

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

DECEMBER 2017 • JANUARY 2018

EDITOR - SHELLEY MARCUS • ASSOCIATE EDITOR - SARAH UNGERLEIDER • CONTRIBUTING EDITOR - LARRY SCHAFMAN

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Dear School Community Member:

I hope this issue of the newsletter finds you in the best of health and spirit as we welcome the upcoming holidays and a brand new winter season.

Building Project Update

Our architects and our school district team have continued to meet this fall to plan for our upcoming building project which is scheduled to begin next summer. Our meetings have included discussions and planning for the various renovations and replacements that will take place over the next two summers. At this time the reviews include detailed analysis of each project component leading into final drafts in the near future. We are still on scheduled to go out to bid next February with anticipated bid awards to take place in the month of March. This will allow construction to begin in late June of 2018. The building project work will take place over the next two summers (2018 and 2019).

School Improvement Update

This year, administrators are regularly reviewing teacher lesson plans when they visit classrooms to observe instruction. Teachers are utilizing a common, district-wide lesson plan template to enhance learning opportunities for students. In particular, teachers are expected to plan for and implement student activities that align with the National Association of Colleges and Employers' (NACE) preferred attributes for employment: i.e., leadership, teamwork, written communication, verbal communication, problem-solving, strong work ethic, and initiative. Administrators and teachers are expanding their strategy toolkits to support this work through Suzy Pepper Rollins' Teaching in the Fast Lane (2017). As we read this work together, we dialogue over active learning experiences that motivate students, and help them to improve their learning

We are also reducing the number of assessments students take, especially as they relate to the evaluation of teachers. Some may recall that the New York State Education Department (NYSED) requires teachers and principals to be evaluated, in part, based on student growth on standardized assessments. In previous years, students took a number of final examinations that were used in teachers' evaluations. We have now reached an agreement with the Fallsburg Teachers Association and NYSED that will allow us to use school-wide measures of student growth, instead of these assessments, in evaluating teachers. This will reduce the number of assessments taken by students, as well as provide teachers with flexibility on using projects or portfolios in lieu of final exams.

I am very proud of our staff for their hard work on this year's continued initiatives. As you can see between our building project and our continued improvement of instruction efforts, student achievement remains our top priority!

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to extend my best wishes to the Fallsburg School Community as we begin a brand new holiday season!

Educationally yours,

Ivan J. Katz, Ed.D.

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FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

A Successful Start to our Dual Language Programs in Kindergarten and Grade 1

Our new dual language programs in Kindergarten and Grade 1 have started with a huge success thanks to our dedicated teachers and our supportive parents! Our two Kindergarten teachers, Mr. Scott Persten and Mrs. Veronica Serrano, along with our two First Grade teachers, Jeanne Espinoza and Dominick Scanna have worked countless hours to bring this program to fruition.

Students in the dual language program work with both teachers. On one day, the students are learning the curriculum in English. On the second day, in Spanish. Our English language learners work side-by-side with our native English speakers to learn a second language. This new language

acquisition for both sets of students helps to build a stronger, more compassionate bond between students who are both challenged to learn a new language and encouraging of others while teaching their peers a new language.

We are proud to be the first in our county to start the dual language program. With the dedication of our teachers and the commitment of our parents the start of this program has been truly a success story!

Mary Kate Stinehour

Mary Kate Stinehour and the Staff of BCES

From the Elementary Assistant Principal

Beginning this academic year, at the end of the day the students at BCES have been participating in something new!

Prior to this September, teachers walked the students to their buses. Because every student had to begin his or her sojourn at the front of the bus line, it was a long, time-consuming process. It was not uncommon, at the beginning of the school year, for the buses to leave after 4:15 or even 4:20 PM! However, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Katz, Dr. Evans, Mrs. Stinehour, Mr. Grecco, Mr. Scanna, Mr. Schreiber, Mr. Vallone, Ms.

Kleingardner, and Ms. Dungey, that has now changed.

The students are now dismissed in three "waves." The students, who ride the buses assigned to each wave, leave their classrooms, and exit the building through the front door. Once the buses are loaded, the buses depart. We repeat this process with the next two sets of buses.

The only thing different is that the third wave, instead of reporting to the bus line, goes to the cafeteria. The students then leave through one of the four available doors.

In order to maintain a high level of safety and decorum, members of the faculty and staff maintain a presence in the hallways. This also gives the adults and the students the opportunity to say "goodbye" to each other.

So far, this new process has been a resounding success! Not only do the students get home more quickly, but because they have been walking through the halls on their own has increased their sense of responsibility.

Dave Viglione

BCES Holds Annual Safe Trick or Treat and Dance Night



Dozens of boys and ghouls arrived in costume at BCES on October 27, 2017 for the Annual Safe Trick or Treat and Halloween Dance, organized by Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) respectively.



The PTA raises funds to host a dance with lots of homemade refreshments, great decorations, a DJ and strobe lights that transform the cafeteria into a disco hall. Many volunteer hours go into the PTA and SADD events.



Special thanks go to PTA organizers Ms. Jennie Gagnon, Ms. Trevonne Gilliard, Ms. Rosalind Natale and SADD Advisor Ms. Kiffanie Rodgers-Sanchez and all the community organizations that created a very happy celebration.

Donated School Supplies to BCES

On October 27, 2017, South Fallsburg's Bethany Masonic Lodge 101 and Order of Eastern Star Chapter 74 donated back packs and notebooks to BCES. Both organizations have been generous donors of school supplies to Fallsburg and other local school districts for many years.

BCES Principal Mary Kate Stinehour and Superintendent Dr. Katz received the donation from Mrs. Mary Patton McNeil, Worthy Matron of Eastern Star Chapter 7, Conductress of the Order Mrs. Jeannetta Hutchinson, and Worshipful Master James Strother of the Bethany Lodge 101. The BCES Student Government Association (SGA) Officers took backpacks and notebooks from the donors. The officers are President Salih Sinanaj, Vice President Mia Irlbacher, Treasurer Arianna Colombo and Secretary Danica Morris.



Hello parents!

I wanted to take this opportunity to share information with you regarding a topic that has been on everyone's minds, namely, bullying. All one has to do is read the newspaper or social media and we see that school districts across the country are dealing with this issue. Additionally, issues have arisen in the television and movie industries, and it seems very clear that we need to be more diligent than ever.

The Fallsburg District is keenly aware of the challenges our students face, both academically and socially. We educate our students everyday about what it means to be a polite, respectful member of the community and why we need to value everyone for who they are. You, as parents and guardians, play an important role as well in educating your child about respect and acceptance. To that end, I have attached some helpful hints on how parents can address the issue of bullying with their child and what steps they can take to protect them. These are taken from "U.S. News and World Report."

1. Talk to your kids. It's not always easy to get your kids to open up to you. But that doesn't mean you should stop trying. Ask every day about their day – who they ate lunch with or played with at recess, suggests Susan Swearer, professor of educational psychology who researches bullying at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. That will lay the groundwork for your children to pipe up about little things, before a crisis emerges, she says. Ask about their online activities as well. Often, kids don't understand the impact of their online behavior and require education about privacy settings and their "digital reputation," says Sameer Hinduja, co-director of the Cyberbullying Research Center and criminology professor at Florida Atlantic University. "Broach the topic, even if it seems a little bit clumsy because you don't know the technological jargon," he says. "The Internet is not just part of their lives. It is their lives."
2. Be an example. Your kids are watching – and learning from – your behavior. «If we call someone a name,» or «get upset with someone and hang up on [them,]» they might follow suit, Young says.
3. Look for changes in your child's behavior or belong-

ings. "Trust your instincts," Young says. "You know your child." If an outgoing kid becomes withdrawn or a strong student's grades drop, take notice. Beware, too, of kids feigning excuses, like stomachaches, to stay home from school or taking different routes to school. And pay attention to personal items that are missing, torn or mysteriously show up in their belongings. These signs may indicate a child is being bullied or bullying someone else, Temkin says.

4. Treat the problem. Your response to bullying behavior will depend on the incident. But there is plenty of help to guide you. For starters, the child must alert a parent or trusted adult when feeling threatened, intimidated, or excluded. Then, document the incident and reach out to your allies. "It's very important for the parents to have good relationships with their children's teachers," Swearer says. Unless the conflict involves a kid whose parent you know well, it's often best to tackle the incident with the help of a school professional who can act as a mediator. "When the day is done, most parents are going to defend their children," she says.

If the case involves cyberbullying, contact website administrators to have the offending posts pulled from the site, and work with your child and school to resolve the problem, Hinduja says. Do not respond by shutting off Internet access at home or banning your child's use of Facebook, he warns. "Those are all very, very bad responses because then the kid is never going to come to you again." Remember that the person doing the bullying requires help, too. A supportive adult can provide the message that "you don't have to be a bully forever," Young says. "You can start tomorrow and be somebody different."

Remember that we are always here to help you in any way, especially regarding the safety and well-being of your child. By working together, we can make bullying a thing of the past.

Remember...

Effort Equals Excellence!!

Mike Williams

My Brother's Keeper Program Visit SUNY Oneonta

On October 24, 2017, thirty-one students from Fallsburg Jr/Sr High

School enjoyed a special opportunity to visit the campus at SUNY Oneonta through the Family and Community Engagement Program (FCEP), a My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Initiative.

Making the trip were eight 7th graders; nine 8th graders; six 9th graders; three 10th graders; three 11th graders; and two 12th graders.

The college visit provided a firsthand experience of life on the campus of a New York State College, generated confidence and began the journey of empowerment to make decisions towards their future educational goals. Family and Community Liaison and Trip Leader Aleta Lymon focused on the junior high school age kids to awaken their awareness of the real possibility of attending college.

Currently, MBK Initiative has 55 students enrolled in the Junior/Senior High School and 95 enrolled in the Elemen-



tary School. The program offers: an afterschool program (in both schools), progress monitoring, family and community engagement activities, tutoring and educational trips.

Fallsburg School Board and Administration Receive Awards

On October 19, 2017 at a dinner at New Windsor's Anthony's Pier 9 Restaurant, the Mid-Hudson School Study Council presented annual Awards for Excellence to Fallsburg Central School District Board of Education member Ms. Kathy Rappaport for School Board Service and to Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School Assistant Principal Mr. Frank Godlewski for Administration.



Ms. Rappaport has performed outstanding service to the Fallsburg School Board for the past 7 years. She is the proud mother of three daughters, two of whom graduated from Fallsburg High School and the third who will graduate this June. Mr. Godlewski, a career administrator for the past 28 years, has been Assistant Principal since 2007.

Area Robotics Competition and Teams Continue To Grow

The Second Annual Catskill New Bot Battle - VEX Robotics Competition



A picture of our other 7th grade team who last year earned the opportunity to represent all New York State middle schools at last years VEX World Robotics Championships in Louisville KY. They are discussing strategy with their next alliance partners from China.



A picture of one of our 7th grade teams who earned the Northern New York State Championships "Team Work" award last year in Syracuse.

will be held at the Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School Gym on Saturday, December 2, 2017. This event co-sponsored by the Fallsburg and SUNY Sullivan Robotics Teams and admission for audience members is free! The event has been moved to the Jr./Sr. High School gym to make room for new teams from our area, and additional teams from throughout New York State. The VEX Robotics Competition, presented by the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation, is the largest and fastest growing middle school and high school robotics program globally with more than 18,000 teams from 40 countries playing in over 1,350 competitions worldwide. VEX Robotics Competitions focus on teamwork and problem solving through STEM-based education.

There are currently over 180 teams in NYS. That is 60 more teams than last year, with more to come. The Fallsburg and Monticello teams will both be adding additional teams in December. While most New York teams are concentrated in the Albany, Syracuse, Binghamton, and NYC areas, the Catskill New Bot Battle has proven to be an opportunity for all the teams in these areas to get together with minimal travel. This strengthens the ability of all New York teams to compete in this worldwide competition. It has also been an opportunity for other local schools to start and grow their own programs. For example, Minisink Valley has gone from zero teams to six in the past three years.

The students at Fallsburg have learned team-building, communication, project management, coding, engineering and mechanical skills as they have prepared for and competed successfully in events around New York State.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to come see the competition on December 2nd!

Coach Don Thomas

Fallsburg's Color Run Against Bullying

The Color Run Against Bullying at Fallsburg HS on Saturday, October 14, 2017 was an overwhelming achievement for more than 100 participants. Organizers headed by





leyball, Leo's Club, Cheerleaders, Town of Fallsburg Police Department, PBIS/Olweus Team members, FCSD Wellness Committee Members, Lisa McAdoo as DJ and for design of volunteer t-shirts, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County. A big shout-out goes out to the Building and Grounds Staff for clearing the 5K course.

Fallsburg Begins a New Way to Celebrate Birthdays in School

In the interests of creating a healthier way to celebrate birthdays at FCSD, the Wellness Committee has made available a Celebration Cart to classrooms. Through the generosity of Sullivan County Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), the mobile cart is brightly decorated and filled with games and activities that the birthday children can select and share with classmates during a brief celebration period. Third grade teacher and member of the Wellness Committee Mrs. Jennie Kohler took the Cart for its maiden voyage on September 27 to acknowledge the birthdays of three students: Fatoumata, Blanca and Inmer.



BCES teachers Ms. Heather Mady, Ms. Jessica Bradley and Ms. Heather Clausen helped make the day a great success in the 5K run/walk to combat



After singing Happy Birthday to their classmates, the kids immersed themselves in table tennis, jump rope, Lego and other activities. The room was filled with healthy exercise and interaction among students. Mrs. Kohler thought it

was a great success and has shared her experience with other teachers. By the cheering and smiles on the faces of all the third graders, they are sharing their delight with siblings and other students as well. By all signs, the Celebration Cart is a big success. Other school districts have contacted FCSD to adopt the idea as well.

Boys' Soccer

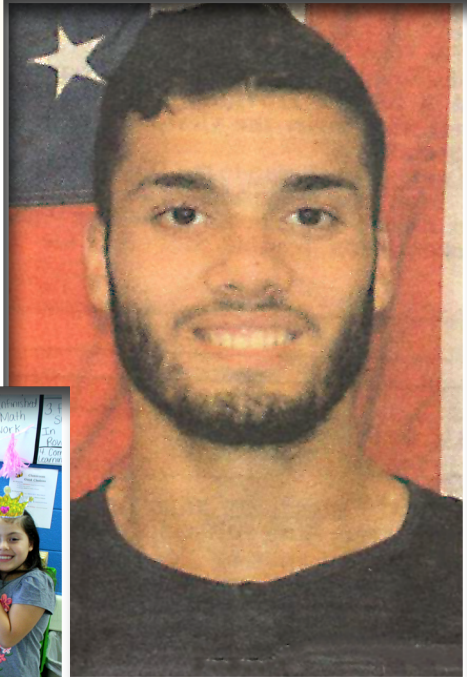
The boys' varsity soccer team won the OCIAA Division IV title and was the number three seed heading into the section IX tournament. The team played well and defeated Liberty at Fallsburg on Saturday, October 21, 2017. They then moved on to play and travel to Rhinebeck on Monday, October 23, 2017 for a hard-fought semifinal game, concluding their season. The team was honored at the November 2017 Board of Education meeting.

The following students received special recognition: Section IX Coaches Association All Star Team Class B boys' soccer, Kelvin Nunez Valle, Selvin Brizuela.

Section IX Coaches Association All-Section All-Star team, Kelvin Nunez Valle.

118 Goals

Please congratulate Kelvin Nunez Valle as he has completed his senior soccer season netting 118 goals between 2013-2018. Kelvin was honored at the November 2017 Board of Education meeting.



bullying and promote positive behavior in FCSD. At the start of the race participants doused each other merrily with baggies of paint dust, and event staff along the route sprayed runners with colored food spray. Giggles and laughter abounded throughout the day.

Supporting organizations for the event included Varsity Girls' Soccer, Modified Football, Cross Country, Vol-



2017-2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER										
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	17	18	19	20	21	22	23				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			31										

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6						1	2	3	1	2	3					1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

MAY							JUNE							JULY							AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

 SCHOOL CLOSED
 CONFERENCE DAY
 REGENTS EXAMS
 TESTING DAYS
 GO HOME EARLY DRILL

SCHOOL CLOSED

SEPTEMBER	.....	21
OCTOBER	.....	6 - 1/2 DAY CONFERENCE, 9
NOVEMBER	.....	1 - FULL DAY CONFERENCE, 10, 22 - 24
DECEMBER	..	8 - FULL DAY CONFERENCE, 15 1/2 DAY CONFERENCE, 25 - 29
JANUARY	.....	1, 15
FEBRUARY	.....	16 - FULL DAY CONFERENCE, 19
MARCH	.....	9 - 1/2 DAY CONFERENCE, 26 - 30
APRIL	.....	20 - 1/2 DAY CONFERENCE
MAY	.....	28

SCHOOL DAYS

SEPTEMBER	.....	17	+	1	CONFERENCE
OCTOBER	.....	21			
NOVEMBER	.....	17	+	1	CONFERENCE
DECEMBER	.....	15	+	1	CONFERENCE
JANUARY	.....	21			
FEBRUARY	.....	18	+	1	CONFERENCE
MARCH	.....	17			
APRIL	.....	21			
MAY	.....	22			
JUNE	.....	16			

TOTAL **185** + **4 CONF** = **189**

MAKE-UP DAYS

DAY 1	.....	MARCH 26
DAY 2	.....	MARCH 27
DAY 3	.....	MARCH 28
DAY 4	.....	MARCH 29

* if all snow days are used this day will become a student day and not a conference day

GIVE BACK DAYS

1 st day	.....	MAY 25
2 nd day	.....	MARCH 23
3 rd day	.....	MARCH 22
4 th day	.....	MARCH 21

SAVE THE DATE

**FALLSBURG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S
14TH ANNUAL REUNION & LUNCHEON
SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2018**

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

115 Brickman Road • PO Box 124 • Fallsburg, NY 12733-0124

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Ms. Debra Barbiani • Mr. Joseph Collura • Ms. Arlene Hussey • Ms. Renee Kates • Dr. Stephanie Phillips •
- Ms. Katherine Rappaport • Ms. Jennifer Reinhardt • Mr. Michael Weiner • Mr. Shawn Wiles •

“Fallsburg Central School District is a safe, nurturing environment, where excellence is expected, diversity and individuality are celebrated, and learning prepares students to face the challenges of an ever-changing global society.”

CONTACTS

PHONE NUMBERS...

<i>Dr. Ivan J. Katz, Ed.D.</i>	Superintendent	434-6800 Ext. 1215
<i>Dr. Matthew T. Evans</i>	Assistant Superintendent	434-6800 Ext. 1204
<i>Mr. Daniel Grecco Jr.</i>	Business Manager	434-6800 Ext. 1219
<i>Mr. Keith Edwards</i>	Director of Technology	434-6800 Ext. 1258
<i>Ms. Jane Tingley</i>	Director of Staff Evaluation & Student Data	434-6800 Ext. 1257
<i>Ms. Leighanne Russell</i>	Pupil Personnel Director	434-6800 Ext. 1273
<i>Mr. Michael Williams</i>	High School Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2203
<i>Mr. Frank Godlewski</i>	High School Assistant Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2207
<i>Ms. Mary Kate Stinehour</i>	Elementary Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3206
<i>Mr. David Viglione</i>	Elementary Assistant Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3204
<i>Ms. Suzanne Lendzian</i>	Director of Physical Education & Athletics	434-6800 Ext. 2212
Central Registration		434-6800 ext. 1222
Tax Collection		434-6800 Ext. 1219

FAX NUMBERS...

<i>Superintendent</i>	434-8346
<i>Business Office</i>	434-0418
<i>High School</i>	434-0168
<i>Jr./Sr. HS Nurse</i>	434-3821

SCHOOL ADDRESSES...

**Fallsburg Central School District Office
& Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School**
115 Brickman Road • PO Box 124 • Fallsburg, NY 12733-0124

Benjamin Cosor Elementary School
15 Old Falls Road • PO Box 123 • Fallsburg, NY 12733-0123

WEBSITE: www.fallsburgcsd.net

If you want to notify the tax collector with a change of address, you can now e-mail that information to: tax@fallsburgcsd.net.

KEEPING YOU POSTED

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
12/2	Catskill New Bot Battle	10am – 5pm	HS
12/6	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.
12/8	School Closed – Superintendent’s Conf. Day		
12/14	BCES Principal’s Award Ceremony	9:30-10:15am	BCES Cafet.
	BCES Winter Concert	7-8pm	HS Audit.
12/15	Half Day – Superintendent’s Conf. Day		
12/19	JHS/HS Winter Concert	7-9pm	HS Audit.
12/20	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
12/21	BCES Winter Concert snow date		
	JHS/HS Winter Concert snow date		
12/25-1/1/2018	School Closed		
1/2/2018	School Resumes		
1/3/18	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.
1/17/18	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.
1/30	5th Grade Band Parent Night	7-8pm	BCES Cafet.