

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

JANUARY 2018

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Dear School Community Member:

I hope this newsletter finds you in the very best of health and spirit this holiday season as we prepare to welcome a brand new year!

Building Project Update

We have received notice that our building project application to the State Education Department has been accepted and we are officially in the expedited queue for approval. This means that we are right on schedule to go out to bid in February with anticipated bid awards to take place in the month of March. Construction will begin this coming June.

The building project work will take place over the next two summers (2018 and 2019). Because of this work, our district-wide facilities will be closed for public use during the summers of 2018 and 2019. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Anti-bullying Efforts

This year marks the 6th anniversary of our formal and ongoing anti-bullying efforts. On October 7, 2011, the Fallsburg Central School District collaborated with the Sullivan County Cares Coalition in a training program on bullying called Olweus. The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is an international program researched by Clemson University and has made a positive difference in schools around the world. The training involved teachers, a school resource officer, maintenance and cafeteria personnel as well as the Rolling V Bus Company.

This important training came at a time when anti-bullying efforts were more important than ever. In person bullying, cyber-bullying, texting, sexting, using the rumor mill and whatever other forms of bullying existed then (and now) take away from a student's ability

to focus on his or her education. Recognizing the importance of eradicating bullying at all levels, the Fallsburg Central School District decided to say "NO" to all forms of bullying.

Now, six years later, our commitment to anti-bullying is as strong as it ever has been. Because we realize that anti-bullying efforts must be ongoing we have continued to underscore its importance with staff development for all employees and class meetings with all students. Additionally, we are bringing in a special anti-bullying program for all staff, students, parents and community members in February. The program, called Sweethearts and Heroes, will underscore the vigilance that we must continue to have since bullying continues to exist at many levels. It will be a school community-wide effort to fight the scourge of bullying. More information on this special program will be coming out in the next few weeks.

We have also established an online reporting system. The School Messenger "Quick Tip" report can be accessed from our homepage; www.fallsburgcsd.net. Our administrators will receive any complaint through this, and act promptly to address it. It also bears repeating that our Dignity Act Coordinators are the principals: Ms. Mary Kate Stinehour, at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School, and Mr. Michael Williams, at Fallsburg Jr.-Sr. High School.

I am very proud of our staff and students for their hard work on our anti-bullying efforts.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to extend my best wishes to the Fallsburg School Community as we welcome 2018!

Sincerely,

Ivan J. Katz, Ed.D.

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FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

During the month of December, our hallways were filled with the sounds of laughter, applause and music! Our students and staff enjoyed learning and sharing holiday customs and traditions from around the world. Literature, videos and discussions brought our students closer to their heritage and celebrating the diversity that surrounds us.

Our Band and Chorus students filled our hallways with holiday music! Hallway performances by our band members resonated throughout the building. Our chorus welcomed

our students and staff to school with "Frosty the Snowman," Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "We wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah and Happy Kwanzaa!"

From the students and staff of BCES, we want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family the happiest of holidays and a safe, healthy and happy New Year!

Mary Kate Stinehour

From the Elementary Assistant Principal

On Thursday, December 14th, the Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School Auditorium was alive with the sound of music! On that night, under the direction of Ms. Henderson and Ms. Bernard, the Bell Choir, Recorder Ensembles, Concert Band and the Elementary

The next groups up were the Recorder Ensembles. These students performed three songs. The first was the traditional English song, "The Holly and The Ivy." The Ensembles continued with "Kelsey Lightfoot," and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing."

Finally, we at BCES would like to extend our thanks to Mr. Leon Hilfstein, who accompanied the BCES Chorus on piano.



The Concert Band followed with a slate of another three songs. The band treated the audience to their renditions of "Jingle Bells," "A Bicycle Built for Two," as well as "This Old Man."



School Chorus charmed and entertained those in attendance!

The first group to perform was the Bell Choir. The students played "Pa'm Achat," which is a traditional Israeli folksong, and followed that up with the traditional Christmas Carol, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen."

Once the band had departed the risers, the Elementary School Chorus took "center stage." The students started with "Winter Fantasy," and continued to entertain the audience with "Hine Ma Tov." With the final song, however, the chorus really "brought the house down" with its performance of that Jose Feliciano Christmas classic, "Feliz Navidad!"

Dave Viglione



Leah Exner Receives Literacy Grant Award

BCES second grade teacher Mrs. Leah Exner has received a \$950 grant from the Pi State Educational Foundation (PSEF) for a project entitled, "BCES Indoor/Outdoor Trail Literacy Center." Ms. Ginny Dudko, President of the Foundation, informed Mrs. Exner by letter November 23, 2017.



The BCES proposal was one of seven meriting the highest possible amount of \$950. The grant funds will be used to purchase a wagon that will hold bins of books covering topics such as forest life, animal life, ecosystems, nature, geocaching, walking, wellness, and mindfulness.

Ms. Dudko came to BCES on December 20, 2017 for a formal acceptance of the application to Mrs. Exner, FCSD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ivan Katz and Principal Mary Kate Stinehour. Everyone looks forward to observing the successful completion of the BCES Trail Project this coming spring 2018.

Kindergarten Classes Make Gingerbread Houses for the Holidays

Maybe famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright began his career by building a gingerbread house as a small child.

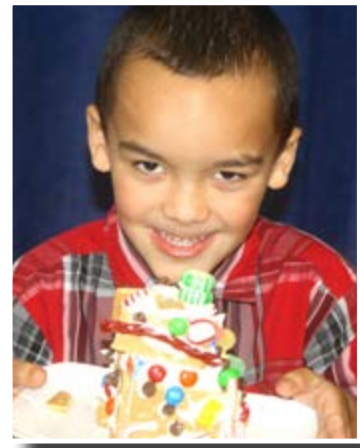


That is what all the kindergarten students were doing on the afternoon of December 18th in the school cafeteria.

Aided by dozens of volunteer parents, teachers and aides,

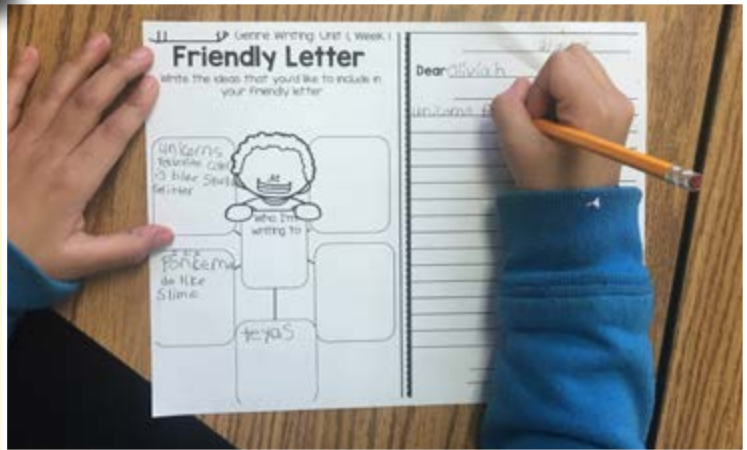


each student had an empty juice box as a foundation, graham crackers for siding and roofing, candy pieces as decorations and lots of vanilla icing as glue to paste everything together. The "glue" was very effective in making everything stick and was also a tempting treat to the young builders as could be seen by white stuff on faces and the licking of fingers. Parents and children were very proud of their creations as they delicately placed finished buildings in plastic bags to take home to either admire and/or devour.



Pen Pals for the Holidays

In rooms, 28 and 36 our third and fourth grade students created holiday cards for two sick children, Oliviah from Ohio and Kyler from South Carolina. Both children asked



for holiday cards through Sunshine Snail Mail as their Christmas wish. Both the third and fourth grade students felt that although it is nice to receive presents, part of the Christmas spirit is also giving and doing something nice for others. Our students worked so hard to write positive holiday messages and decorating the cards!



Amanda Miller and Dianne Martinez

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a relaxing, peaceful holiday season and the New Year brings a promise of great things to come! As the school year flies by, I am impressed more and more each day with your children and the hard work they are doing in school. Our athletic teams have been very successful thus far this year, our musicians and thespians are providing outstanding performances, and community service by our students is at an all-time high!

With the New Year also comes the beginning of preparation for the state exam requirements that many of your children will be facing. Whether your child is in the middle school or the high school, they will be required to take a state assessment. In the middle school, students will be taking math, and ELA exams. All middle school students are required to take these exams. The schedule is slightly different this year and these tests will now be offered in

April and early May. In the high school, many students will be taking Regents exams later in the spring. These Regents exams are required for graduation and are taken at various points throughout your child's high school years (grades 9-12). The State Education Department closely monitors each student's performance on these exams. Every student must pass at least five Regents exams with a 65 or better.

As a parent, there are steps you can take to help your child be successful in whatever exam they might be required to take. First, it is important that every student get a good night's sleep prior to the test. Each student should be alert and focused in the morning to do their very best. Secondly, each child should have a good breakfast on the morning of the test. If your child eats breakfast at school, we will be sure that they are well nourished before beginning. Lastly, you can stress the importance of these exams to your child. We do not want

to create stress for any student worrying about the test. Rather, we want our students to be committed to doing their best in any exam, most especially these state exams. Be sure to remind your child(ren) to take every advantage of the exam prep we offer our students, including the Fallsburg After-School program and specific Regents prep classes as the year moves along.

I look forward to the warm weather returning (think positively!) and the mid-way point to the school year. As always, we are here to help in any way possible, and if you have concerns or questions regarding your child's education, do not hesitate to contact us at 434-6800.

As always, remember *"Effort Equals Excellence!"*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Mike Williams

Fallsburg Wins Gold from Cornell Cooperative Extension

At an awards ceremony on December 5, 2017, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) awarded a gold medal to FCSD for creating and maintaining a worksite that adopted a Wellness Policy, including Healthy Meeting Guidelines, Water Friendly Worksites, Walking Breaks, and other healthy practices. The award also reflects a close collaboration between CCE and Sullivan Renaissance to develop healthy eating and exercise habits in the School District. On Hand to accept the Award were members of the FCSD Wellness Committee.

Fallsburg SGA's Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

For many years Fallsburg Central School District's Student Government Association (SGA) has organized food drives among the staff and students just prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.



The SGA's in both BCES and the Jr/Sr High Schools brought all collected food to the high school cafeteria on November 20th and 21st for delivery to the Hurleyville Bread of Life Food Pantry at the Methodist Church. Faculty Advisors to the SGA's are Mr. Peter Dworetzky at BCES and Ms. Elisa Baum at the FJSHS.

Fallsburg High School Hosts Important New York State Preparedness Training

Fallsburg High School hosted The New York Citizen Preparedness Training Program on December 15, 2017 in the school auditorium for the entire FCSD staff and residents of the community. Preparedness Training teaches residents to have the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions. Led by Captain Brett White of NYS National Guard, the training course provided an introduction to responding to a natural or man-made disaster. Participants were advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking

up on emergency supplies. To learn more about the program, visit the NY State web site: www.prepare.ny.gov that was set up by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.

Photography Contest

These are photos from the Town of Fallsburg photography "fall foliage" contest opening. Students school wide were invited to submit photos. All students were from Pam Garritt's photography class except one. The show was held at the Arts Center in Hurleyville on December 21st. The public



cast ballots for their favorites, which will be hung outside the Hurleyville Arts Center throughout the winter. The results of the voting are not yet available. Guidance counselor and Town Council member Joe Levner helped put this event together. Students who participated: **Nick Normington, Chris Paesch, Kathleen Houghtaling, Zen Arscott, Jaclyn Hatt, Shaina Hurwitz, Natalie Pazona, Kevin Hurtado** and **Brando Castro Perez.**

Pam Garritt

Fallsburg High School Hosts Robotics Competition

The Second Annual Catskills New Bot Battle on December 2, 2017 at Fallsburg High School Gymnasium was a fine



achievement. Co-Sponsored by Fallsburg Central School District (FCSD) and SUNY Sullivan, ten school districts from as far away as Lake George and Elmira sent a total of 22 teams to compete in the VEX Robotics Competition *"In the Zone."*

FCSD Robotics Club advisor Donald Thomas organized the event with SUNY Sullivan's Computer Sciences Professor Cynthia Marcello. Ms. Veronica Bitz, Regional Support Manager of REC Foundation, monitored the competition to ensure that everything conformed to VEX Standards. Dozens of volunteers from FHS and the college ensured a smooth flow during the all-day competition.

Dozens of parents, classmates and school advisors attended to cheer on the competitors. Thanks go out to FCSD School



Board and Administration for providing support to host such a momentous event. Kristt Kelly Office Systems Corp. in Monticello printed the detailed programs. Yanni's Restaurant in Monticello fed the more than twenty volunteers. Everyday Apparel in Monticello donated volunteer shirts and logo application. Rock

Hill's Pizza the Rock helped by offering pizzas for all competitors at a very reasonable price.

At the end of the day, Mr. Thomas commented: "The event was a great success. This was Monticello High School's first competition, and they qualified for the NY State Championship! Wallkill competed in their first match, and they did very well. Fallsburg High School and SUNY Sullivan are looking forward to next year." Registration will begin in August. The success of first time entrants bodes well for attracting other local schools. The future of robotics competition looks bright for Fallsburg and the entire Region.

2017-2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
S M T W T F S 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	S M T W T F S 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	S M T W T F S 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	S M T W T F S 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
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
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MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
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 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!!

14TH ANNUAL ALUMNI LUNCHEON
SATURDAY, JULY 14TH, 2018 • 11AM – 2 PM

HONOREES WILL BE:
ROBIN PANTEL, CHARLIE DAVIS

More information will be available soon.

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...

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

FAX NUMBERS...

Superintendent	434-8346
Business Office	434-0418
High School	434-0168
Jr./Sr. HS Nurse	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
1/2/2018	School resumes		
1/3/18	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15 pm	MS Bd. Rm.
1/9	Jr./Sr. HS Winter Concert	7:00 pm	HS Audit.
1/9-10	Alive at 25 Driver Safety Course	3 – 5:30 pm	
1/17/18	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15 pm	MS Bd. Rm.
1/30	5th Grade Band Parent Night	7-8 pm	BCES Cafet.

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
2/7	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15 pm	MS Bd. Rm.
2/21	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15 pm	MS Bd. Rm.
3/2 – 3	All-County Music Festival		Monticello HS
3/7	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15 pm	MS Bd. Rm.
3/21	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15 pm	MS Bd. Rm.