

Lincoln School student **Michael Bancroft**, a student in **Elaine Wertalik's** grade 5 class, balances a spinning plate with one finger as he practices with the National Circus Project. Students in every grade participated in workshops to learn skills from juggling and plate spinning to balancing and baton twirling. Grade 5 students put on an evening performance. The program was sponsored by the Lincoln PTA. The Sacandaga PTA is sponsoring the National Circus Project in the spring.

Gang expert says parents must be more aware of their children's friends, activities

Gang expert Ron "Cook" Barrett from the Capital Region Gang Prevention Center told about 65 parents that he "is doing God's work" but they must help him prevent gang activity and violence.

Parents, community and religious organizations, schools, police agencies and others must work together

SEE "PARENTS MUST BE TUNED IN TO THEIR KIDS," PAGE 5

Majority of students in grades 4 and 8 meet state math standards

While 80% of grade 4 students and 61% of grade 8 students met or exceeded the state standards in math last year, teachers and administrators continue to be concerned about the number of students falling below the standards.

While high percentages of students met or exceeded the standards by scoring in levels 3 and 4, 20 percent in grade 4 (51 students) and 39 percent in grade 8 (97 students) scored below level 3 on the tests.

The state suggests or, in some cases, requires additional remedial help for students scoring in levels 1 and 2. The extra help will give them a better chance of succeeding on the middle school and high school state tests.

The basic purpose of the grades 4 and 8 tests are as "checkpoints" or indicators of how a student may do later, specifically on the required Math A Regents. Passing Math A is required in order to graduate.

Scotia-Glenville's own "checkpoints"

At Scotia-Glenville, students who score poorly on the national Terra Nova tests, given to students in grades 3,

SEE "GRADES 4 AND 8 MATH TEST SCORES STEADY," PAGE 2

These stores are inside...

PAGE 4 ▶ DARE officers teach at the middle school

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Grades 4 and 8 math scores steady, from page 1

5, 6, 7 and 9, and are struggling in class are referred for remedial help.

Almost all students who scored in levels 1 and some scoring in level 2 last year have been receiving remedial help for the past few years.

At the middle and high schools, math labs are offered for students in need of Academic Intervention Services (AIS), a state name for required remedial help.

Taking the long view

Academic Head of Mathematics Joseph Kavanaugh told the Board of Education that comparisons of scores from year to year are not valid because the years represent different students.

“The more accurate way of making comparisons is with a longitudinal approach,” he said.

Students in grade 8 were

Check out www.studyzone.org for pointers about taking the Regents and grades 4 and 8 exams

How well do Scotia-Glenville students compute and perform mathematical functions?

Based on results of state math exam, 2002; 2001 percentage in parenthesis.

Grade 4 students	Statewide	State criteria	Grade 8 students	Statewide
26% (36%) (66 students)	22.8	<u>Level 4</u> Exceeds the state's standards	16% (12%) (40 students)	10.6
54% (53%) (135 students)	44.8	<u>Level 3</u> Meets the state's standards	45% (43%) (114 students)	37.1
18% (11%) (45 students)	25.2	<u>Level 2</u> Needs extra help	29% (38%) (73 students)	32.8
2% (0%) (6 students)	7.2	<u>Level 1</u> Needs academic intervention	10% (6%) (24 students)	19.5

Grade 4 average score of 660.1 out of 810 (2001 average score in gr. 4: 674)
Grade 8 average score of 724.8 out of 882 (2001 average score in gr. 8: 724)

the first to take the new state tests four years ago.

The district this year will be able to track a child's progress with his or her grade 4 scores, Terra Nova scores and grade 8 scores.

School performance

Schools are graded with a School Performance Index, or SPI. It is figured by adding the percentage of students at level 2 plus twice the sum of percentages in levels 3 and 4.

On the grade 4 math, S-G's SPI was 177; on the grade 8 math, it was 152.

The state required an SPI of 145 on both tests. This year, that rises to 150.

90 percent at Scotia-Glenville passed Math A

Students who *do not* pass the Math A exam can not graduate unless they have a special individualized education plan (IEP).

At S-G, 90 percent of students taking Math A in June passed.

Kavanaugh said no S-G student has failed to graduate because he or she did not pass Math A.

A student who fails is given extra help and takes it again.

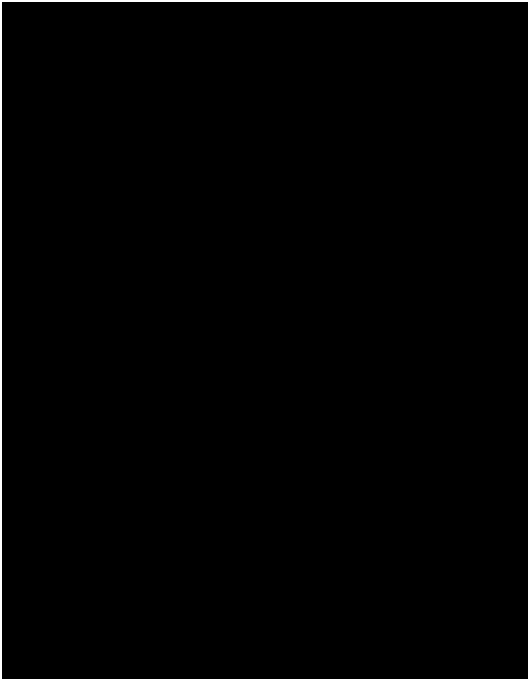
“We never give up on any child,” he said.

Average scores on grades 4 and 8 math

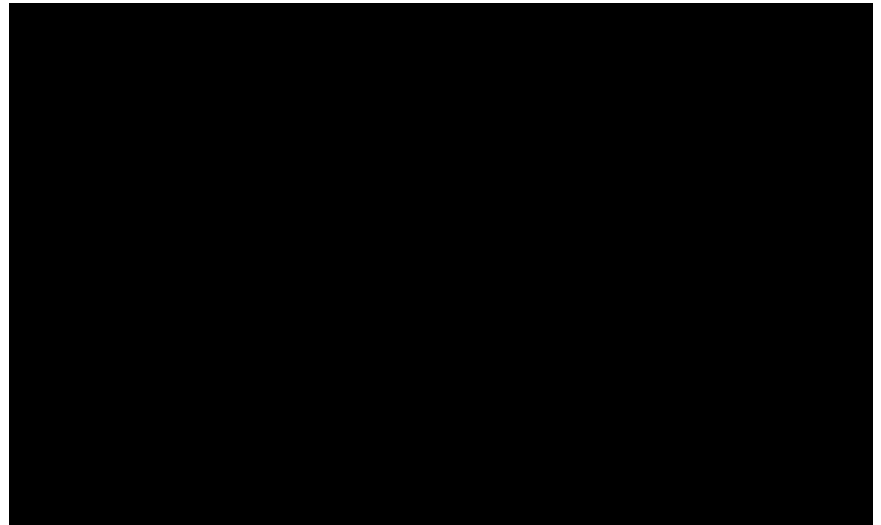
Here are S-G's mean or average scores by school for the grade 4 and grade 8 state tests in mathematics.

School	Math average score
Glendaal	656.6
Glen-Worden	663.5
Lincoln	665.0
Sacandaga	661.3
Elementary average	660.1
The elementary scores are out of a maximum of 800; the grade 8 score is out of a maximum of 830.	
Grade 8	724.8

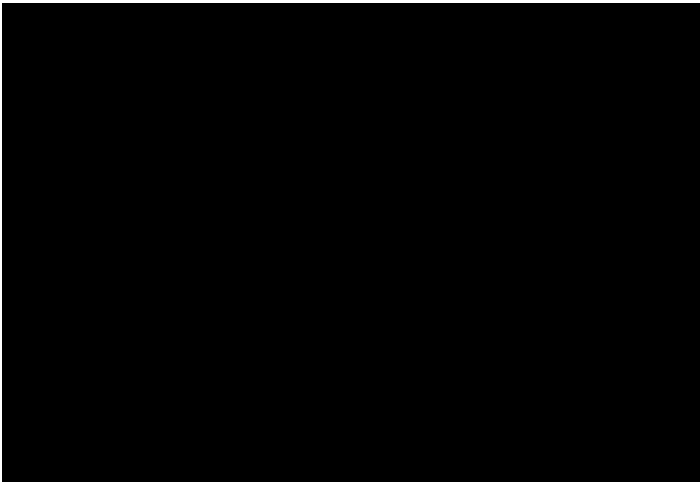
As the building project winds down, a glimpse of the progress



Upper left, students look over books during the annual book fair in the new library media center at the Sacandaga School. The library was designed to use as much natural light as possible and is at least twice as large as the old library, which is now a music room.



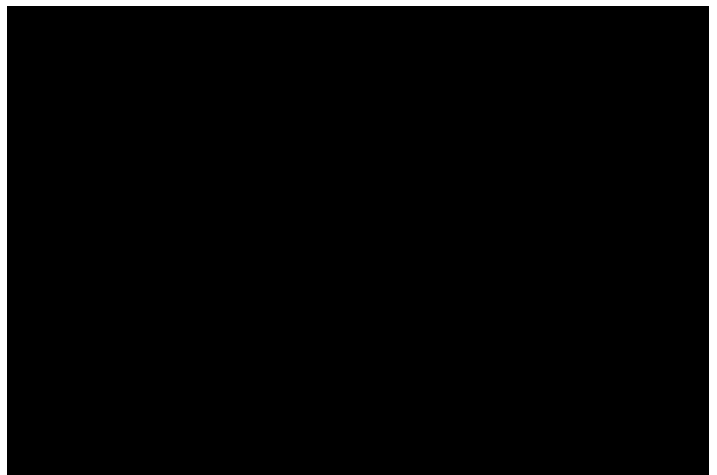
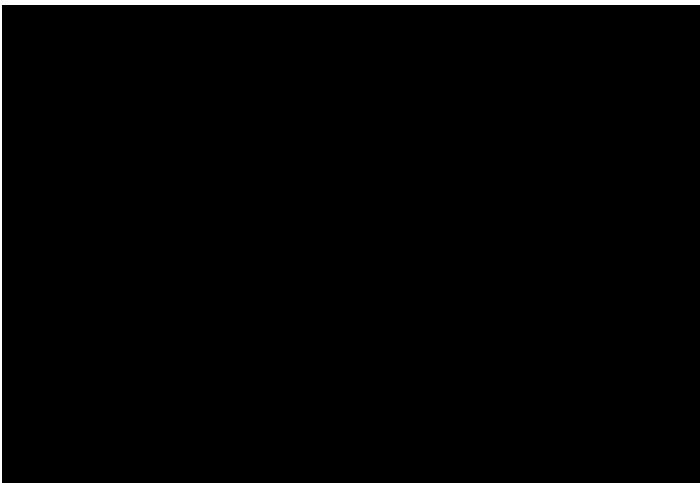
Above, employees from Ray Sign install the new Middle School sign in front of the building. Most of the labor and masonry work was provided by Scotia Rotary and the Student Council raised money for the sign.



Center left, grade 1 teacher **Becky Boisvert** at Sacandaga meets with her students in one of the new classrooms at the school. The rooms are larger than older classrooms, light in color and use natural light.

Lower left, art teacher **Melanie Painter** at the middle school works with a group of grade 8 students in the second floor art room in the new addition. Again, the room utilizes windows and natural light to make learning more enjoyable for students.

Below, students work in the chemistry lab at the senior high school. Rooms in the science wing addition used large windows for natural lighting. Last year, Sen. Hillary Clinton visited and commended the high school because of its extensive use of natural lighting, energy efficiency and other "healthy building" designs.



Police officers studying at DARE Academy get classroom experience at middle school

Thirty-six police officers converged on Scotia-Glenville Middle School on a recent fall morning.

It wasn't a raid. They were invited on "unofficial" business.

The officers were at the end of a two-week training session at the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Academy. It was sponsored by the state Department of Criminal Justice. The academy was held in Schenectady.

Those officers have now returned to their local

The subjects ranged from peer pressure to learning to respect oneself.

Officer Gary Traversa from Pittsfield, MA, encouraged students not to destroy their bodies by using drugs or alcohol.

"This is the most important part of their (DARE officers') education and we are happy to be involved with it," said Superintendent Michael J. Marcelle.

Scotia-Glenville is a strong supporter of DARE

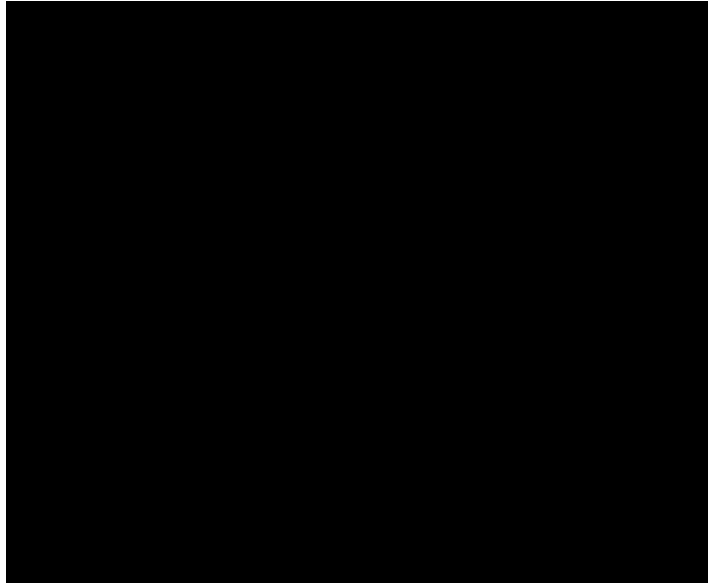
At Scotia-Glenville, DARE is offered to students in grade 5. Glenville

Police Officer Mike Schermerhorn from the Glenville Police Department works with students at Glendaal and Glen-Worden

and Officer Thomas Moran from the Scotia Police Department works with students at Lincoln and Sacandaga. They meet weekly with students to discuss the hazards of drug and alcohol abuse as

school districts to serve as in-classroom police officers teaching DARE.

At the middle school, they taught one period with a class in grades 6 and 7.



Above, Pittsfield, Mass. police officer **Gary Traversa** talks with students in **Sharon Fellner's** grade 6 class about the DARE rules and about respecting oneself enough to reject drugs and alcohol.

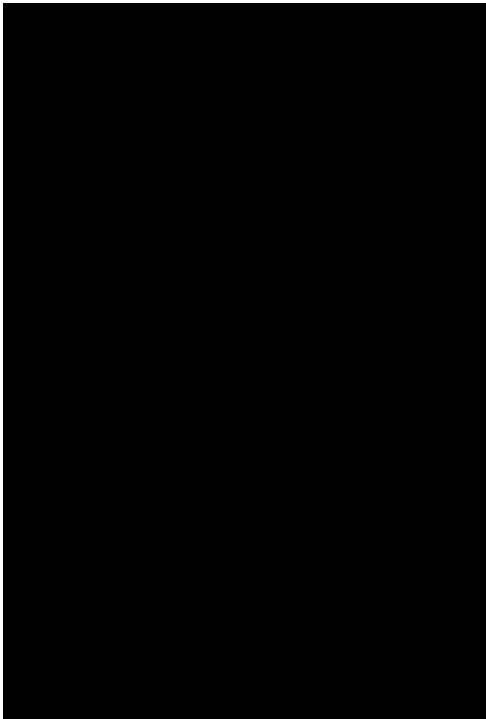
Below, officer **Ed Queeney** of Johnstown speaks with students in **Marianne Burke's** grade 7 English class about how strong peer pressure can be and the need to make one's own decisions.

"This is the most important part of their (DARE officers') education and we are happy to be involved with it."
Superintendent Michael J. Marcelle

well as other health threats.

At the middle and high schools, Schermerhorn and Glenville Officer Greg Restina, respectively, serve as school resource officers. They work with students throughout the day in a variety of ways.

Schermerhorn and Restina said the statewide curriculum for DARE has



been revamped to reflect other issues, like gang activity and smoking, and will continue to evolve.

Parents must be tuned into their kids, from page 1

to recognize the signs of gang activity and stop it before it spreads.

"Be there for your children," he said at the PTA Council program. "Because if you're not, someone else will be."

Gangs shower budding gang "wannabe's" with expensive clothing and jewelry, teach them hand signals and serve as a surrogate "family."

Parents should:

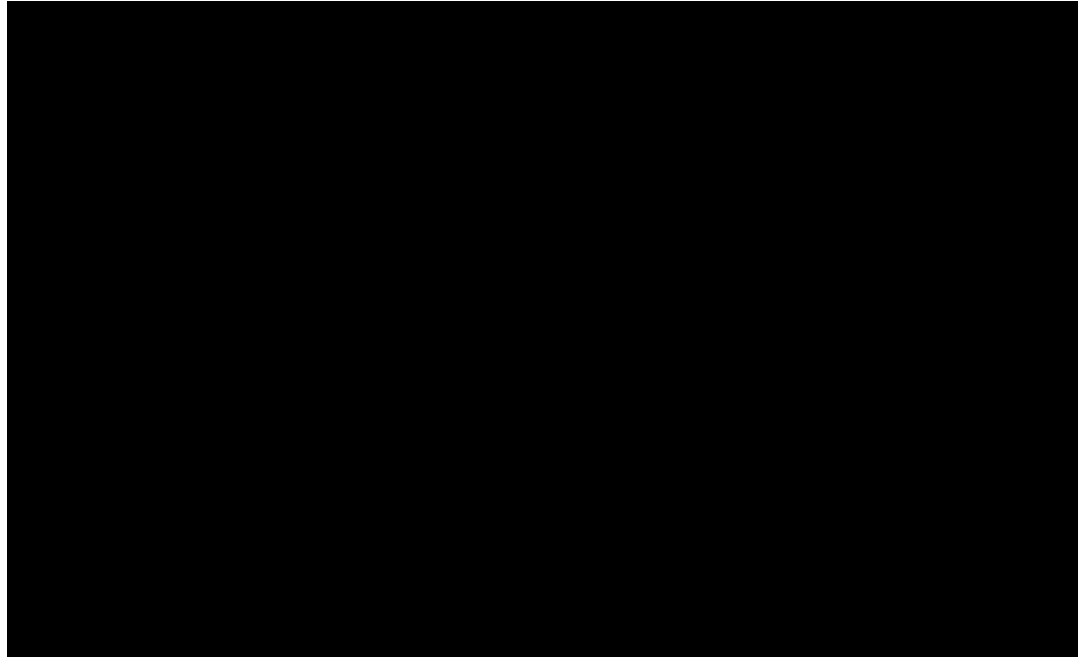
► Overcome denial.

The best way to stop gang activity is by being diligent to recognize gang symbols and colors, similar dress, hand signals and graffiti.

► **Stop being reactive and be proactive.** He urged a "zero tolerance." Schools that suspect gang activity should prohibit clothing or jewelry that show gang allegiance. The latest gang identifier is particular baseball caps.

► **Provide options and choices.** Kids who are bored or disconnected and have trouble at school are lures for gangs. Parents should know their children's friends, where they are at all times and provide them with activities to keep them involved.

The website, www.nysgangprevention.com, has links and other information for parents. ♣



The Student Senate sponsored the coat drive during Spirit Week at the high school. Standing in front of the shoulder-high stack of coats are, from left, **Andrea Keast**, Senate president; **Derek Johndrow**, Senate secretary; **Elise Hearn**, Senate representative; and **Kevin Guzewich**, Senate representative.

High School students and staff collect 635 coats for needy children as part of Spirit Week

Students and faculty at the high school collected 635 coats during Spirit Week to donate to needy children and families through the City Mission.

"This is just wonderful of these students to give of themselves like this," said Al Tomkins, director of community outreach for the mission.

"We are dealing with a population in which winter coats are not a priority; this will help a lot of families through this winter," he added.

"Our kids are really reaching out to those in need and, with winter around the corner, this is an ideal chance to help," said Bruce Kohout, advisor to the Student Senate.

Kohout also said the program was a competition between the four classes at the high school. The final tally was:

- Grade 9:** 95 coats
- Grade 10:** 173 coats
- Grade 11:** 163 coats
- Grade 12:** 154 coats
- Faculty:** 50 coats

Tomkins said the mission provided 300 coats to children last year. The S-G students' donation already doubles that number and should keep a lot more children warm this winter, he said.

The students' donations will be given away during Family Assistance Days at the mission as well as through other means; some may be sold through the City Mission Thrift Stores to benefit mission programs. ♣

Albanese named director of Pupil Personnel Services

Anthony Albanese of Scotia, formerly the deputy executive director at Wildwood School, was named to the position of pupil personnel services director.

He was chosen from a field of 20 applicants. His 2002-03 salary will be \$76,000.

He replaced Carol D. Hodgins, who retired after 11 years with Scotia-Glenville.



Anthony Albanese

Albanese had been at Wildwood School since 1979, when he began working as a social worker and counselor. Before Wildwood, he was a mental health counselor for the Rensselaer County Mental Health Center.

At Scotia-Glenville, Albanese is responsible for more than 500 special

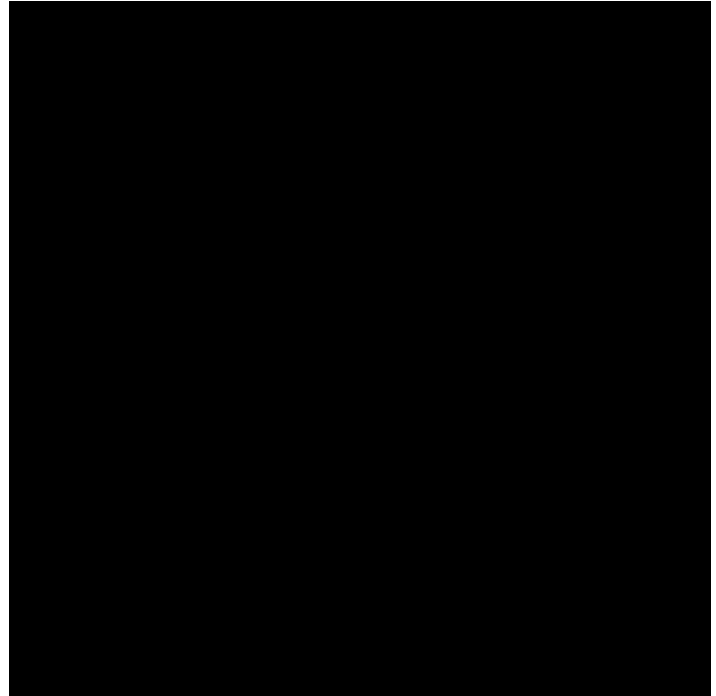
education students and a professional staff that exceeds 100. Those include special education teachers, guidance counselors, psychologists, social workers, speech therapists, nurses, teaching assistants and teacher aides and occupational/physical therapists.

He has taken courses in educational administration and policy studies from SUNY Albany. He holds a master's degree in counseling from the SUNY College at Oneonta and a bachelor's of art in sociology from Franklin Pierce College in New Hampshire. He also holds a certificate of advanced study from Oneonta. ♣

For more information about the district, check out www.sgcsd.neric.org

Look for big changes coming to the website in the future!

Scotia-Glenville: A 50-year Tradition of Excellence



Lili Loveday, an education specialist from the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities applauds Rachel Giftos, a kindergarten student in Carriann Davidson's class at Glen-Worden, after she successfully picked a shoe out of a black bag without looking. Loveday used the exercise to show students how different the world is for someone who is blind. Her program, Making Friends, uses disabled puppets and dolls to discuss various disabilities, like blindness or deafness, and seat belt and bicycle safety.

Annual notification of the availability of the Scotia-Glenville Central School District Asbestos Management Plan

In accordance with the EPA's Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) of 1987 (40 CFR Part 763), the **Scotia-Glenville Central School District** is required to give annual notification stating that the Asbestos Management Plan for each building is available and kept in the main office of each building and in the office of the Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds. These records are available for review during normal school business hours.

In addition, in accordance with this act, a six-month periodic surveillance is conducted in each building that contains asbestos. The periodic surveillances are conducted in June and December of each year.

Before the start of any project we will make sure all building occupants are properly notified and all signage will indicate the scope of the project.

For more information, please contact Mr. James Rodecker, Supervisor of Building & Grounds and LEA Asbestos Designee at (518) 382-1294.

S-G Recognitions

A small sampling of the many wonderful things happening among the students and staff in your school district.



55 students in grades 4 and 5 at Sacandaga School competed in the NFL Punt, Pass & Kick contest.

The contest was held during the after-school sports program run by physical education teacher Barbara Wurz and grade 4 teacher Andy DiCaprio. Here are the winners:

4th-grade girls: 1st place: Elena Favata; 2nd place: Molly Schuman; and 3rd place: Videlia Savoie

4th-grade boys: 1st place: Cody Unser; 2nd place: David Broomhall; and 3rd place: Elijah Dukes and Collin Phillips (*tie*)

5th-grade girls: 1st place: Caitlin Hoey; 2nd place: Alyssa Woodworth; and 3rd place: Amanda Keller

5th-grade boys: 1st place: Nick Huthmacher; 2nd place: Eric Bode; and 3rd place: Cody Rumney

Nominations are being accepted for the 2003 Scotia-Glenville Athletic Hall of Fame.

They are due in Athletic Director Thomas Bried's office at the senior high school by Jan. 31, 2003. Contact Bried at 382-1237

Business students at the high school will hold a craft fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, at the high school.

The DECA (Distributive Education

Clubs of America) and FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) clubs sponsor the fair.

Profits are used to pay for travel expenses for the leadership conferences and competitions that business education students attend.

Nicole Fagle, a S-G high school senior and president of the SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) chapter, recited the Pledge of Allegiance at the kickoff of the statewide Campaign Safe and Sober rally in Albany.

The campaign involves concentrated patrols during the holiday season. Nearly 220 police agencies are participating.

Marilyn Johnson, SADD advisor, also attended the event.

The new auditorium at the middle school was officially named the Anne B. Sterman Auditorium at a dedication in October.

Sterman, principal at the former junior high school from 1986 to 2001 and a math teacher before that, was a prime supporter for a middle school during her 35-year career.

Dozens of classmates from the class of 1962 began their 40th reunion with a tour of the high school renovations this summer.

Annual Notification of the District-wide School Safety Plan

The Scotia-Glenville CSD has developed a District-wide School Safety Plan and confidential Building-level School Safety Plans for each building as required by New York State Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (S.A.V.E.) Law. This law requires the district to annually provide written information to all students and staff about emergency procedures. As required, the District-wide School Safety Plan was originally submitted to the New York State Education Department in June 2001. Each confidential Building-level Emergency Response Plan was originally submitted to the local police and New York State Police in June 2001.

The District-wide School Safety Team annually reviews the District-wide School Safety Plan. The Building-level School Safety Teams annually review the confidential Building-level Emergency Response Plans. All updates are approved by the Board of Education prior to re-submitting them to the New York State Education Department and the local police and New York State Police respectively.

The district will provide training throughout the year and will conduct at least twelve fire drills and conduct a district-wide drill to test sheltering plans and/or early dismissal. Tabletop exercises are also conducted to test the building-level teams' procedures and ability to respond to various emergency situations.

For more information concerning the District-wide School Safety Plan, please contact the district's Emergency Coordinator, Michael Marcelle, Superintendent of Schools, at (518) 382-1215.

Board of Education adopts lower-than-projected tax rate

The Board of Education in August adopted a 2002-03 school tax rate of \$24.01 per \$1,000 of assessed value for Scotia and Glenville residents.

That means a 75¢ per \$1,000 or 3.2% increase over the 2001-02 rate of \$23.26 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The corresponding tax rates for the other two smaller parts of the district are:

- Amsterdam, \$173.19 per \$1,000 assessed value
- Charlton, \$25.13 per \$1,000 assessed value

For the typical homeowner in Scotia or Glenville with a \$96,000 assessment, school taxes will increase to \$2,305, up \$72 from last year's \$2,233. Those figures do not include savings under the STAR tax reduction program.

When voters approved the budget in May, the district estimated that the tax rate would increase by 3.48%.

New Board of Education officers

Kurt Ahnert was elected president of the board. He had been board vice president for three years. He is in his third term on the board. Margaret Smith, who is in her second term on the board, was elected vice president. Officers serve in those positions for one year.

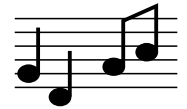
Board meetings are typically held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. Call the superintendent's office, 382-1215, or check under Board of Education at www.sgcds.neric.org for locations. ↗

Scotia-Glenville's Calendar of Events

- ▶ **Monday, Nov. 25**
Board of Ed. meeting
- ▶ **Wednesday, Nov. 27 through Friday, Nov. 29**
Thanksgiving Day recess - **NO SCHOOL**
- ▶ **Monday, Dec. 9**
Board of Ed. meeting
- ▶ **Monday, Dec. 16**
Board of Ed. meeting, Middle School
- ▶ **Monday, Dec. 23 through Wed., Jan. 1**
Christmas/New Year's holiday and recess - **NO SCHOOL**
- ▶ **Monday, Jan. 13**
Board of Ed. meeting
- ▶ **Monday, Jan. 20**
Dr. Martin Luther King Day - **NO SCHOOL**
- ▶ **Monday, Jan. 27**
Board of Ed., Lincoln

All Board of Education meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are held at the District Office unless otherwise noted. The District Office is located at the end of Lark Street in the village of Scotia. Please call 382-1215 if you have any questions about time or locations.

All student concerts begin at 7 p.m. at the high school unless otherwise indicated:



- Glendaal:** gr. K-3 (Dec. 11) and gr. 4/5 (Jan. 15)
- Glen-Worden:** gr. K-5 (Dec. 9)
- Lincoln:** gr. K-2 (Dec. 5) and gr. 3-5 (Dec. 17)
- Sacandaga:** gr. K-2 (Jan. 28) and gr. 3-5 (Feb. 11)
- Middle School:** gr. 6-8 (Jan. 16), (Jan. 22), 7 p.m., MS
- High School:** Winter Concert, 2 p.m., MS (Dec. 8)

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Scotia-Glenville

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