

## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Dear School Community Member:

I hope this holiday issue of our newsletter continues to find you in the best of health and spirit! With the holidays upon us I just wanted to give you a quick update on a couple of items.

Our building project has come to a close these past weeks. Remaining are a few "punch list" items that have to be finalized before we sign off that each part of the project has been completed. As you may know, the pool was not completed because of the discovery of additional repair items under the surface of the pool area floor. The additional repair items are going to boost the overall cost of repairing the pool from what we had originally planned. I will be working with our new architect over the next few months to present a list of options that the Board will consider relative to the future of the pool. Ultimately, the future of the pool will be determined by the Fallsburg community. I will continue to keep you posted as we learn more about pool options. If you have any questions about the pool, please do not hesitate to contact me.

On Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, the Sullivan County School Boards Association held a dinner meeting which took place at

Monticello High School. The keynote speakers for the event were students from each of the schools in Sullivan County. Each student speaker was asked to discuss how their school has helped them to become successful and college-ready. Fallsburg's student speaker was **Lesvi Fuentes Hernandez**. Lesvi did a wonderful job detailing how individual teachers and the available programs here at Fallsburg have positively impacted her education. While it was wonderful to hear from all of the students at this event, I was very proud of Lesvi as she represented Fallsburg very well. **Great Job Lesvi!**

With all of the changes and challenges going on around us at the local, state, national and international levels, I hope that we are making the time to see the great beauty of things that are right around us in the form of family and friends. May the holidays bring us the best of everything as we welcome a brand new year!

Educationally yours,

*Ivan J. Katz, Ed.D.*



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In an effort to put toys and books in the hands of all children during the holiday season, BCES teachers and staff have put together 80 beautifully wrapped bags of presents and will distribute them to 22 families in the Town of Fallsburg.

The books and toys are arranged by age group. Warm gloves are also included in the bags. The books were assembled by BCES Librarian Ms. *Julia Levner* and her assistant Ms. *Melissa Kinsler*. Two 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, *Juana Gallo* and *Jenny Zheng*, (photo 1) came over from the High School to offer community service on the project of sorting, putting ribbons on the books and placing them in Dr. Seuss decorated bags.

On the evening of December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Reading Teacher *Jaime McCauley*, and Kindergarten Teachers *Veronica Serano*, *Molly Gelsomino* and *Scott Persten* (photo 2) drove to the different hamlets distributing the bundles just like Santa Claus. They alerted parents that they were coming, but to the children their arrival was a great surprise.

The teachers have done this journey in previous years, and they are filled with joy when they see the delight on the astonished faces of the kids. They realize that they are receiving so much from the simple act of giving.

The Fallsburg High School LEO Club (photo 3) worked at the Santa Express community event on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The students shared the wonderful experience with members of the community. The truck arrived at 6:30pm and it was a wonderful show for all.

## Holiday Music Fills the Air in Fallsburg

Benjamin Cosor Elementary School students performed their Winter Concert to the delight of the Fallsburg community at the HS auditorium on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Brass Band, Woodwind Band, Concert Band, Chorus, Bell Choir and Recorder Ensemble offered many traditional winter and holiday season selections.

Principal *Mary Kate Stinehour* welcomed everyone and introduced the Brass Band with Director *Lauren Bernard* leading the audience in the **Pledge of Allegiance**. Then members of the Chorus under the guidance of Director *Andrea Henderson* led everyone in singing the *Star Spangled Banner*.







Some of the wonderful selections by the three bands included *“Chanukah Lights”* and *“Good King Wenceslaus”*. The Chorus, with several of the singers ringing reindeer belts of bells, engaged the audience in a rousing rendition of *“Jingle Bells”*. They concluded the evening with a beautiful upbeat Swahili song called *“Kuna Karamu,”* which means “Let’s Celebrate.”

The evening was a true celebration for the children and their families. It was the culmination of many hours of devoted practice and rehearsals. Ms. Bernard, Ms. Henderson and piano accompanist *Leon Hilfstein* deserve accolades for their dedicated work with the young people that brought much joy on this December night.



## Sharing Joy during the Holidays at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School

Fifth grade teacher *Michelle Edwards* spoke with her class in early December about an eight year old girl she read about and saw on national television news. *Safyre Terry* from Schenectady was severely burned over 75% of her body in a house fire that took the lives of her entire family and destroyed their home and all their possessions. In the past two years, she has undergone more than 50 surgeries and skin grafts. When asked recently what she wanted for Christmas, Safyre answered “Christmas cards”.

When Ms. Edwards finished telling the story and looked at her students, they all knew that they wanted to make and send cards to this young girl. In a few days Ms. Edwards, Special Education Teacher *Toni Laya* and Teacher Assistant *Amie Akerley* organized the project. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, children were coloring cards with reindeer, Santa Claus and other holiday creatures and writing notes to Safyre. The messages were all very similar with hopes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, wishes for lots of stuff from Santa and expressions of love.

Fallsburg’s Benjamin Cosor Elementary School has been involved in **Positive Behavior Intervention Services** (PBIS) since 2007. This program encourages building strong and

good character. This month the theme of **PBIS** is sharing. The children in this particular classroom are offering their creativity and their good wishes to a child that certainly will appreciate the cards coming from Fallsburg.

## BCES - 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Physical Education Award

The Physical Education staff at BCES gave out their first PE awards of the year. The winners are being recognized for having outstanding attitude, effort, and achievement. Two of our recipients were *Alex Depuy-McBride* from Mr. Sapolsky’s 4<sup>th</sup> grade and *Mia Irlbacher* from Ms. Bradley’s 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Congratulations to all of our winners!

*Suzanne Lendzian*







## Fallsburg School District Hosts Parent Leadership Academy

At the Open House for Fallsburg Junior/Senior High School in early October, Principal *Michael Williams* stressed the importance of parental involvement with their children's performance in school. Research studies demonstrate the positive impact parents can have on early learning and development and student achievement.

This year Fallsburg has been actively partnering with **Every Person Influences Children** (EPIC). Before classes began in the fall, EPIC offered teachers and staff valuable training in ways to engage parents in the learning experiences of their children throughout all grades. On October 15<sup>th</sup> EPIC gave a full day workshop to Fallsburg parents entitled "EPIC Parent Leadership Academy." The essence of the program is to empower parents to lead students and schools to success.

The workshop leaders were *Ms. Tara Burgess*, Director of Opportunities and Family Engagement, *Phyllis Eig*, Central Hudson Regional Director, and *Juana Billy*, Program Coordinator for the Central Hudson Region. Ms. Billy involved the entire group of parents in understanding the basics of parental engagement that will lead to service on PTA/PTSO, school-based committees and greater involvement in the school district as a whole.

Some of the many benefits of the training for participants are building relationship and trust between parents and school staff; creating confidence and a sense of capability in parents; developing basic leadership skills; strengthening parental engagement in the school; promoting ability to advocate for **ALL** children in the school; and instilling competencies and learning strategies that will make parents a valued resource in supporting their children and the schools in meeting today's challenges.

By the end of the day, the participants were inspired to actively engage with the school staff and, most importantly, the students. Assistant Superintendent of Instruction *Dr. Matthew Evans* and Superintendent *Dr. Ivan Katz* were very pleased with the turnout of interested parents and the enthusiasm shown for the day's teachings.

## A Night of Music and Tribute at Fallsburg High School

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, students, families and staff entered the Fallsburg HS Auditorium to hear the Music Department perform at the Annual Winter Concert. On the stage the chairs for the band were set up. At the place where the conductor stands was a chair with a light brown sports jacket over the back. Pinned to the jacket in bright red ribbon were the initials J.L. This was done to honor Band Director and Music Teacher **John Lusk**, who was unable to be there because of a serious medical condition.

Under the guidance and support from the school staff and the student band president, *Joshua Hazelnis*, the Senior Band played four pieces without a conductor before a very appreciative audience. The musicians rose to the occasion and performed magnificently. This was a wonderful tribute to Mr. Lusk and an overwhelming highlight of the evening.

The choral part of the evening was flawless. Director *Colleen Barber* guided the Chamber Chorus, Junior Chorus and Senior Chorus through ten stellar numbers, featuring excellent soloists, piano accompaniment by *Leon Hilfstein* and percussion by student *Allenson Flores*. The Chamber Chorus accepted the challenge of performing Mozart's "**Lacrymosa**" in Latin and earned extended applause. The final number performed by the Senior Chorus was Cat Stevens' "**Peace Train**". Ms. Barber commented afterward that this was one of the most complicated pieces the young singers ever performed because of rhythm and chord changes.

As the orchestra lights came on at the end of the concert, parents and families congratulated their children for the wonderful music, and good cheer they generated. Thoughts were going out to Mr. Lusk and his family with prayers for his recovery. Although he was not present physically, he was still there teaching these students about music and life. The young members of the Senior Band would always remember this night as a gift to and from their teacher and musical mentor.

FALLSBURG JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL





## S.A.D.D. and Thanksgiving



Fallsburg High School **Students Against Destructive Decisions** (S.A.D.D.), who collected non-perishable food for the Federation of Homeless during this Thanksgiving season. The students were glad “to give back to the community” and as one student said, “It will warm my heart knowing that a family will not have to stress about where their next meal is coming from.” In the photo with some of the food collected are standing on the left *Liliana Moody* and Faculty Advisor *Ms. Kiffanie Rodgers-Sanchez*; seated left to right are *Rebecca Budrock*, *Brittany Leventoff*, *Brittany Mackiel*, and *Ceci Patterson-DaCosta*; standing on the right are *Brendon Sapolsky*, *Morgan Williams*, and *Gisselle Caballero*.



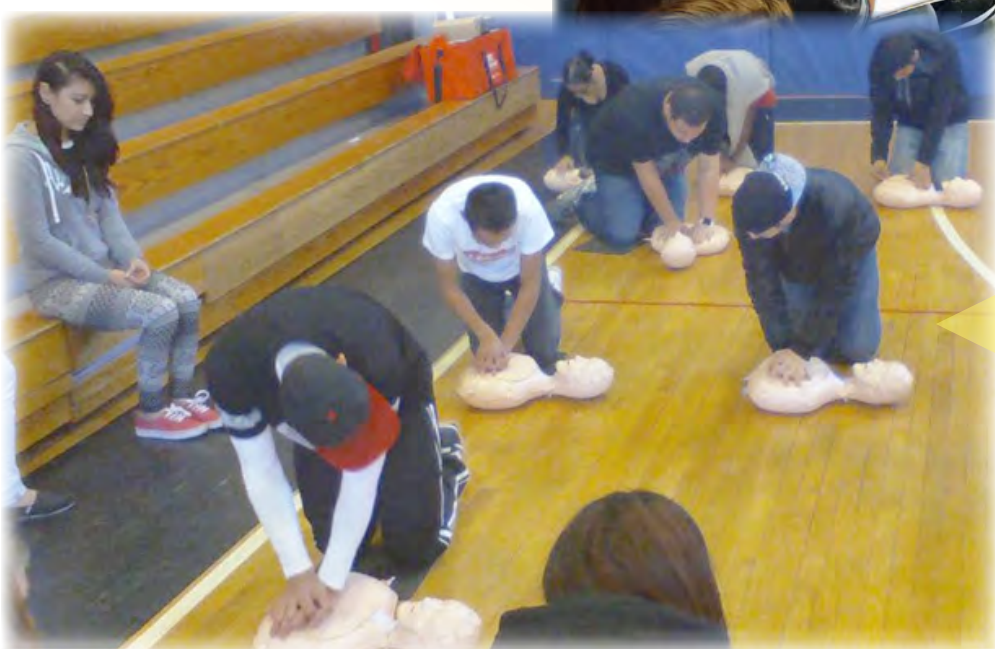
### Guest Artist

In November studio potter *Jackie Sabourin* came to visit Ms. Magnifico’s Ceramics class. She gave a half hour long demonstration on how to throw objects on the pottery wheel. The students said it was mesmerizing, and were impressed at how easy she made it look. Following Mrs. Sabourin’s visit the students have begun to create their own work on the wheel.



### Physical Education

All students in grades 9-12 received hands-only CPR training before the Thanksgiving Recess. Please see the picture of some of our students in action.







Welcome to the Holidays at Fallsburg...





*Winter Varsity Cheerleading*



*Winter JV Cheerleading*



*Girls JV Basketball*



*Boys Varsity Basketball*



*Modified Girls Basketball*



*Boys JV Basketball*



*Indoor Track Team*



*Modified Boys Basketball*



*Girls Varsity Basketball*

**FALLSBURG ATHLETICS**





# 2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

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

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

  SCHOOL CLOSED    
   CONFERENCE DAY    
   REGENTS EXAMS    
   TESTING DAYS

## SCHOOL CLOSED

SEPTEMBER	.....	7, 14, 23
OCTOBER	.....	12
NOVEMBER	.....	11, 25-27
DECEMBER	.....	24-31
JANUARY	.....	1, 18
FEBRUARY	.....	15
MARCH	.....	21 - 28
MAY	.....	30

## SCHOOL DAYS

SEPTEMBER	.....	14	+	1	CONF
OCTOBER	.....	19	+	2	CONF
NOVEMBER	.....	17			
DECEMBER	.....	17			
JANUARY	.....	19			
FEBRUARY	.....	20			
MARCH	.....	17			
APRIL	.....	21			
MAY	.....	21			
JUNE	.....	17	+	1	CONF
<b>TOTAL</b>	.....	<b>182</b>	+	<b>4</b>	<b>CONF.</b>

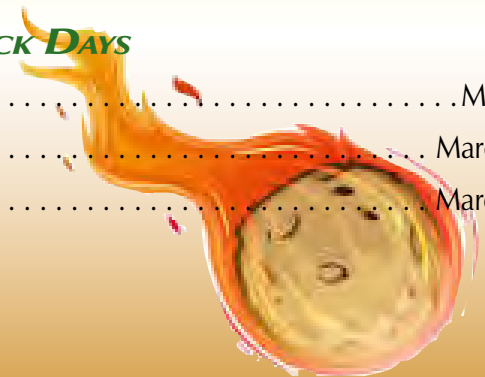
## MAKE-UP DAYS

DAY 1	.....	NOVEMBER 25
DAY 2	.....	FEBRUARY 15
DAY 3	.....	MARCH 21
DAY 4	.....	MARCH 22
DAY 5	.....	MARCH 23
DAY 6	.....	MARCH 24
DAY 7	.....	MARCH 28

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

## GIVE BACK DAYS

1 <sup>st</sup> day	.....	May 27
2 <sup>nd</sup> day	.....	March 29
3 <sup>rd</sup> day	.....	March 30





# 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
- MS. KATHERINE RAPPAPORT • MS. JENNIFER REINHARDT • MR. MICHAEL WEINER
- MR. ROBERT WHITAKER • MR. SHAWN WILES

Visit us at [www.fallsburgcsd.net](http://www.fallsburgcsd.net)

## CONTACTS

### PHONE NUMBERS...

<i>Dr. Ivan J. Katz</i>	• Superintendent . . . . .	434-6800 Ext. 1215
<i>Dr. Matthew T. Evans</i>	• Assistant Superintendent . . . . .	434-6800 Ext. 1204
<i>Mr. Daniel Grecco Jr.</i>	• Business Manager . . . . .	434-6800 Ext. 1219
<i>Mr. Keith Edwards</i>	• Director of Technology . . . . .	434-6800 Ext. 1258
<i>Ms. Jane Tingley</i>	• Director of Staff Evaluation & Student Data . . . . .	434-6800 Ext. 1257
<i>Ms. Heather Hendershot</i>	• Pupil Personnel Director . . . . .	434-6800 Ext. 1273
<i>Mr. Michael Williams</i>	• High School Principal . . . . .	434-6800 Ext. 2206
<i>Mr. Frank Godlewski</i>	• High School Asst. Principal . . . . .	434-6800 Ext. 2207
<i>Ms. Mary Kate Stinehour</i>	• Elementary Principal . . . . .	434-4110 Ext. 3206
<i>Mr. David Viglione</i>	• Elementary Asst. Principal . . . . .	434-4110 Ext. 3204
<i>Ms. Suzanne Lenzian</i>	• Director of Physical Education & Athletics . . . . .	434-6800 Ext. 2212
<b>Central Registration</b>	. . . . .	434-6800 ext. 1222
<b>Tax Collection</b>	. . . . .	434-6800 Ext. 1219

### FAX NUMBERS...

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

### 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](http://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](mailto:tax@fallsburgcsd.net).

## KEEPING YOU POSTED

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
12/24-1/4/16	School Closed		
1/4/16	School resumes		
1/6	Bd. Of Ed. Meeting	6:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.
1/14	BCES PTA mtg.	4:30pm	Cafet.
1/18	School Closed		
1/20	Bd. Of Ed. Meeting	6:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.
2/3	Bd. Of Ed. Meeting	6:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.
2/9	HS Pops Concert	7-8pm	HS Audit.
	Kids Klub Bake sale	7-8pm	HS Lobby
2/11	HS Pops Concert snow date		
2/12	Superintendent's Conf. Day		
	BCES Valentine's Dance	6-8pm	Cafet.
2/15	School Closed		

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
2/17	Bd. Of Ed. Meeting	6:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.
2/18	HS Band Play-a-thon		
2/19	BCES PTA mtg.	4:30	Cafet.
3/1	BCES Principal's Award Ceremony	9:30-10:30	
3/2	Bd. Of Ed. Meeting	6:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.
3/3	BCES Principal's Award Ceremony		– snow date
3/4-5	All County Music Festival		
3/16	Bd. Of Ed. Meeting	6:15pm	MS Bd. Rm.
3/17-18	BCES P/T Conferences – Noon dismissal		
	BCES SGA Bake Sale		
3/18	BCES PTA mtg.	4:30	Cafet.
3/21-28	School Closed		
3/29	School resumes		