

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

STREE CLEANER

Dear School Community Member:

hope that this newsletter finds you in the very best of health and spirit as we prepare to welcome the cold weather indigenous to the pre-winter months that we enjoy here in Sullivan County. This Superintendent's Corner focuses on Fallsburg's Improvement of Instruction efforts and an update on the building project.

Improvement of Instruction Efforts

We are ambitiously continuing to work towards a common, district-wide student growth goal: Fallsburg students will exemplify growth towards college and career readiness by exceeding projected growth targets by 45% in math and 60% in reading in NWEA's Measures of Academic Progress. To help achieve this, we are providing our staff with the necessary training and resources in instructional practices and family engagement.

All FCSD instructional staff will be reviewing Eric Jensen's <u>Engaging Students with Poverty in Mind</u>, and incorporating strategies discussed in it in their teaching. We are also becoming *"trauma-informed schools."* This requires all staff to be knowledgeable of and empathetic towards students who may be experiencing trauma. Instructional staff will be, again, utilizing strategies gleaned from professional development on student trauma in their daily instruction. The teaching strategies learned in these professional development offerings are good practices for every student, not just those living in poverty or who have experienced trauma.

Fallsburg staff are also improving their abilities to constructively engage with the parents of their students. We have partnered with *Every Person Influences Children* (EPIC) for staff and parent professional development. Participants have learned about effective ways to engage parents in their schools and classrooms.

Building Project Update

The majority of our building project is complete! There are some odds and ends that are still in the final stages of completion and will be completed shortly. One major disappointment in this building project is that we had to stop the renovations on the pool in October. The reason we had to stop the renovations was because of the discovery of failed drainage systems and several other items that were found to be in disrepair or completely rotted out when the concrete was removed. Additionally, we are investigating the replacement of the pool liner that was installed in 1994 and is approaching, or has gone beyond, its expected life. These additional discoveries need to be addressed before the pool project can continue. Unfortunately, there will be additional costs to repair the pool in its entirety. These additional costs go well beyond the monies allocated to the pool in the current project.

The Board of Education will be working with our new architect to determine what options are available relative to the future of the pool. That said, the pool will not be available for use at this time or in the near future. I will keep you posted as we move forward.

Have a happy fall holiday season! Educationally yours,

Ivan, J. Katz, Ed.D.

Save the date

The Fallsburg Alumni Association's **12th Annual All-class Reunion** will take place at the Woodridge Municipal Hall on **Saturday**, **July 23rd, 2016**. FAA Honorees will be our scholarship recipients, outstanding retired FCSD staff and notable community alumnus.

Norilsessuem

BCES NewsPAGES	2&3
High School NewsPages	4 & 5
District NewsPAGE	6
2015-2016 School CalendarPAGE	7
School ContactsPAGE	8

From the Elementary Principal

Emergency Situations: How do we prepare students for emergency situations and how are parents informed when they occur?

In order to be safe there are two important expectations at BCES - *Be There, Be Ready.* You may hear children talking about evacuations, lock downs, and lock outs and wonder why they would be talking about these things, they are only children after all. Our staff and students take our safety very seriously. In order to prepare for an emergency, we must practice procedures for those emergencies. This is not meant to scare children, it is meant to ease their minds so everyone (adults and children) know what to do when the unexpected happens.

During the school year, teachers practice drill procedures in their classrooms. We then practice as an entire building. I am sure we can all remember fire drills and *"Duck and Cover"* drills from our own school experience. Practicing for emergency situations is not new. There may be new terms used for the drills, but all the drills are meant to teach students and staff how to handle emergency situations so we remain calm and safe.

With two months of school under our belt, the students and staff at BCES have practiced drills in their classrooms, as well as several fire drills and two evacuation drills to the front field. Throughout the school year we will continue to have these types of drills. In addition we will have *Lock Down* drills (used when there is possible danger within the building), *Lock Out* drills (used when there is possible danger outside of our building) and *Hold-In-Place* drills (used for minor, immediate situations that require the hallways to be cleared).

How parents are informed when an actual emergency occurs.

When there is an emergency, such as an early dismissal due to inclement weather, a power outage, or a larger emergency such as an evacuation off the school grounds, we want to be sure that parents are informed. As a building, and as a district, we have developed an Emergency Response Plan. This plan is reviewed yearly and is followed by our Crisis Team members and staff. The plan includes how to handle various incidents in order to keep the students and staff safe.

In the event of an incident, the school will:

- Disseminate information via e-mail, radio announcements, FaceBook and school website to inform parents about what is known to have happened.
- Implement a plan to manage phone calls and parents who arrive at the school.
- Describe how the school and school district are handling the situation.
- Provide a phone number, web site address, or recorded hotline where parents can receive updated incident information.
- If warranted, inform parents and students when and where school will resume.

Please remember that ALL Emergency Information (school closings, etc.) is shared on our Face Book page, website and via email. If you would like email notifications, please send your email address to our Director of Technology, Mr. Keith Edwards at: kedwards@fallsburgcsd.net or you can send it in to your child's teacher and ask that he/she forwards your email onto Mr. Edwards.

Mary Kate Stinehour

FROM THE ELEMENTARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

At Benjamin Cosor Elementary School, we look to make sure that our Student Information System is up to date. We need to have accurate addresses, phone numbers, contact names, and dismissal instructions for all of our students. This is important for many reasons. For example: Teachers may need to contact a parent or guardian to discuss the child's academic progress; the nurse may need to contact a parent or guardian concerning a medical issue; the principal and/or assistant principal might need to speak with a parent or guardian for either of the reasons mentioned above, or to discuss a discipline issue; a child needs to be dismissed from school, and someone other than the parent or guardian wants to provide transportation; a parent or guardian needs to be notified that his/ her child has missed the bus or has been brought back to school.

In addition, it would be very helpful if our students' parents/guardians set up their cell phones' voicemail boxes. Many people have decided to make their cell phone their primary means of contact, and there are times, as previously mentioned, that school officials may need to leave a message. Should the adult neglect to set up the voicemail box, this avenue of communication has been cut off. Likewise, there is a limit to what a voice-mail box can hold. If the voicemail box is full, then the school official cannot leave a message.

Recently, because her daughter had been returned to the school, I tried to contact a parent. At the time of my call, she was in an area that did not have good cell service. Therefore, her phone went straight to voicemail. Unfortunately, her voicemail box was full, and I was unable to leave a message. Had I been able to leave a message, she would have known, as soon as she re-entered a viable service area that she needed to contact the school.

Beginning this academic year, I will provide updates concerning the number of disciplinary referrals that we handle at school. During September, we only had to process nineteen (19) referrals. Of the nineteen, eight (8) were for "minor altercation," which is a category that includes behaviors that range from a fight between students to someone pushing/ shoving a classmate. I am happy to report that this is an all-time low number for the month of September.

Dave Vigliane

BENJAMIN COSOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL











From the High School Principal

Hello Parents! The year started off quite well! I have had positive comments from parents and community members about the renewed sense of pride in the school and lauding our efforts in making our district the very best it can be.

Throughout the beginning of the school year, we have focused on the need for our students to show determination to be successful. We call it "grit." Even with the most dedicated teachers, the newest technology and the best resources available, if a student is not determined to be successful, they won't be. This "grit" applies to all students, regardless of ability. Studies of the most successful people in all venues (music, art, sports, entertainment) show that intellect and ability does not matter as much as the determination to be the very best! One phrase we have used repeatedly in the building is "Effort Equals Excellence." This phrase is posted in the hallways, in classrooms and defines everything that we do here. We will continue to deliver this message as the year continues and our expectations regarding your child's achievement grow as well. Additionally, we will communicate exactly what "effort" means to us as part of the Jr/Sr high school. Please, please, please help us by repeating the same message at home!

As part of our continuing improvement efforts, I am always looking for parents to become part of the improvement process here at the school. If you are interested in serving on a committee to become part of this process, please call me at 434-6800 or e-mail me at

mwilliams@fallsburgcsd.net. I will not ask for a great deal of your time, but your contribution may be irreplaceable. Even if you are unable to serve but have a suggestion, please share it with me as well! As we enter the dark, cold days of winter it is more important than ever to support your child in the academic process at school. Winter sports are starting, the Extended Day program is running and before you know it, the holiday season will be upon us. All the while, your child will be preparing for the rigors of state examinations in the spring, and Regents exams at the end of the school year. While that seems so far away, believe me when I say that it will be here before you know it! Be sure that your child gets adequate sleep every night, is well-fed and, when possible, gets outside to enjoy the cool, crisp air of the winter season.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our fall student-athletes, especially the Boys Soccer Team who made it into post-season play! Special congratulations and "thank you" also to the senior members of each of these teams. They represented the Fallsburg district with class throughout each of their respective seasons! Please remember to continue to support our athletes, and our musicians, artists, writers, etc. as the year goes on.

I thank you for your continued support of our school and district. I thank you for the dedication you have shown to your child in their quest for success. I urge you to continue to "fight the good fight" and send the message to your child that only their very best will do!

Remember, together we can make all students successful, and... *E***=***E* • Effort Equals Excellence!

Michael Williams

From the High School Assistant Principal

Although it seems as if the school year has just started, here we are with a quarter of the year already gone. As the weather turns colder, there are several important things to think about.

As simple as it sounds, remember to dress appropriately! The Sullivan County winter can be long and cold, yet often we see students entering the building in shorts and a tee shirt. If having proper clothing is an issue, please don't hesitate to contact the office. We have people and programs in place that can help you out.

Remember to keep active during the winter months. The winter sports include wrestling, cheerleading, skiing, and of course, basketball.

Basketball is a vital part of the winter. It not only provides our athletes with an activity, but also is our year's largest spectator sport. It is important for us, as spectators, to remember the rules of good sportsmanship. We should remember to cheer FOR our players and not AGAINST the opposing team. We should be courteous, not yelling and stomping the bleachers during free throw attempts. Not only is this unsportsmanlike, it violates a Section IX athletic rule!

Since basketball games are night activities, students must also realize that they cannot remain in the building unsupervised. Students must go home and return later for the game unless they are involved in an activity supervised by a teacher or staff member. Remember eligibility is enforced for basketball games *IF YOU ARE INELIGIBLE YOU WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO THE GAME. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THIS RULE*.

Also remember that the extended day program is in full force. Extra help is available for every subject Monday thru Thursday. Take advantage of this opportunity to boost your grades!! Keeping your grades up through the winter is crucial because before you realize it, half the year will be gone.

Frank Godlewski

LLSBURG JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

Sports News

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized for their contributions in the classroom and on the field as Student Athletes of the week: Bintou Dumbuya, Girls Volleyball; Hugo Funes, Football; Alisson Martinez, Girls Soccer; Shawn Leszczynski, Cross Country; Maureen Maxwell, Girls Tennis.

The boys' varsity soccer team successfully qualified for the section IX tournament. Based on their season's record, the team drew a first round home game



and defeated Dover HS on October 23rd. The team advanced to the second round and played on October 26th at Spackenkill HS, where they were ultimately defeated. Congratulations on an excellent season! Thank you to the Board members and other Administrators who came out to show their support for our boys' varsity soccer team as well as our senior athletes.



The girls Varsity and JV volleyball programs were invited on October 30th, by the West Point women's volleyball team, to attend their game and meet the West Point players. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to bond together while taking in the experience of a local college team in action.

The fall season is drawing to a close culminating with the end of the season parties for each individual team. I would like to acknowledge the student athletes and the coaches for their hard work and dedication throughout the season. I look forward to seeing our students participate in the winter season. Winter Varsity and JV teams will start on Monday November 9th and all modified winter athletic teams will begin on November 16th.

Go Comets!

Suzanne Lendzian, Director of Athletics

Fallsburg Jr/Sr HS **Open House II**

On the evenings of October 7th and 8th, Principal Michael Williams welcomed parents and families to an Open House for the Junior High School and Senior High School respectively. Mr. Williams emphasized to each group that his number one concern as chief administrator for the building was effective parent involvement in the work and achievements of the students. "The stronger the connection between you and me, the better your child will do," he stated to the audience. He concluded his opening remarks by imploring the parents, "Please call me (and any teacher or counselor) if there is any problem. Don't wait! Problems do not fix themselves."

Principal Williams described the specific kinds of data and testing that FCSD uses to best educate the children of the District - focusing on the Northwest

and science. Parents receive these

test results and one of the school's main concerns is that they help the parents understand the data so they can support the efforts of the teachers. Mr. Williams encouraged parents to come to the school, meet with the staff, and have any questions answered about these tests.

There are numerous opportunities available to their children through the benefits of Federal Government Department of Education Title 1 Act. When students in Fallsburg are evaluated and compared in state-wide testing results, they are measured against school districts that are similar in terms of demographics and specific economic and social needs. FCSD uses special Academic Intervention Services (AIS) when called for, throughout the school day, including the Extended Day after-school programs.

In the interests of creating the deeper connection with parents and school, Mr. Williams invited parents to attend two upcoming meetings and training. On October 15th, parents attended Parent Leadership Academy training, presented by Every Person Influences Children (EPIC), to become creatively involved in their child's education and have a deeper connection with the school community.

On the same evening at 7 PM in the high school auditorium, FCSD and the Dynamite Youth Center (DYC) of Fallsburg hosted a panel of young people, staff and parents that are deeply involved in the drug treatment program at DYC. This program developed out of last year's successful assemblies with DYC young adults.

After these opening words and sharing of important information, the parents then left the auditorium to follow their child's daily schedule and meet with the teachers and other parents in the classrooms. These were brief overview sessions. Parents will be able to schedule one on one parent teacher meetings at their convenience during the semester.

DISTRICT NEWS

Fallsburg Seeking Nominations for Hall of Fame

The Fallsburg Central School District (FCSD) Hall of Fame was organized as a means of recognizing, preserving and promoting the heritage of the Fallsburg school community. Many individuals have made extraordinary contributions and have experienced superb accomplishments as members of the Fallsburg school community. The Hall of Fame honors the contributions and accomplishments of individuals who are worthy of district-wide recognition. Nomination forms are due in the Superintendent's Office by February 12, 2016.

To date five outstanding people grace the Hall of Fame in a beautiful display case in the heart of the Fallsburg High School Lobby: Jack Leshner, Joe LaRuffa, Martin Van Vleet, Gavin DeGraw and Mel Mednick. If you would like to nominate someone to join this special group, the nomination form is on the FCSD web site <u>www.fallsburgcsd.net</u> or you may obtain one from the Superintendent's Office at the High School Central Office at 115 Brickman Road.

The categories of student, staff, administrator and community member are included on the nomination form for expediency in understanding the primary area in which an individual is to be considered for his or her achievements. The group identification is for screening purposes only and to assist those making the nominations to understand the type of information required. Once nominees are inducted, they are not categorized, but are all recognized members of the Fallsburg Central School District Hall of Fame.

All candidates will be judged on their significant and/or long term contributions in their lifelong pursuits. These pursuits include but are not limited to: fields of study, careers, athletics, service to community (at local, state and national levels), professions, academic accomplishments, and others. While many have served their communities over a long and distinguished career, their accomplishments must be worthy of prominent recognition for Hall of Fame consideration. Nominees for the Hall of Fame will either be approved and recognized as a Hall of Fame Inductee or will be placed in the Holding for Future Consideration Category by the School District Selection Committee. This Selection Committee

is made up of 2 students, 2 staff members, 2 administrators, 2 community members and 2 members of the Board of Education. The Superintendent serves as the Selection Committee Chair.

If you have questions about the process, please contact the Superintendent's Office at (845) 434-6800, ext. 1215 or by email ikatz@fallsburgcsd.net.

29th Annual Fallsburg Retired Teachers and Staff Breakfast

Just prior to the opening of classes each fall, retired teachers and staff have been meeting for breakfast. They are thankful that they do not have to arise early and begin another school year! Much more than that is the opportunity to reflect on all the old memories and to share new stories with colleagues going back fifty and more years.

Art teacher Bob Longo has been attending these events since the beginning in 1986. As usual, he brought two of his hand painted signs, one with a collage of photos dating back to the early breakfast of the late 1980's. Math teacher Ceil Cohen welcomed the thirty-four people at the Blue Horizon in Monticello. She then asked for a moment of silence to honor retirees that had passed away during the past year: *Charlie DeVoe*, *Tinker Bullock, Bill Mintz, Charlotte Schwartz* and *Sam Ludden*.

Life goes on for these retirees, and it is a special moment for them to be with each other, to experience the joy and challenges that everyone has faced, and to once again realize the special connection they have as a group of educators that all came together and made a difference in the lives of countless young people.



Technology Education News

The students in Pam Garritt's Photography class were truly inspired in September with a visit from awardwinning photographer Chris Ramirez. Chris, whose repeat clients include The New York Times, The Discovery Channel, Mercedes Benz and The Wall Street Journal, graciously shared his career experiences, photos from around the globe, and equipment with the students.



Storm King Center

This October the students from Ms. Magnetico's Ceramics class and Ms. Garrit's Photography class went on a field trip to Storm King Art Center. While there, the students hiked over two miles and observed monumental sized sculptures created by artists from around the world. The Photography class documented our experience, as well as the beautiful fall foliage.

Tabi Magnelica, Art teacher

	016 <u>5</u> 67		
September	October	November	DECEMBER
<u>SMTWTFS</u>	<u>SMTWTFS</u>	<u>SMTWTFS</u>	<u>SMTWTFS</u>
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 311 4 11 51
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 <mark>14</mark> 15 16 17 18 19	11 <mark>12</mark> 13 14 15 <mark>16</mark> 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 <mark>25 26 27</mark> 28	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30	25 <mark>26</mark> 27 28 29 30 31	29 30	27 <mark>28 29 30 31</mark>
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	March	April
<u>SMTWTFS</u>	<u>SMTWTFS</u>	<u>SMTWTFS</u>	<u>SMTWTFS</u>
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5	1 2
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	14 <mark>15</mark> 16 17 18 19 20	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 <mark>13 14 15</mark> 16
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
31	28 29	27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
Мау	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
<u>SMTWTFS</u>	<u>SMTWTFS</u>	S M T W T F S 1 2	<u>SMTWTFS</u>
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	1 2 3 4 5 6
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
29 <mark>30</mark> 31	26 27 28 29 30	31 ***	28 29 30 31
School Closed	Conference Day Regen	TS EXAMS TESTING DAYS	
School Closed		MAKE-UP DAYS	
September	· · ·	Day 1	November 25
		Day 2	
		Day 3	March 21
		Day 4	
		Day 5	
	21 - 28		
Мау		Day 6	
SCHOOL DAYS		Day 7	
September		* if all snow days are used this day will become	a student day and not a conference day
October		GIVE BACK DAYS	
DECEMBER			Mar. 07
January			
March			
April		3 rd day	
<u>June</u>			Se Zolla
TOTAL			

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
MS. KATHERINE RAPPAPORT - MS. JENNNIFER REINHARDT - MR. MICHAEL WEINER
MR. ROBERT WHITAKER - MR. SHAWN WILLES

LEEVER CENTERLECTOR

it us at www.fallsburgcsd.net

PHONE NUMBERS...

Dr. Ivan J. Katz •	Superintendent
Dr. Matthew T. Evans	Assistant Superintendent434-6800 Ext. 1204
Mr. Daniel Grecco Jr.	Business Manager
Mr. Keith Edwards	Director of Technology 434-6800 Ext. 1258
Ms. Jane Tingley	Director of Staff Evaluation
	& Student Data
Ms. Heather Hendershot	Pupil Personnel Director 434-6800 Ext. 1273
Mr. Michael Williams	High School Principal434-6800 Ext. 2206
Mr. Frank Godlewski	High School Asst. Principal434-6800 Ext. 2207
Ms. Mary Kate Stinehour	Elementary Principal
Mr. David Viglione	Elementary Asst. Principal434-4110 Ext. 3204
Ms. Suzanne Lendzian	Director of Physical Education
	& Athletics
Central Registration	
Tax Collection	

FAX NUMBERS...

1

<i>Superintendent</i> 434-8346
Business Office
High School
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**.

KEPRGYOU POSTER

DATE	Event	Тіме	LOCATION
11/4	Board of Education Meeting	6:15pm	MS Board Room
<u>11/11</u>	School Closed		
11/18	Board of Education Meeting	6:15pm	MS Board Room
11/20	BCES PTA Meeting	4:30pm	Cafeteria
11/23-24	BCES P/T Conferences		Noon dismissal
11/25-27	School Closed		
12/2	Board of Education Meeting	6:15pm	MS Board Room
12/8	HS Winter Concert	7pm	HS Auditorium
12/10	BCES Principal's Awards Ceremony	9:30-10:30am	Cafeteria
	HS Winter Concert Snow Date		
12/11	BCES Principal's Awards Ceremony (s	now date)	
12/15	HS Winter Sports Photo shoot		
	BCES Winter Concert	7pm	HS Auditorium
12/16	Board of Education Meeting	6:15pm	MS Board Room
12/18	BCES PTA Meeting	4:30pm	Cafeteria

DATE	Event	Тіме	LOCATION
12/24-1/4/16	School Closed		
1/4/16	SCHOOL RESUMES		
1/6	Board of Education Meeting	6:15pm	MS Board Room
1/14	BCES PTA Meeting	4:30pm	Cafeteria
1/18	School Closed		
1/20	Board of Education Meeting	6:15pm	MS Board Room
2/3	Board of Education Meeting	6:15pm	MS Board Room
2/9	HS Pops Concert	7-8pm	HS Auditorium
	Kids Klub Bake sale	7-8pm	HS Lobby
2/11	HS Pops Concert (snow date)		
2/12	BCES Valentine's Dance	6-8pm	Cafeteria
2/15	School Closed		
2/17	Board of Education Meeting	6:15pm	MS Board Room
2/18	HS Band Play-a-thon		
2/19	BCES PTA Meeting	4:30pm	Cafeteria
	-	•	