinator Cassandra Bull wrote a successful *Grow with Us Grant* for three additional Tower Gardens.

This grant was funded by New York State Agriculture in the Classroom program -- which is actually a partnership of Cornell University, Cooperative Extension, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, the NYS Department of Education, and the NYS Farm Bureau. The class will grow vegetables like lettuce, cucumbers, and

herbs, which will be used as ingredients to enhance the school's lunches.

Mr. Canfield is also bringing other agricultural concepts into his classroom. The students have started a dendrology unit and will be tapping maple trees as a hands-on maple syrup activity. Mr. Canfield has also enrolled in a Top Beef Contest, a multi-faceted project which teaches students about beef production, food science, and marketing. He has also expressed interest in raising honey bees at the school, so stay tuned!



Helping our High School Students Cope With Missing Milestones Due to COVID-19

In addition to the many unexpected and unfair ways COVID has changed life for all of us, the important milestones our high school students traditionally look forward to have been taken away – dances, sports, concerts, senior class trips, award ceremonies, etc. Unfortunately, for our kids, most of these events are “once in a lifetime” experiences that cannot be replaced.

Because teenagers do not have a lot of life experience to fall back on, their sense of loss connected to these milestones can be especially stressful.

How can we help our high school students cope with missing out on these important milestones?

Here are a few ideas . . .

- **Recognize the loss is real, but don't try to fix it.** The emotions our kids are feeling are real. Validate their feelings that it's not fair, that it feels awful, that they are missing so much. Listen to what they're saying, and give them time and space to figure out their feelings.

- **Be upfront about how hard it is when we don't know what will happen next.** Let them know no one is in this alone, and everyone is doing the best they can. When we share some of the problems we adults are facing in our own lives, we can help our teenagers feel less alone.

- **Help them focus on things they CAN control.** When life feels out of control, it helps to know there are things we can control. Help teens have control over today. They can decide to continue learning and to behave in ways that will help keep everyone safe. Encouraging them to help friends and neighbors in some way is a good strategy to help your teen deal with loss.

- **Make new memories.** Part of the fun of these milestones is sharing the experience with others. Take pictures or make videos of things your kids are doing that they can be proud to share with friends and family.

- **Connect with others.** Our relationships are an important part of life milestones. Unfortunately, connectedness is one of the biggest losses of pandemic life. Connecting with others -- even virtually -- helps us cope with loss.

- **Help teens see a bigger picture.** Teenagers don't have the experience yet to know that life goes on. This can be an opportunity to build resilience and show them how to survive life's disappointments.

- **If you are worried about your teenager, don't hesitate to reach out to school or community resources for help.** That's what we're here for!

Adapted from Goodrx.com



Dressing Up for Halloween at SCS

SCS staff and students were happy to wear their finest Halloween costumes as they celebrated on Friday, October 30.

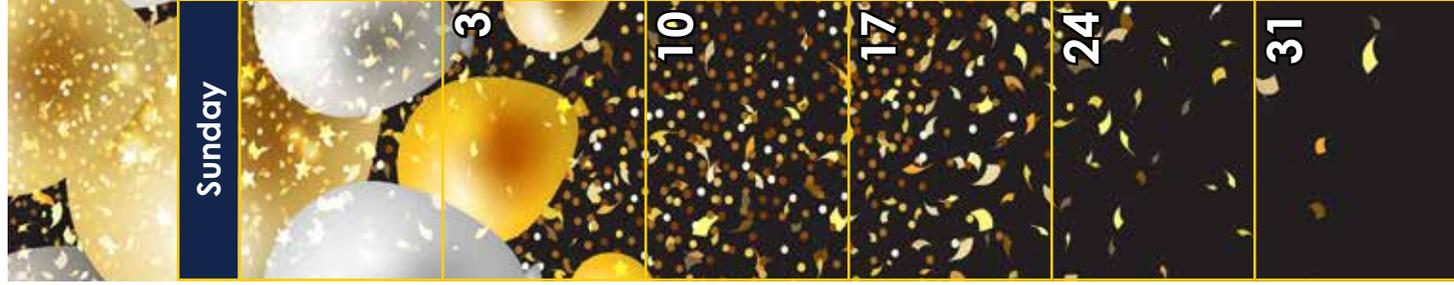
AT LEFT - Some elementary teachers dressed in theme as each looked like a different color crayon.

ON OPPOSITE PAGE - Children in Mrs. Gambino's kindergarten classroom dressed as superheroes (including a police officer), animated characters, and other mythical figures.





January 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Student Recess
Building Closed

Board of Education Meeting,
6:30pm

Martin Luther King Day
Building Closed

Marking Period Ends

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8	9	10 Board of Education Meeting, 6:30pm	11	12	13
	15 President's Day Building Closed	16 Student Recess	17 Student Recess	18 Student Recess	19 Student Recess	20
	22	23	24	25	26	27
						
						
						

SCS to Provide Voluntary Social-Emotional Screening Survey for Grades 4-12

Our school district is committed to the social and emotional health of our students. This year, all of our 4-12 grade classes will have the opportunity to participate in a brief universal screening survey, to help measure our students' social and emotional strengths and challenges. The survey is expected to take approximately 10-15 minutes and will be administered after Christmas break.

Assessing the social and emotional functioning of children and adolescents helps to promote student success. Academic difficulties, along with challenges associated with developing and maintaining positive relationships with others, can be related to underlying social and emotional factors. When identified early, difficulties can be addressed before negatively affecting children and adolescents.

Your child does not have to participate. Participation in the survey is voluntary and opting out will not impact your child's academic status or access to services. All information collected will be kept confidential in accordance with FERPA privacy guidelines.

Student Services will receive the results of the survey. If your child responds to the survey in a way that indicates a possible risk for behavioral, emotional, or social challenges, Mrs. Hardy, Mr. Wales or Mrs. Ludden will follow up with your child accordingly. The team will then determine if your child would be interested in, and/or benefit from additional support services to help him/her progress as an important and

engaged member of our school community. Parents/Guardians will be informed before any further assessments, interventions, or services are conducted or implemented.

You will receive notice before the survey is given and will be given an opportunity for your student to opt out. Your child's participation in the survey will signal to us your acceptance for your child to participate in the school's social-emotional screening process. You may have your child withdraw participation at any time. If you have additional questions regarding the screening program, please contact Student Services at 585-593-5510 and any of the staff members can assist you.



SADD Club News

In November, students signed pledges to not text and drive. Did you know drivers distracted by texting are eight times more likely to be involved in a collision than non-distracted drivers. Take the pledge to not be distracted while driving . . . *I pledge to never text, post, stream, or engage in any form of digital distraction behind the wheel. I take this pledge to save lives, prevent tragic crashes, and make the roads safe for everyone. I pledge to step out from behind my screen and Live More every day.*

Members are currently working on a scholarship opportunity "Driving Skills 101". They will be creating a short video. More to come at a later date.

Scionian 2021

**April 9th!!
NO LATER!!!**

Junior High & High School Yearbook

Memories all in 1 FULL color, hard cover book.



Yearbook (Thru April 9th)
Name (Seniors Only)
World Pages
Protective Plastic Book Cover

\$55.00
\$ 5.00
\$ 5.00
\$ 2.00

Total: _____

Books are sold on a Pre-Sale basis ONLY!!

SCIONIAN 2021 YEARBOOK ORDER FORM

STUDENT NAME: _____ HOMEROOM TEACHER: _____

PHONE # _____

NUMBER OF BOOKS ORDERED _____ X TOTAL = \$ _____

CHECKS PAYABLE TO SCIO CENTRAL SCHOOL

~~~~~ To be filled out by yearbook staff ~~~~~

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: cash Check # \_\_\_\_\_





**Unusual Weather We're Having . . .**

AT LEFT and BELOW - First graders enjoy doing their school work outside on a nice fall day.



**Are You Interested in Being a Substitute?**

Scio CSD is accepting applications for **SUBSTITUTES** in all areas:

- Substitute Teachers (Certified & Non-Certified)
- Substitute Nurses
- Substitute Clerical Workers
- Substitute Food Service Helpers
- Substitute Cleaners/Custodians
- Substitute Bus Drivers/Attendants

Applications are available in the Main Office and on our website: [www.scio.wnyric.org](http://www.scio.wnyric.org)

**Scionian 2021**

**April 9th!!  
NO LATER!!!**

***Elementary (PreK-6) Yearbook***

*Soft Cover with 24 color pages of school memories!*



Yearbook  
World Pages

\$15.00  
\$ 2.00

Total Cost \_\_\_\_\_

**Books are sold on a Pre-Sale basis ONLY!!**

**SCIONIAN 2021 ELEMENTARY YEARBOOK ORDER FORM**

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ HOMEROOM TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF BOOKS ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_ X TOTAL = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHECKS PAYABLE TO SCIO CENTRAL SCHOOL

~~~~~To be filled out by yearbook staff~~~~~

Date received: _____

Payment: cash Check # _____



School Closing Notification

If we need to close school, delay opening or dismiss early, these radio and TV stations will be notified:

- WLSV - 790 AM (Wellsville)
- WJQZ - 103.5 FM (Wellsville)
- WZKZ - 101.9 FM (Wellsville)
- WBEN - 930 AM (Buffalo)
- WPIG - 95.7 FM (Olean)
- WKPQ - 105.3 FM
- WHDL - 1450 AM (Olean)
- WGRZ - TV Channel 2 (Buffalo)
- WIVB - TV Channel 4 (Buffalo)
- WKBW - TV Channel 7 (Buffalo)





Kindergarten Kids Adopt a Christmas Tree

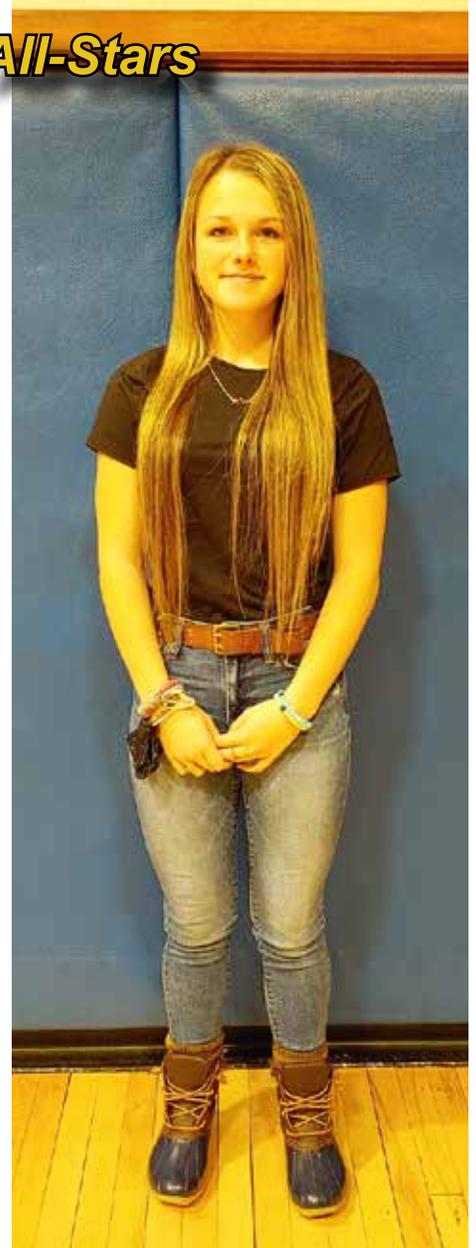
Mrs. Simmons' kindergarten class adopted a Christmas tree in front of the David Howe Library in Wellsville. The students all created snowmen to add their personalized touch to the tree. The class has been immersed in reading books about snow and snowmen. Mrs. Simmons said, "It was a great way to kick off the holiday season and learning about our community."

NJHS Raises \$700 Using "Teacher Dares"

NJHS members raised over \$700 doing teacher dares. Money will be used for various activities such as Teacher Appreciation week. Don't forget to check out the hilarious video located on the school website! NJHS did a reverse advent calendar as they collected different food items throughout December for families in need.



Soccer All-Stars



ALLEGANY COUNTY SOCCER ALL-STARS - Congratulations to Cory Bolzan and Cameron Loucks for the boys (in photo at top left) and Alexis Crossley for the girls (in photo at top right).

More Athletic News

Sports Schedules

The anticipated start date for Winter Sports is January 4, 2021. When a final decision has been made by Governor Cuomo, sports schedules can be found at the following web address: www.sectionvny.org

Tab Collection

The Yearbook Club will continue to collect "pop" tabs for the 2020-2021 school year. Proceeds will once again be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester.



School will also be **CLOSED Monday, January 18, for *Martin Luther King Day.***

Scio Central School
Washington Street
Scio, NY 14880
<http://www.scio.wnyric.org>

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|--------------------------------------|
| NON PROFIT
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BOARD OF EDUCATION
Loren Knapp, President
Melanie Ryan, Vice President
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Mary Weimer

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Jennifer Cappelletti, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Cristy McKinley, PK-12 Principal
Kelly Morehouse, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

4th Graders Use E-mail to Improve Their Story Writing



The fourth grade writing class members have been writing a story with fragments and sentences, and then e-mailing their story as an attachment to a friend, who then highlights those fragments and e-mails the story back to their partner to correct.



School will also be **CLOSED February 15-19 for *Presidents Day/February Recess.***