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## 

Dear School Community Member:
hope this issue of the Comet newsletter finds you in the best of health and spirit as we move through these mild winter months and await the promise of spring. Over the past few weeks I have been asked about the future of the Fallsburg Central School District swimming pool. To that end I will update you as to where we are and where we are going relative to the pool.

This past summer, the District completed, for the most part, a building project that fixed, replaced and/or improved several district facilities. One of the areas to be improved upon was the swimming pool. The plan for the pool room was to replace the tiled floor and deck area, add lifts and make the pool ADA compliant. When the deck work began, exposed areas underneath the concrete surface showed that there were failed drainage systems and several other items that were found to be in disrepair or completely rotted out when the concrete was removed. These areas had not been previously identified as they were under the concrete surface and not visible. Additionally, the pool liner, installed in 1994 (with an expected lifespan of 20 years), is beyond the end of its useful life and must be replaced. These new findings called into question the overall stability and safety of the pool area and caused us to stop the renovations we began in August.

Clearly, the additional repairs and renovations that will be required to get the pool in excellent working order goes well beyon the monies that were allotted to it in the previous project.

Moving forward, the Board of Education is in the process of hiring a new architect who will investigate the pool from soup to nuts in an effort to identify any and all pool-related issues. Following that analysis, the architect will advise the Board of Education on what options are available and what the costs for those options will be. Ultimately, it is the desire of the Board to let the public vote on what the future of the pool will be.

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 contine 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.
Educationally yours,

## Guan \%. Waltz, Ed.D.

## SAVE THE DATE:



## The Fallsburg Alumni Association All-Class Reunion and Luncheon

 The Woodridge Municipal Hall Saturday, July 23 ${ }^{\text {rd }}$, 11:00AM - 2:00PM\$25 donation for two

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## FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

## Celebrating the Academic Success of our Students (K-6)!

Our students in grades $K$ through 6 just completed the Winter MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) in reading, math and language usage. The computerized assessment adjusts based on individual student responses. Questions become more ifficult as the student answers correctly. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier.

The MAP assessments are used to measure your child's growth in the areas of reading, math and language usage. Just as you would keep track of how tall your child is over time, the MAP assessments keep track of the growth your child is making year after year. Teachers use this information to keep track of your child's progress with basic reading and math skills. The data lets teachers know where a student's strengths are and if help is needed in any specific areas. Teachers use this informaton to guide their instruction so your child gets the most out of his/her learning time.
We are very proud of our students and the growth they made from fall to winter of this school year! $54 \%$ of our kindergartness; $61 \%$ of our $1^{\text {th }}$ graders; $63 \%$ of our $3^{\text {rd }}$ and $4^{\text {th }}$ graders; and $64 \%$ of our $2^{\text {nd }}, 5^{\text {th }}$ and $6^{\text {th }}$ graders met or exceeded the growth projections for the entire grade in math. In reading, $49 \%$ of our $6^{\text {th }}$ graders; $53 \%$ of our $4^{\text {th }}$ graders; $55 \%$ of our $3^{\text {rd }}$ graders; $57 \%$ of our kindergartners; $60 \%$ of our $1^{\text {st }}$ graders; $61 \%$ of our $5^{\text {th }}$ graders and $66 \%$ of our $2^{\text {nd }}$ graders met or exceeded the growth projections for the entire grade.

Our students are working hard to meet our district academic goal (Fallsburg CSD learner's growth will exceed expectations and indicate progress towards readiness and excellence in college and careers as evidenced by: $45 \%$ growth rate in mathematics and $60 \%$ growth rate in reading) and demonstrate our vision statement - At Benjamin Cosor Elementary School, 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. We are proud of their accomplishments!

## Mary Kate Stinehour

## From the Elementary Assistant Principal

On Monday, February $1^{\text {st }}$, while the vast majority of the children in Sullivan County, because of the lack of "winter weather," were denied, and almost cermainly pined for, the opportunity to play in the snow, engage in snowball fights, and build a snowman, the students in Mrs. Calabrese's pre-K class were fortunate enough to engage in one of those activities!
Thanks to the efforts of Ms. Suzanne Lendzian, Fallsburg's Director of Physical Education and Athletics, the students had enough of the white stuff to stage their own "winter carnival." Ms. Lendzian, who lives in a community that had actually received a substantial snowfall, packed several coolers with snow and brought them to Benjamin Color Elementary School.

Mrs. Calabrese took over from there, as she and Ms. Warner ensured that the students enjoyed a fun, educational experience. The children in both of the pre-K classes built a snowman!
While making their snowmen the students learned many things. They got a chance to master concepts such as positional language, shapes, symmetry, texture, and sequence. In addition, they used this hands-on experience to sharpen their ability to work as a team.

While the AM pre-K class did not get a chance to name their snowman the PM class called theirs "Snowy."
The children enjoyed the entire snowman-making experience, which included a trip to the office to show off their creations to Mrs. Stinehour.

In other news, disciplinary referrals were up in December and January, with 53 and 43 total referrals, respectively. In both cases, the numbers are up from last year's monthly totals, but lower than they are traditionally. Once again, the most common disciplinary offense is "Disruptive/Insubordination," followed by "Minor Altercation." The most "served" disciplinary disposition is "Administrative Detention," which is, for the student, part of the day spent in the In-School Suspension Room.

## Dave Oiglione

## Fallsburg Families Celebrate Honor Students

More than 200 grandparents, parents and siblings acknowledge $4^{\text {th }}, 5^{\text {th }}$, and $6^{\text {th }}$ graders for earning first quarter Superintendent Honor Roll and Honor Roll awards just before Christmas break at BCES on December 15, 2015. It was standing room only in the auditorium/cafeteria as Principal Mary Kate Stinehour presented the awards. Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz had the privilege of handing out Superintendent Honor Roll certificates to the highest academic achievers.
Because so many people have cell phones with cameras, proud parents came forward to capture the children holding up their awards. Smiles and applause were abundant

throughout the early morning ceremony. It was special to receive this recognition at this season of giving, especially for the families that put such a strong value on their child's education and their own participation in supporting the school's activities.

## An Hour of Code Continues at BCES

For the second year in a row, BCES students from K-5 attended workshops in the practice of computer coding led by Math Coach and Teacher Peter Dworetsky. The students are building their skills that computer programmers use every day in their work.

This nation-wide program called "Hour of Code" is being offered to schools throughout the world, including in several districts in Sullivan and Orange County, New York.
It is exciting to watch Ms. Jessica Bradley's $4^{\text {th }}$ graders learning how to make the computers follow their instructions and experiencing the satisfaction of mastering simple commands. Classroom teachers and aides work closely alongside Mr. Dworetsky and offer hands-on support for the children. Often students support their neighbor in demonstrating the methods being taught.
With each year the students are building their knowledge and understanding the importance of computers and programming. They are preparing for the time when they may become programmers themselves and when they will be using the techniques in more complex and creative ways.

## An Involved Parent Makes a Difference in Fallsburg

 son. This was part of the school's theme for the children during the month of December. Ms. Muscia was putting the theme into practice by sharing her time and support with the children.
The afternoon was a big success. It reinforced the importance of having active parent participation in a child's daily education. Principal Mary Kate Stinehour said that if parents would like to read to children or volunteer in other supportive ways, they should contact their child's teacher just as Ms. Murcia did with Ms. Levy.

## FROM THE MIGH School Princlpar

Greetings again! "Effort Equals Excellence" is a phrase that is used repeatedly in the Junior/Senior HS and has become our mantra for the attitude we want to instill in all of our students. We have come to see that without continued persistence, or "grit" as it is sometimes called, students may pass classes but will never really excel in anything. As adults, we know that failure is a fact of life. Indeed, we have all, and will continue to, fail from time to time. But we also know that failure doesn't define a person, rather, it is the willingness, or persistence, that a person shows in the face of failure. Are we willing to try again and risk additional failure? Did we learn anything from the initial failure that we can use to be more successful the next time around? Or, do we dwell on the initial failure and refuse to try again because we are scared to fail again? These questions may have different answers for different people, but only persistence in the wake of failure will allow our students, your children, the opportunity to grow, face challenges head on, and eventually conquer their fears. There is an old saying that goes "out of lemons make lemonade." Well, we want and need to see more lemonade in the junior-senior high school.

The Junior/Senior HS will soon undergo a visit from a team of educators whose purpose it is to review our organizational and instructional practices. After viewing these practices, this team will make recommendations for improvement, and these recommendations will be used to create a School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP), which will guide our planning for the next year. This review is part of the Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness (DTSDE), a process we have completed each year for the last three (3) years.

This time of year marks the end of the winter sports season, the annual Winter Concert, the advent of warmer weather and the journey into spring. The spring season also marks the beginning of our annual state testing cycle, which begins in early April with the grade(s) 7 and 8 ELA examination(s) and concludes in late June with the Regents examinations. These tests are important indicators of your child's ability to be successful and in the case of the Regents exams, could be required for graduation. Please remind your child about the importance of these exams and the need to take them very seriously. Also, if your child is struggling, please call their respective guidance counselor as soon as possible and speak with them about how we can help your child. One way might be participation in our Extended Day program, which meets Monday through Thursday from 3-4:45pm and includes daily sessions on academic help in all of the subject areas. Every student can participate in the program (there is a permission slip required) and it is an easy way to get extra help!

So, as you can see, the Junior/Senior HS is a very busy place this time of year! With the cold dark days, it is easy for a student to become complacent in their work, but before you know it they are struggling and the end of the year is fast approaching. I urge you to continue to push them to work harder, investigate the homework they are doing nightly, and stay in contact with their teachers. The end of the school year is a short four months away!

As always, if we can be of any assistance to you, whether it is an educational need, an emotional need, an economic need, or any other need you have, please contact us at 434-6800 and allow us to help. We have resources available, and if we don't have a resource to fit your particular need, we can connect with someone that does. Most of all, remember that together, we can help your child be successful, and that "Effort Equals Excellence."

## OMike OWillians

## Youth Economic Group

On November 13 ${ }^{\text {th }}$, Mrs. Strack's Career and Financial Management students attended a Youth Economic Symposium at Sullivan County Community College. The event was sponsored by the Youth Economic Group (YEG) of Sullivan County.

Students were divided into 8 teams with peers from Monticello High School. Each team was coached by a Business Professional from different areas of New York State. The task of each team was to develop a Cooperative Business idea that would benefit Sullivan County. Teams had to generate the idea, come up with a company name and create a business plan. Teams then presented their ideas to their peers, teachers, members of the YEG and four Judges, who were business professionals from the area. All the teams came up with wonderful, well thought out ideas that impressed the judges. The students really enjoyed the competition and rose to the challenge! Congratulations
to all that participated! Carlos Mejia, Shyam Patel and Fanny Grande Perez were part of the winning team and each won a $\$ 500$ scholarship for Sullivan County Community College!

## Theressa Stuack

## Life Skills Decorations

The students of the Fallsburg Life Skills Class created decorations out of wooden pallets for the Fallsburg Winter Carnival. Students sanded, cut, shaped and prepared the pallets. They then painted and decorated the pallets to look


like snowmen. Each "Snowman" has a distinct personality including facial expressions and winter wear. Students created fabric hats and scarves to keep their snowmen comfortable!


Students also created a welcome sign using stencils, stars and glitter. During this process, students learned about sandpaper grades, appropriate use of hand tools - saws, miter boxes,

hammers and pry bars. Students also used electric sanders, as well as learning the proper way to paint, types of brushes, and painting techniques. During their work, students practiced workplace safety including using protective eye-gear and masks. Overall, this was a fabulous hands-on experience for students to practice using life skills while creating a fun community project.


## From the Nurse's Office

- Sports Physicals begin on Feb 29 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ after school in the Nurse's office. Forms are available from Nurse Lindsey.
- The JV/ Varsity season begins 3/7/16 and the Modified season begins 3/14/16.
These physicals are also good for working papers.

Any questions contact Nurse Lindsey at 434-6800 ext 2254.
There is a new immunization requirement for students entering the $7^{\text {th }}$ and $12^{\text {th }}$ grades as of September 1, 2016. Student must have adequate doses of the vaccine against meningococcal disease as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Letters have been sent to the parents of children who do not have proof of the meningococcal vaccination.

Parents must send written proof of the meningococcal vaccine to the school nurse prior to the start of the 2016-2017 school year.

Questions should be directed to the school nurse in the building that your child attends.

Merriann Hobby RNC @ 434-4110 ext. 3263 • Fax 434-0871.
Lonnie Lindsey RN @ 434-6800 ext 2254 • Fax 434-3821.

## Fallsburg Winter Carnival is a Big Success

"Who needs snow to make a successful Winter Carnival," said one of the Fallsburg school teachers attending the event at Morningside Park on January 31. "It's all about the com-

munity. Just look at the great turnout." This was the feeling that was echoed by many of the more than 300 people that turned out on the snowless, almost balmy day to enjoy hot dogs, hot chocolate, and fun and games.


The Fallsburg Central School District Wellness Committee and the Town of Fallsburg Parks and Recreation Department organized the event. The intention was to have an enjoyable and healthy time in the outdoors during the middle of winter.

Dozens of volunteers from the Fallsburg schools, parents, and community served hot dogs, hot chocolate, and some ethnic delicacies. The Parks staff kept a bonfire going for warmth and the safe toasting of marshmallows, and they drove dozens of families through the park on a hay wagon trailer.
Town councilmen Arnold Seletsky and Mike Weiner cooked the hot dogs donated by Murray's Chickens in the kitchen and brought them out to Valerie Sitz, who placed them on the donated buns from Stewart's Shoppes. Valerie's daughter Amani, who is a substitute teacher in Fallsburg, made fresh popcorn right next to her mom. The SYDA Foundation provided the hot chocolate.
Party Masters provided a DJ and a bouncy house that was very popular with the young children. The Park had dozens of ice skates, and kids and parents alike were lacing up and heading out to the special skating rink cleared near the lake area. Jack Halchak, Jr., was out
on the big lake showing people how to ice fish. Physical Ed teachers from FCSD were playing games with kids on snow shoes on the frozen grass; other kids were playing volleyball, soccer, ice golf, broom ball on the frozen lake, and Frisbee games.

The FHS Cheerleaders entertained throughout the afternoon from holding the American flag aloft with two pyramids during the National Anthem, to cheerleading during the four hour long event, and face-painting small children, including the young daughter of their Faculty Advisor Kiffanie Rogers-Sanchez. Spanish teacher Angela Hist danced along with the Hispanic American United Club that she advises, and they enticed many to join in and enjoy foods from their native lands.

More photos of the day's events can be seen on the school's web site - www.fallsburgcsd.net.

## SYDA Foundation Donates to the Fallsburg Central School District

On January 22, 2016, Dr. Ivan Katz, Superintendent for the Fallsburg Central School District, received a donation from the SYDA Foundation in the amount of $\$ 4,000$. Bob Pratt, SYDA Foundation Manager for Global Facilities and a school district parent, presented the donation. Also present was Gail Fairbank-Roch, who is the SYDA Foundation Human Resources Outreach Supervisor. Dr. Katz stated, "The SYDA Foundation has been a great community partner over the years and has shown great support for the Fallsburg Central School District. We are proud to have such a community partner."


## Save the Date: Willy Wonka • April 8 \& 9

## BUDGET VOTE \& BOARD MEMBER ELECTION • May 17, 2016

## Prospective School Board Member Workshop

Sullivan County BOCES is sponsoring a workshop for people interested in becoming school board members on Monday, April 11, 2016, from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM in the Conference Room \#1 at Sullivan County BOCES, 6 Wierk Avenue, Liberty, New York.
This workshop is free to any resident who is planning to run or considering running for a board of education position. Reservations must be made by Friday, April 8, 2016 by calling Tania DeFrank at Cell: 845-866-6946 or E-mail: tdefrank@libertyk12.org.

## NOMINATING PETITIONS

March 14: Nominating petitions available in the District Clerk's Office during regular business hours, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

April 18: Nominating petitions must be filed with the District Clerk between the hours of 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Nominating petitions must be signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the District, shall state the name and residence address of each signer, must state the name and residence address of the candidate, and shall describe the specific vacancy for which the candidate is nominated, including the last incumbent's name and the length of the term. No person may be nominated for more than one specific office.
April 19: Ballot position shall be determined by lot drawn in the District Clerk's Office at 10:00 AM.

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots will be available for this Election and Vote. Applications for absentee ballots for the Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the School District Clerk, 115 Brickman Road, Fallsburg, New York.
May 10: Deadline for obtaining an absentee ballot application if ballot is to be MAILED for School Board election and budget vote.
May 16: Deadline for obtaining an absentee ballot application in PERSON at the District Clerk's office for the School Board election and budget vote.
May 17: Deadline for accepting absentee ballots is 5:00 PM at the polling place.

## BUDGET HEARING

May 4: Public Hearing on the Budget at 7:00 PM in the Jr/Sr High School Board Room for the purpose of presenting the budget for the 2016-2017 school year.

## BUDGET VOTE

May 17: The Budget Vote will be in the High School Library, 115 Brickman Road, Fallsburg, New York, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM, prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the following purpose:
A. To elect three (3) members to the Board of Education for three-year terms (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2019). The following are the vacancies on the Board:

## ] Debra Barbiani - 3 Year Term $\square$ Arlene Hussey - 3 Year Term $\square$ Robert Whitaker - 3 Year Term

B. To vote upon the adoption of the Budget of the School District for the 2016-17 fiscal year and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the School District.

## VOTING PROCEDURES

1. One Optical scanner voting machine will be set up in the High School Library. Look for the table that has the letter that your last name starts with and line up in that row.
2. You will be voting Yes or No on the proposed budget for the next school year and for candidates for 3 different seats on the Board of Education.
3. If you have any questions about the operation of the voting machine, ask the Election Inspector who is assigned to the machine.
4. If there are a large number of voters in the HS Library, it is requested that you leave that area of voting.

## VOTER REGISTRATION

If a voter has registered to vote with the School District and has voted at an annual or special school district meeting within the last four calendar years s/he is eligible to vote at this election and vote. If an eligible voter is currently registered to vote with the Sullivan or Ulster County Board of Elections, $s /$ he is also eligible to vote in this election and vote. All other persons who wish to vote must register with the Sullivan or Ulster County Board of Elections or at the personal registration stated below.
May 11: Personal registration in the District Clerk's office between the hours of 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM in the Fallsburg High School, 115 Brickman Road, Fallsburg, New York,
May 12: Last day to register for May 19, 2015 vote.

## VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

All of the voters at school meetings must have all of the three following general qualifications:

1. A citizen of the United States.
2. At least Eighteen (18) years of age.
3. A resident of the district for a period of at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which he or she offers to vote.

NOTE: It has been ruled that a person, to satisfy the above requirements for voting, must be a legal resident of the school district. Non-resident property owners are not eligible for voting.The term "residence" shall be deemed to mean that place where a person maintains a fixed, permanent and principal home and to which he or she, wherever temporarily located, always intends to return. A person may have only one legal residence or domicile, and that is the place where such person intends to have his or her permanent residence or home.

$\square$ School Closed $\quad \square$ Conference Day $\quad \square$ Regen
School Closed

September . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 7, 14, 23
October . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 12
November . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 11, 25-27
December . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 24 - 31
January . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1 , 18
February . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 15
March . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 21 - 28
Mǎ . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 30

## School Days



TOTAL . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 182 + 4 Conf.

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

$1^{\text {st }}$ day. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . May 27
$2^{\text {nd }}$ day . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . ............... . March 29
$3^{\text {rd }}$ day

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-115. Binickman ROAD o PO BOX 124 - FALISBURG, NY 12.733-0124

## BOARD OF IDUCAITON

- MS. DEBRA BARBIANIO MS ANN BENSON O MR JOSEPM COIIVRA O MS ARIINE HUSSEMY TOMS. IKATHERINE RAPPAPORTI O MS' JENNNIFER REINHARDUT O MR MICHAEL WEINER


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Business Office ..... 434-0418
High School. ..... 434-0168
Jr./Sr. HS Nurse ..... 434-3821
Fallsburg Central School District Office \& Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School115 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 nowe-mail that information to: tax@fallsburgcsd.net.


