

Editor - Shelley Marcus • Associate Editor - Sandra Salovin • Contributing Editor - Larry Schafman

SUPERINE DEMESSION

Dear School Community Member:

hope this newsletter finds you in the very best of health and spirit this holiday season! In this issue, I would like to update you on our improvement of instruction efforts and our progress on a potential building project.

What's new in our improvement of instruction efforts?

We are nearing completion on our parent engagement strategic plan. We are aiming for a publication date in late January 2017. We are excited about this because several of our staff, students, and parents, have worked hard to identify key strategies and resources to improve how our schools engage parents in student learning.

We are developing a new partnership with Mount Saint Mary College that will expand and diversify the teacher applicant pool; increase teacher mentoring opportunities; and provide professional development opportunities for our instructional staff. Our students will also be able to explore teaching as a college course of study at Mount Saint Mary. These have been made possible through a *My Brother's Keeper Teacher Opportunity Corps* grant, that was awarded to Mount Saint Mary College.

We are also in the first full-year of implementing our Learning Technology grant. This has allowed us to provide our teachers with high-quality Google Classroom professional development, including a Google Summit which took place this past June. We have increased the number of Chromebooks available to students and staff, as well as our internal Wi-Fi network capacity, so more students and staff can utilize Google Classroom and other learning applications to enhance student learning.

The Volunteer in the Classroom program is also new this year. The program is the brainchild of Dr. Stephanie Phillips, member of the Board of Education. This program was designed with participation from teacher suggestions to support our improvement of instruction efforts. The program is designed to connect our community members, teachers, and students. Members of the school community are invited to share their talents, skills, and life experiences with our students. Teachers have offered a variety of opportunities for new volunteers to take part in the educational experiences of our students. We are currently in the process of recruiting, selecting and interviewing volunteer candidates. We expect our new volunteers to begin working after the New Year.

What's happening with the building project?

The Board of Education met on December 21st and approved a building project resolution to go before the voters on March 14th, 2017. The project includes repairs and renovations at both the elementary and junior-senior high schools. The March 14, 2017, referendum will be for a total of \$15,993,934. We are anticipating that we will receive building aid at 73.9%. What this means is that we would get about 74 cents back on each dollar spent on the building project. This building aid ratio may increase in the 2017-18 school year.

Highlights of the repairs and renovations at the Jr/Sr HS include but are not limited to:

- ADA compliance
- Toilet room renovations
- Pool renovations
- Gymnasium improvements
- Outdoor track and site improvements
- HVAC upgrades

Highlights of the repairs and renovations at BCES include but are not limited to:

- ADA compliance
- Toilet room renovations
- HVAC upgrades

There is also SMART Bond money that the school has been given by the state that will be used for security and safety improvements. The SMART bond money will allow for \$1,722,454 of work which is at no cost to the taxpayers. The work will include:

- Security improvements at both the elementary and Jr/Sr HS in terms of new visitor entry to the buildings.
- Hardening of Corridors in both buildings which means that there will be new sets of doorways placed in various hallways to limit access to the buildings.
- Door replacements in the classrooms of both buildings that will improve safety relative to classroom access.

At this time, I would like to wish the school community a happy and healthy holiday season. I wish us all the things we wish for ourselves.

Educationally yours, Ivan J. Katz, Ed.D

IN THIS ISSUE...

BCES News High School News District News Keeping You Posted 2016-2017 School Calendar School Contacts

I and the entire staff of Benjamin Coser Elementary School wish all our families and community members a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. We wish you health and happiness in 2017

Mary Kate Stinehour

From the Elementary Assistant Principal

I hope that December finds everyone healthy and happy, and ready to "recharge his or her batteries" during the holiday break.

On Thursday and Friday, December 1st and 2nd, the Benjamin Cosor students got to go home early. Because of parentteacher conferences, the school was on a half-day schedule. It was great to see so many parents come to school and meet with their child(ren)'s teacher(s). I am sure that we can all agree that when the lines of parent-school lines of communication are open, our children's education improves.

Once again, I am happy to note that, although we saw a slight spike in disciplinary referrals in November, our overall referral rate of referrals at BCES continues to be low. Through the end of November, as compared with the same time last year, we have had twenty-eight (28) fewer referrals. That is a drop of 23.5%.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season!

Dave Vigliane

BCES Parent/Teacher Conferences

Twice during the academic year, parents and teachers at BCES meet during the afternoon of a half-day school session to discuss the child's progress and answer questions. These opportunities are a special part of the school district's on-going initiative to encourage parent engagement with the school.

Ms. Debbie Jacobsen, who directs the After-School Kids Club Program, invited various public agencies and health-related services to set up information tables for parents and families in the school gymnasium. Parents were welcome to be there before and after their meetings with teachers. Groups like Sullivan County Rural Health Network, SC Youth Bureau, New Hope Community, SC Child Care Council, Fidelis Care, and Cub Scouts were represented to name a few.

BCES Continues Work on Hiking Trail Grant

Several classes painted donated railroad ties, and former teacher and volunteer Lee Smassanow erected benches donated by Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE). The benches for the renovated trail project are part of a Sullivan Renaissance Healthy Community Grant.

One class at a time painted one railroad tie per class. Each tie has the name of the teacher on the end. When the paint dries, students will come back and stencil on their individual names with permanent ink. The ties will become boundar-



ies for the trail. Ms. Exner explained that years from now, these students can show their own children the trail



and the names of those who helped with the project. Also painting were Ms. SueAnn Boyd of CCE and Ms. Colleen Emery from Sullivan Renaissance, the grantor.

Ms. Knoblauch's Class; Ms. Gandulla's Class with the adults helping with the painting; and Mr. Smassanow building a bench

Fallsburg Library Provides Steam Club Activities with Kids Club

On December 1st, 2016, the Fallsburg Library's staff was in the cafeteria where they conducted a program called *"Rethink your Drink"* with 24 students. The event is part of similar activities done throughout the year by the Steam Club collaboration between the Library and the After-School Kids Club. The children performed experiments and taste testing to determine the effects of amounts of sugar contained in different soft drinks. In the process, the children learned about the health impacts of the sodas.

FCSD Holds Annual Safe Trick or Treat Night

Fallsburg Central School District (FCSD) held a Safe Trick



or Treat event just after Halloween for the benefit of children in Fallsburg and Sullivan County. Because of an early snow storm, the evening had to be canceled until after Halloween. The PTA raises funds to host a dance with lots of homemade refreshments, great decorations, a DJ and strobe lights to trans-

form the cafeteria into a disco hall. Many volunteer hours go into the PTA events. While students and parents are enjoying this special entertainment and food, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), who along with the dozens of school and community clubs, social agencies and healthcare groups are distributing candy and other treats to families in the school gymnasium.

PTA organizers Ms. Jennie Gagnon and Ms. Rosalind Natale and SADD Advisor Ms. Kiffanie Rodgers-Sanchez were very happy with the turnout. Parents look forward to this annual event, so they can celebrate with their kids in the safe and warm environment provided by the school staff and administration. Thanks to the PTA and SADD.

Kindergarten Neighbors Share a Thanksgiving Feast

In the spirit of Thanksgiving on November 22nd, 2016, two neighboring kindergarten classes at BCES shared an afternoon feast of special holiday treats provided by the generosity of



their teachers, Ms. Molly Gelsomino and Mr. Scott Persten. As Mr. Persten told his students, they were giving thanks to Ms. Gelsomino, who helps them throughout the year with their reading and with their understanding of all the lessons they learn. Also, this was an opportunity

to welcome the children from the next-door classroom with whom they share activities during the school day.

Tables were decorated with the colors of the autumn holiday. Gourds, pine cones, leaves and acorns surrounded the plates and cups. It was an inviting scene when in walked Ms. Gelsomino's class, wearing turkey headdresses. Much like how the Native Americans and Pilgrims shared that first Thanksgiving - an occasion to celebrate between the existing population and the new immigrants to America - these Fallsburg school children from many different countries of origin were welcoming and feeling grateful for each other and for the bounty they would soon be enjoying together.

Fallsburg Families Greet the Santa Express

Warmed by the sounds of the holiday season provided by the BCES Chorus under the direction of Ms. Andrea Henderson, and the exciting routines of the award-winning Pop Warner Cheerleaders, coached by Ms. Andrea Hook and Ms. Kierra Miller-Ector, dozens of families with small and big children alike awaited the arrival of Santa Express in the Town Plaza outside the Town Hall.

Just before Santa's arrival, Town of Fallsburg Councilman and Board of Education Member Mike Weiner intro-

duced Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ivan Katz for his annual reading of *"Twas the Night before Christmas"*. Mr. Weiner thanked Dr. Katz and all those responsible for making a chilly winter evening so successful.

PBIS

The PBIS Celebration Committee treated the students of BCES to a "spooktacular" afternoon on October 31st,



2016. Students in grades 1-3 enjoyed storytelling, creating masks, and going on a pumpkin walk. The students in grades 4-6 participated in the Witch's Broom Sweep, Pumpkin Bowling, and a visit to the Haunted

Library. The afternoon concluded with the traditional Halloween parade. Students and teachers alike enjoyed wearing their costumes and dancing through the halls of BCES.

Pete Dworetsky

Benjamin Cosor School Combines Positive Behavior and Halloween



Just two days before Thanksgiving at Fallsburg's Benjamin Cosor Elementary School, Ms. Irene Calabrese's morning Pre-Kindergarten class appeared in turkey headdress-

es to surprise and thank Principal Mary Kate Stinehour and Assistant Principal David Viglione with some special holiday treats. Notice Mr. Viglione with his special holiday tie! Ms. Calabrese is holding the plate of treats.

BCES Musicians Warm Hearts at Winter Concert

Music teachers Mrs. Andrea Henderson and Ms. Lauren Bernard, with piano accompanist Mr. Leon Hilfstein, directed a wonderful evening of music from the BCES Brass Band, Woodwind Band, Bell Choir, Recorder Ensembles, Concert Band and Chorus on December 20, 2016 in the FHS Auditorium. The Concert Band performed beautifully in their final number entitled "Abominable Snowman Chase," earning percussionist Armaan Butler a special nod from Ms. Bernard. The evening's highlight was the "A Holly Jolly Holiday" singing and bell ringing of the BCES

Chorus that left the audience singing along and smiling.







VIAMIN Cosor Elementary School

Fallsburg High School Hosts Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers

Fallsburg High School hosted participating school districts including Fallsburg, Monticello, Sullivan BO-CES, and Ellenville on November 15th, 2016 to share a morning of workshops. Topics for the day included Tutoring, Co-Teaching, Local Work Opportunities, College Preparation, and Job Readiness.

Boys Soccer

On Wednesday, December 7th, 2016 the boys' soccer players and their families were invited to a celebration dinner and recognition at the Board of Education meeting. The team captains presented Dr. Katz, with the division champion plaque, the Section IX Class B Championship plaque, soccer ball trophy and photo collage of the team. The boys' soccer team had an exceptional season capturing the

Fallsburg High School Students Earn Area All-State Music Honors

Congratulations go out to Fallsburg High School Chorus Members Brenden Hooks, Isabel Morales, Guillermo Granados, Jenna Vairo, Mekayla Perneszi



and Grace Strauss for earning Area All-State Chorus Awards from New York State School Music Association (NYS-SMA) on the weekend of November 19th-20th, 2016. Chorus Director Ms. Colleen O'Toole-Barber is very proud





Section IX Class B Championship title. The team ended the season with a 16-1-1 overall record with the only loss recorded in the regional tournament. The team had not won a sectional title in 24 years and was well guided under first year Coach Michael Geller. of these students, who performed so admirably during the competition.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) and Fallsburg Central School District (FCSD) have enjoyed a good working relationship for several years. In the past year, CCE's Healthy Schools Coordinator Mrs. SueAnn Boyd has become a member of the District's Wellness Committee. Mrs. Boyd and others at the agency have been participating actively in several good health related initiatives at FCSD.

A major involvement has been collaboration on a Healthy Community Grant awarded to FCSD by Sullivan Renaissance to renovate and reconstruct a hiking trail behind Benjamin Cosor Elementary School (BCES). CCE has donated several park benches and will be providing signage for placement along the trail. Mrs. Boyd and Ms. Emily Devore of CCE have donated time to help clear the trail and paint railroad ties along with the elementary school children.

This past fall, Mrs. Boyd presented Fallsburg High School with two refillable water bottle filling stations located in the school building and Zip 2 Water Station, donated by Pam Gallaher, owner of Zip 2 Water, Inc. for use outside the building for physical educational classes and athletic events. As part of a Creating Healthy Schools and Communities and Eat Smart New York grants for Sullivan County Schools, CCE has provided signage in the cafeterias at both BCES and Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School for the new salad bars that encourage healthier eating by making healthy food choices such as fresh vegetables and fruits.

Youth Economic Symposium

On Friday November 4th, students from Mrs. Strack's Career and Financial Management and Accounting classes attended the Youth Economic Symposium, sponsored by the Youth Economic Group of Sullivan County. The event was held at Sullivan County Community College. Students from both Fallsburg and Monticello business classes were paired up with professionals from the community in small groups. Their task was to address a social injustice and create a T-shirt logo to bring awareness to the issue. Students were asked to come up with a marketing strategy as well as a cost analysis and price point to sell the T-shirts. All groups did a wonderful job. The following students from Fallsburg were part of the winning team: Albinas Varnas, Daniel Tamayo and Marcos Rivera. Each member of the winning team was given a \$500 scholarship to SCCC and will be asked to help produce the winning design at the YEG headquarters in Liberty NY.

Robotics Competition at SCCC

Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School and SUNY Sullivan Co-Hosted the VEX Robotics Competition on December 10th, 2016 at the SUNY Sullivan Paul Gerry Field House. With six school



districts from all over New York State participating. Fallsburg and SUNY Sullivan co-hosted "Catskill New Bot Battle". In addition to four teams from the Fallsburg Robotics Club, two teams from Elmira High School, four teams from



Minisink Valley Central School, one team from Ulster County BOCES, four teams from the Harvey School, and one team Our Lady of Lourdes High School from Poughkeepsie competed for prizes and trophies. The principal co-hosts of the day-long event were Dr. Cynthia Marcello from SUNY Sullivan and Mr. Don Thomas from Fallsburg CSD. Fallsburg's Aidan Ferris and Landen Berry of team 99561C wowed the judges and took home the Judges Award. Oliver Normington and Kai Odell Schreier on team 99561D won the prestigious Skills Challenge and are automatically qualified to compete at the New York State Championship competition.

Fallsburg Students Collect and Distribute Food

Two days prior to Thanksgiving, the Student Government Associations (SGA)

of BCES and Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School provided 47 turkeys and two pick-up loads of non-perishable foods to Bread of Life Food Pantry at Hurleyville Methodist Church. John Jaycox and Michael Spinelli drove the truck after SGA students loaded it at the dock of the High School.

Faculty Advisors for the SGA are Peter Dworetsky at BCES and Elisa Baum at FHS. Ms. Baum added that M&B Chickens donated 32 of the turkeys. Students, staff and parents at the Fallsburg School District have



along with the junior and senior bands kept things lively and traditional during a very chilly and wintry night.



been honoring the tradition of offering food to the community for many, many years at Thanksgiving.

High School Winter Concert 2016

To the delight of families, friends and staff, the Fallsburg High School Chorus and Bands presented their annual Winter Concert on December 15th, 2016. Under the direction of Ms. Colleen Barber and Ms. Danna Clear, the different choruses Ms. Clear ended the Senior Band performance with an interesting piece called "Instant Concert" that had the audience guessing the names of all the famous musical titles being played. The highlight of the evening was the Combined Junior Senior Chorus singing a rousing rendition of "We are the World". The nine soloists were outstanding, and the auditorium was rocking with joy at the music and the message of hope and love.











Prizes*Refreshments*Games

Come join us for: Snow Man decorating contests, Relay races, Ice Fishing demos, Ice Golf, Ice Skating, Snow Shoeing, Dances and Snacks by the Hispanic American United Club (Noon to 1pm) DJ and Bounce rides by Party Master

Special thanks to Murray's Chicken, Stewarts, the SYDA Foundation and the S.C. Youth Bureau



Sponsored by FCSD and Fallsburg Park and Rec.



For information call 845 434-5877





Premios * Refrigerios * Juegos

;Ven y únete a nosotros! Tendremos... Concursos de decoración del hombre de nieve, Carreras de relevos, demostraciones de pesca en hielo, Golf sobre hielo, Patinaje sobre hielo, Raquetas sobre hielo Bailes y refrigerios traídos por el Club Hispanos Americanos Unidos (de las 12:00 a la 1:00 pm)

DJ and Juegos Inflables traidos por Party Master

Le damos gracias especiales a Murray's Chicken, Stewarts y a la Fundación SYDA



DATE	Event	Тіме	LOCATION	DATE	Event	Тіме	LOCATION
12/26-1/2/17	School Closed			<u>1/24-27</u>	Regents Exams		
1/3/17	School Resumes			2/10	BCES Valentine Dar	nce 6-8pm	BCES Cafet.
				<u>2/21</u>	Pops Concert	7-8pm	HS Audit.
<u>1/16</u>	School Closed				K-Kids Bake sale	7-8pm	HS Lobby
<u>1/17</u>	BCES PTA Mtg.	4:30-5:30	BCES Cafet.	2/23	HS Band play-a-th	on 7-8pm	HS Audit.
<u>1/18</u>	Board of Ed Mtg.	7:15	MS Bd. Rm.	2/27	BCES PTA Mtg.	4:30-5:30	BCES Cafet.

2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

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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."

CONTACTS

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