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SUPERINAL CONTRACTOR

realize that the Fallsburg CSD pool has been the birthplace of many lifeguards throughout

the years who have provided lifeguard services

to the pools in and around our community. I

have also had community members reach out

to me interested in finding ways to offset the

costs of a future building project to minimize

efforts, concerns and supports are helping to

put together what will ultimately be a building

project proposal that will go in front of the vot-

ers during this new school year. Stay tuned for

more news on the upcoming building project

This statement was months in the mak-

ing during the previous school year. Various

members of the school community worked

mately be considered by the district vision-

ing committee. In particular I would like to

with me and submitted drafts that would ulti-

thank all of the school groups that spent time

working on previous drafts of the vision state-

ment, letting their creative juices flow in our

in the weeks to come.

New FCSD Vision Statement

the impact on our taxpayers. All of these

Dear School Community Member:

hope this Welcome Back issue of the Comet newsletter finds you in the best of health and spirit as we prepare to welcome the 2016-17 school year! As this newsletter goes to print, the halfway point of the summer break has come and gone. We are now looking forward to the start of a brand new school year with brand new opportunities. Below are a few updates that I would like you to make note of as we prepare to begin our school year.

Future Building Project Update

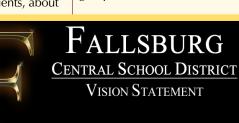
In the previous school year (2015-16), the District entered into discussions regarding a new building project which would address several of the infrastructure issues that were not completed in our last building project including, but not limited to, the swimming pool, gymnasium, parking lots, bathrooms and other areas. To that end, the District hired a new architect who is working with us to come up with a plan for the near future.

During the past year, many members of the community have spoken to me directly or through other community constituents, about

their concerns regarding the Fallsburg CSD pool. Additionally, the Fallsburg Town Board has pledged its support to working with the District on its new building project with a focus on repairing the swimming pool. We do realize the importance that having a functional pool has to the community. We also

:.. Tils 25593...

BCES News High School News District News Annual Notifications 2016-2017 School Calendar School Contacts



group work activities.

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.

Home of the Comets!

The following 12 committees met with me in the months of March, April, May and June to create their vision statement submissions:

- Superintendent's Round Table
- BOE/Student Round Table
- Administrative Council
- JSHS Department Chairs
- District-wide DCIP Committee
- District-wide Professional Development Committee
- English Language Learners Leadership Team
- Wellness Committee
- Board of Education (at a retreat)
- Technology Committee
- BCES Building Leadership Team
- District-Wide Visioning Committee (met 2x)

Following the first meeting of the district visioning committee in April, we had a twoweek comment period for members of our school community to review and comment on the vision statement draft. The visioning committee then met a second time, following the comment period, to finalize the vision statement while considering the feedback garnered from the comment period. This vision statement will guide the creation of future district goals and we will proudly display it around the buildings in our district as we begin this new school year.

Please enjoy the remaining days of summer as we prepare to meet and greet the 2016-17 school year!

Educationally yours,

Ivan J. Katz, Ed.D.

PAGES

FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Welcome Back!

The staff and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back our family and friends to another great year of learning and growing at BCES! We would also like to welcome our new families and friends who have moved

At BCES, we challenge our students to be the best individuals and learners that they can be. We strive to create respectful, caring, and responsible citizens who are challenged to soar to their potential and achieve academic excellence.



into our district over the summer! We look forward to working with you and your children!

This year we have a new district vision statement that was created by a variety of stakeholder groups. We are proud of our accomplishments and

would like to thank everyone who was involved in the process. The district vision statement, in conjunction with our building vision statement, will drive our goal-setting and decisionmaking for our children's success both academically This year looks to be another exciting learning adventure! We have several new staff members and many other staff members in new positions. We look forward to meeting all of our parents/guardians at our Open House on Thursday, September 22nd! We would welcome any of our community agencies to join us at our event. If you would like to set up a table to share information about your organization, please feel free to contact me at 434-4110, ext.3206.

Mary Kate Stinehour

From the Elementary Assistant Principal

and socially.

Welcome back! Although it seems like it was just yesterday that we were saying our "June goodbyes," the summer's end is fast approaching, and September is almost here. We hope that everyone had a restful and relaxing vacation, and is ready to tackle the challenges of the new school year.

Everyone here at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School is here to help your child achieve his/her academic goals. We promise to work with you to help all of our students achieve success. If you ever feel that your child needs help for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dave Viglione

KEEPING YOU POSTED

DATE	Event	Тіме	LOCATION	DATE	Event	Тіме	LOCATION
8/30-9/1	FTA Conference days			10/28	Superintendent's Conference Day		
9/1	7 th grade orientation	7-9pm	HS	10/30	Kiwanis/Key Club Bkfst.	7:00am – noon	BCES Cafet.
9/6	Superintendent's Conference Day Modified Sports begin			<u>11/2</u> 11/4	Board of Education Mtg. 7 th , 8 th & 9 th Gr. Dance	7:15pm 7-10:00pm	MS Bd. Rm.
9/7	School Opens						
-,.	Pre-K family visit			11/5	Environmental Club litter pluck	9-10:00am	
	Board of Education Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.	<u>11/7</u>	Winter sports begin		
9/8	First day of school for Pre-K student	s		<u>11/11</u>	School Closed		
9/16	BCES PTA Mtg.	4:30-5:30pm	BCES Cafet.	<u>11/12</u>	Robotics competition @ SCCC		
9/21	Board of Education Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.	11/14	Board of Education Mtg. Modified Winter sports begin	7:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.
9/22	BCES Open House	6-7:30pm		44/45	· · · · · ·		
<u>10/3</u>	School Closed			11/15	Robotics competition @ SCCC VP meeting with Mr. Williams	12-12:30pm	
10/4	VP meeting with Mr. Williams	12:00-12:30pm		11/18	BCES PTA Mtg.	4:30-5:30pm	BCES Cafet.
10/5	Board of Education Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.	11/18-19	All State Music Festival		
10/6	Go home early drill			11/23-25	School Closed		
<u>10/10</u>	School Closed			12/1-2	BCES P/T Conferences	Noon dismissal	
10/12	School Closed			12/7	Board of Education Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.
10/18-19	BCES Fall picture days			12/7	BCES Picture re-take day	7.15011	1415 Du. 1411.
10/19	Board of Education Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.	12/9	Superintendent's Conference Day		
10/21	BCES PTA Mtg. Pep Rally Homecoming Dance	4:30-5:30pm 2:10-2:52pm 6-9:00pm	BCES Cafet.				

From the High School Principal

Welcome Back!

Can you believe that the summer is gone and the start of the 2016-2017 school year is upon us? I hope that everyone had a relaxing, rejuvenating summer, and is ready to get back to work. The administration has been working and planning throughout the summer to continue the positive improvement the school made last year academically. Our goal is to provide each student with the best education possible in a safe, nurturing environment.

I want to make a plea to all of our parents/guardians out there to consider, as the new year gets underway, volunteering to become a part of the work we do here at school! I can't stress enough the importance of having parents and community members involved in what we do here! This is YOUR school and you have every right to be a part of the process regarding providing the best education possible for your child(ren). Volunteering is not a huge commitment; in fact, the more volunteers we get the less time everyone has to commit. You may ask "what can I volunteer for?" We need members for our Shared Decision Making Team, which reviews building procedures such as the dress code or the Code of Conduct. You might want to serve on our Parent Engagement Team, which works to get more people like you involved in our school. You may even volunteer to become part of our DTSDE team, which helps directly

in improving our instruction in school. Or, if none of these appeal to you, we have other opportunities as the year progresses, all needing parental input. Each of these would not require more than 15 hours over the entire school year but would be so important in assisting us in making our school better!! Please, please, please consider becoming involved and volunteering for one, or more of our committees. To volunteer, call me at 434-6800, extension 2203 or e-mail me directly at mwilliams@fallsburgcsd.net.

Also, take some time once school begins to review the Code of Conduct with your child, review any changes, and discuss the importance of academic achievement over all else.

We have several new faces in the junior senior high school this school year, and I am excited about the level of enthusiasm and professional knowledge that these new teachers bring with them.

Communication is key! Please keep in touch with your child's teachers, guidance counselors and administrators. If we can do anything to help you along the way, please do not hesitate to contact us at 434-6800. I wish everyone my best for a successful school year! Remember, *Effort Equals Excellence!!*

Mike Milliams

Fallsburg High School Welcomes Hall of Famer Andrew Neiderman

On the evening of August 5, 2016, dozens of Andrew Neiderman's former students, their families and teaching colleagues welcomed him back to Fallsburg HS, his alma mater and the place where he taught from the early 1960's to the early 1980's. Mr. Neiderman set out at that time for California to fulfill his childhood dream of becoming a writer.

In a reception held in the library, Mr. Neiderman greeted some students that he has not seen for over 30 to 50 years. Several brought their grown children to meet the man who taught them how to write, encouraged them to act and sing, and do stage set up and design in the many theater productions he directed while at Fallsburg.



The \$10 admission fee went entirely to the Samuel Beytin Fallsburg Central School Community Scholarship Fund. The first 100 attendees to the event received copies of V.C. Andrews' books written by Mr. Neiderman. He has recently published his 46th thriller and is recognized as one of the world's most successful ghost writers as V. C. Andrews. He spoke with each person and wrote a short personal message in each book given to guests.

During the evening, Mr. Neiderman accompanied FCSD Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz and others to the Fallsburg High School Lobby to see his photo and plaque inscription in the Fallsburg Hall of Fame Display. Mr. Neiderman was very pleased with the honor and enjoyed having photos taken with Dr.

Katz, with his colleague Jack Leshner, who preceded him as the first elected member of the Hall, and with Diane, his wife and also an alumna of Fallsburg Central High School.

A Summer of Project Based Learning

As part of the Summer School Program at Fallsburg, 200 junior high and elementary school students are involved in project-based learning. The five day a week, six week program provided a special opportunity for the instructor and the students. Summer School Program Director Ms. Tammy Slick explained that project-based learning is student driven. Students gain a deeper understanding of material by investigating questions, proposing hypotheses and possible explanations. Students work collaboratively to discuss and challenge each other's ideas, which lead to further inquiry. Students engage in problem solving and critical thinking skills with each other and are

Students were naturally excited to watch the growth of their plants. In six weeks, some plants did not grow fully, but each child learned to appreciate what it took to care for their plant. Some of the vegetables, like leaf lettuce, were enjoyed by the classes as part of lunch. Kids thought it was awesome to put the greens on their sandwiches and enjoy fresh picked flavor!

Besides learning so much about the earth and climate, students are sharing the nutritional information with their families. Some of them are involved in shopping and cooking and are excited to be using more vegetables at home and telling their siblings about how good they are for them. Project-based learning certainly has immediate and practical value for these young people.



fully engaged to find meaningful solutions to their questions.

Fallsburg HS General Science teacher Ms. Megan Ollive taught a seventh and eighth grade class on organic gardening. Each student chose a vegetable plant and tended it in an organic garden in a fenced-in space outside the building at BCES. The seedlings and young plants were donated by Cornell Cooperative Extension and Sullivan Renaissance.

Using the Internet and reference materials, each student learned about the history of the plant; about climate, soils and weather impacts; advantages of organic versus non-organic gardening methods; adaptation to environment; how different cultures cultivated and used the plant for food and other purposes; and what nutritional and medicinal values the plants offer.

Fallsburg Students Enjoying and Learning at Robotics Camp

The Fallsburg Robotics Team participated in a two-day and two-night a week camp at the High School from July 19th to August 25th. Faculty Advisor and Science teacher Don Thomas organized the activity after the Robotics Team performed so successfully during the past few school years. The Camp was paid for by the 21st Century Grant as part of the Extended Day Program.

During the school year many of the children who were enrolled in the camp competed regionally with other high schools



in a New York State Association that began five years ago. This coming November 12th, the Fallsburg High School Robotics Team will co-host a regional competition with SUNY Sullivan. The Fallsburg team came out of the Science Olympiad that Mr.Thomas advised for six years.

The Camp is based on working with VEX Robots made by an international company that manufactures robot kits to be used by schools and industry. "The students are doing great," said Thomas. "They pick up the programming fast, watch VEX videos, and then put together the chasses and the key components of the robots. The older kids are solving bigger problems and also mentoring the younger students."

As part of FCSD Summer Extended Day Program the Camp included breakfast and lunch for the day program. Transportation was provided by Rolling V Bus Company as part of the summer program. In the evenings, transportation was provided by parents.

If you are a Fallsburg High School student, or the parent of one, and would like to learn more about the Robotics Club for the coming school year, please contact Mr. Donald Thomas at the school:

dthomas@fallsburgcsd.net

"The students are doing great, they pick up the programming fast, watch VEX videos, and then put together the chasses and the key components of the robots. The older kids are solving bigger problems and also mentoring the younger students." All forms are available on the district website,

www.fallsburgcsd.net, under Forms and Publications.

Federal and state law requires districts to provide many notifications to students and their parents and guardians each year. Summaries of several annual notifications are provided below and online on the district's website: www. fallsburgcsd.net.

ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS

This is to advise you of your rights with respect to student records pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of student records. The law gives parents and students over 18 years of age (referred to in the law as "eligible students") the following rights:

- 1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the Building Principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The Principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- 2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading by writing the Principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specifying why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed

by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

- 4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The Office that administers FERPA is:
 - Family Policy Compliance Office U. S. Department of Education 600 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20202-4605

APPR SCORES

According to NYS law, parents and legal guardians may request and receive the 2015-2016 annual professional performance review (APPR) composite score of their child's 2016-2017 teacher(s). To do so, parents and legal guardians need to complete the request form and mail it to Ms. Jane Tingley at the address on the form. Download the form from the district website, and click on the "APPR Parent Letter Request."

ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

The Fallsburg Central School District has completed its Tri-Annual Asbestos Inspection according to law. The Asbestos Inspection Report and Management Plan are available in the Superintendent's Office. The District will continue its Semi-Annual Survey and maintain its Plan as described in the law (AHER-AA40 CFR Part 763).

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The school's attendance policy can be found in the student handbooks and Code of Conduct. Student handbooks will be distributed at the start of the school year. The Code of Conduct is on the district website.

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Pursuant to an amendment to the Education Law, Section 20-D, school districts are now required to publish on their websites, a parents bill of rights for data privacy and security and to include such information with every contract a school district enters into with a third party contractor where the third party contractor receives student data or teacher or principal data.

- A student's personally identifiable information cannot be sold or released for any commercial purposes;
- 2. Parents have the right to inspect and review the complete contents of their child's education record;
- 3. State and federal laws protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information, and safeguards associated with industry standards and best practices, including but not limited to, encryption, firewalls, and password protection, must be in place when data is stored or transferred;
- 4. A complete list of all student data elements collected by the State will be available for public review both online and via regular mail from the State Education Department. The website and mail address will be published here when made available; and
- Parents have the right to have complaints about possible breaches of student data addressed. NY Education Law § 2-d(3)(b). Complaints regarding student data breaches should be directed to:

Ms. Jane Tingley, Director of Staff Evaluation & Student Data

115 Brickman Road, PO Box 124 Fallsburg, NY 12733 845-434-6800 ext. 1257 jtingley@fallsburgcsd.net

This bill of rights is subject to change based on regulations of the Commissioner of Education and the NYSED Chief Privacy Officer.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct applies to all students, school personnel, parents and visitors on school property, including buses and other school-owned vehicles, or when attending a school function. The Code of Conduct is on the district website under "Forms and Publications."

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. McKinney-Vento provides federal funding to states for the purpose of supporting district programs that serve homeless students. Under McKinney-Vento and state law, students are considered homeless if they lack a nighttime residence that is fixed, regular, and adequate.

To help determine if a student is eligible, the school district asks two questions when a student enrolls:

- 1. Is your current address a temporary living arrangement?
- 2. Is this temporary living arrangement due to loss of housing or economic hardship?

If you believe you may qualify for services under the McKinney-Vento Act please contact either:

Fallsburg Central School District Central Registration: 845-434-6800 ext. 1222

Heather C. Hendershot, McKinney-Vento Liaison: 845-434-0467 ext. 1273

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTIFICATION

The Fallsburg Central School District, its Board of Education, board officers, employees and students, shall not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, veterans status, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation or disability.

This policy of nondiscrimination includes access by students to educational programs, counseling services of students, course offerings, and student activities, as well as recruitment and appointment of employees and employment pay, benefits, advancement and/or terminations.

Dr. Ivan Katz is the Title IX Coordinator for the Fallsburg Central School District. He can be reached at 845-434-6800, ext. 1214, PO Box 124, Fallsburg, New York 12733 or email ikatz@fallsburgcsd.net for questions and for the procedure for filing a grievance.

PARENT'S RIGHT TO KNOW

According to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, school are required to ensure that teachers in core academic subjects are highly qualified to teach in their assignment are. Parents also have the right to request other information regarding the qualifications of their child's teachers, such as:

- Whether a teacher has NYS certification for the grade levels and subjects he or she is teaching;
- The teacher's baccalaureate degree major and other certification or degrees; and
- Whether their child receives services from paraprofessional and, if so, their qualifications.

Parents seeing this information should contact their school's principal, Ms. Stinehour, at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School, or Mr. Williams, at the Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School.

PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION

NYS Education Law Section 409-H, requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary school to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The FCSD is required to maintain the list of persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff who wish to receive 48hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- a school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72 hours following an application;
- anti-microbial products;
- nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to use pastes, foams, gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- the application of EPA designated biopesticides;
- the application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CFR1552.25;
- the use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat of stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48hour prior notification list.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in the school, or for further information, please complete the form below and return it to Mr. Jay Shapiro, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds, Fallsburg Central School District, PO Box 123, Fallsburg, NY 12733, (845) 434-4110 ext. 3276, FAX (845) 434-0418 or EMAIL jshapiro@fallsburgcsd.net.

RELEASE OF STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The school district has designated certain categories of student information as "directory information." Directory information includes a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major course of study, participation in school activities or sports, weight and height if a member of an athletic team, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, most recent school attended, class schedule, photograph, e-mail address, and class roster.

If you object to the release of any or all of the directory information listed above, you must do so in writing within 10 business days of receiving this notice. For your convenience, you may note your objections to the release of directory information on this form and return it to the Building Principal.

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY - Pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, the school district must disclose to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, upon request, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of high school students. The district must also notify parents of their right and the right of their child to request that the district not release such information without prior written parental consent.

Parents (or student of 18 years of age or older) wishing to exercise their option to withhold their consent to the release of the above information to military, recruiters and/or institutions of higher learning, must notify their child's building principal by September 30th of each school year.

STUDENT PRIVACY

The Board of Education recognizes that student privacy is an important concern of parents and the Board wishes to ensure that student privacy is protected pursuant to the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, as revised by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. To that end, the Board has adopted a policy on student privacy.

Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, as revised by the No Child Left Behind Act, and the Fallsburg Central School District policy on student privacy, you have the right to opt your child out from any activity in which personal information will be gathered from students and used for marketing purposes. The form to opt out is on the district website under "Forms and Publications." Forms should be returned to the building principal within 10 days of the start of school.

2015-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR

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FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 115 Brickman Road • PO Box 124 • Fallsburg, NY 12733-0124

BOARD OF EDUCATION

• Ms. Debra Barbiani • Ms. Ann Benson • Mr. Joseph Collura • Ms. Arlene Hussey • Dr. Stephanie Phillips •

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"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."

Echtacts

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Mr. Frank Godlewski	High School Asst. Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2207
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