

FALLSBURG

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Comet News

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DECEMBER • 2014

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Dear School Community Member:

I hope this issue of the Comet newsletter finds you in the very best of health and spirit. Winter has unofficially begun with cold and snow as our constant reminders. The good news is that the holiday season is upon us and a new year is right around the corner. However, before we advance to 2015, I would like to take a moment to tell you about the successful community forum on drug concerns that was held at the junior-senior high school on December 6th, 2014.

The Fallsburg Central School District hosted a *Community Drug Awareness and Prevention Forum* on Saturday, December 6th, 2014, from 10 AM to 1:30 PM in the Fallsburg Jr.-Sr. High School Auditorium. This event was in response to concerns from community and staff members about various incidences of drug use and sales in Fallsburg's schools. The newly created Superintendent's Community Advisory Council (SCAC) worked with me to put this forum together as a way of directly working with community members to enhance awareness of the challenges surrounding drug abuse and existing prevention programs.

How did the SCAC come to be? Good question! The SCAC concept began in the late winter of the 2013-2014 school year when various sectors of the school community expressed concern about the finding of drugs and drug paraphernalia at the elementary school and the subsequent investigation of the matter. These concerned parties created an advisory body to meet regularly

with the Superintendent of Schools during the upcoming school year (2014-2015) and to offer advice on major matters affecting the school community. The SCAC council is made up of parents, community members and FCSD staff members.

The December 6th forum featured a presentation from Mr. Michael Nerney, a noted international consultant on drug problems in schools. Dr. Nerney spoke with the Fallsburg parents and school community members and addressed their concerns on topics including, but not limited to:

- How drugs can be prevented in schools
- How to relate to drugs as a community issue
- How parents can talk about drugs with their children
- Signs and symptoms of drug use

Immediately following Dr. Nerney's presentation, community members engaged in small-group breakout sessions where ideas were heard and discussed. The breakout sessions were facilitated by members of the District's administrative team. Having peaked in on all of the breakout sessions as they were occurring, I can tell you that there was respect, honesty, candor and brainstorming taking place in each room. I owe a debt of gratitude to all of the people who attended and participated on that cold, rainy and somewhat icy Saturday morning. The December 6th event has resulted in additional members of the school community joining the SCAC which I think is an excellent outcome.

Next Steps? Another good question! The purpose of the forum, following Mr. Nerney's presentation, was to hear and record the suggestions and concerns of the community. Careful notes were taken at each of the breakout sessions so that the SCAC can identify future needs based on the identified items. The SCAC will meet in early January to review and discuss the breakout session feedback that was collected. Following that review and discussion, the SCAC committee will distribute the findings of the Forum to the school community. These findings will also guide the SCAC relative to future events.

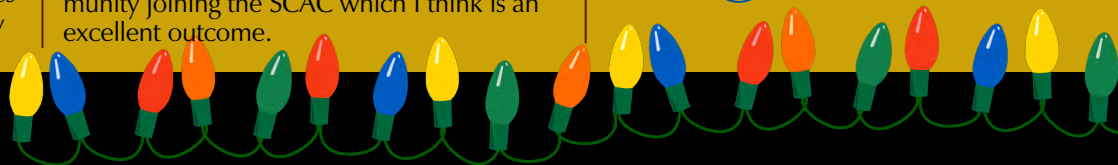
I would like to continue to emphasize that the Fallsburg Central School District will be persistent in its goal to root out illegal activities on district grounds. By doing so, as a district and as a community we will continue to deny safe haven to any person or persons that feel it is appropriate to conduct themselves in such a negative manner both on school grounds and around our children. We will continue to be unrelenting in the pursuit and maintenance of this goal. The December 6th event was a beginning. I look forward to the journey.

At this time I would like to wish us one and all a happy holiday season and the very best of everything in 2015.

Educationally yours,

Ivan J. Katz, Ed.D.

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FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

May Peace, Joy, Hope and Happiness be yours during this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year!
Happy Holidays,

Mary Kate Stinehour

FROM THE ELEMENTARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. I hope that everyone enjoys the time off from school, and comes back ready to tackle whatever challenges that the 2015 might bring..

Dave Vigliane

Fallsburg Families Welcome Santa Express

Warmed by hot chocolate, the sounds of the holiday season provided by Corey Gips, and the exciting routines of the Jr/Sr High School Cheerleaders, dozens of families awaited the arrival of the Santa Express. Just before a special performance by the BCES Choir, a loud commotion caused people to turn their attention to a huge float moving onto the parking lot at South Fallsburg's Brian Ingber Park.

A long tractor trailer was bringing Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and lots of helpers to the eager assembly. The event was a labor of love for all those that made the night possible. Sullivan County businessman Lou Monteleone has sponsored the group that has been visiting towns and villages for the past ten years in the weeks just before Christmas. Fallsburg

School Board Vice President Valerie Sitz has been organizing Fallsburg's stop along the way, with the full support of the Town, the School District, and many local agencies and businesses.

Before Santa's arrival Town Supervisor, Steve Vegliante, welcomed everyone and thanked the organizers and entertainers. He then introduced School Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz, who read "Twas the Night before Christmas" to the attentive crowd.

Just prior to these events at the Park, organizers from the Fallsburg Library with the generosity of community businesses, helping agencies, and volunteers from the high school students, the Falls-



burg Lions Leo's Club and Woodridge Kiwanis K-Kids, distributed a good part of 37 bags of warm clothing to needy families at the Senior Center around the block. Fidelis Health Care was on hand to distribute warm hats, gloves and calculators to all who came by.

Teaching the Wizards of the Future

Fallsburg's BCES devoted the week of December 8-12 to giving all students from K through 6 an opportunity to experience "Coding" in the Computer Lab. Coding is the basic element to programming a computer.



Through animated games that have been put together for even the youngest of children, students can easily and quickly learn to make a creature on the computer screen walk, jump, devour treats, and flow where the child wants it to go. Watching a six year old do this for the first time, see the excitement on the child's face, and grasp at once how engaged he or she has become in just a moment is truly gratifying. When they follow the instructions correctly, they are rewarded with the words "Good Job!" flashing up on the screen.

To begin the week, Math Coach and Teacher, Peter Dworetzky, conducted coding training sessions throughout each class period of the day for grades K-3. From Tuesday to Friday each class period had sessions for the remaining grades at the school. Mr. Dworetzky first showed a video that explained the importance of coding, with words of encouragement to students from giants of the computer world like Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, and Mark Zuckerberg and celebrities like National Basketball Champion Chris Bosh, who learned coding in college.



"This class is part of a global movement," said Dworetzky. An "Hour of Code" will reach tens of millions of students in



more than 180 countries during the week. For Fallsburg children, who are learning the Common Core Curriculum, coding will nurture problem-solving skills, logic

and creativity. By starting so early in their education, students are establishing a foundation for success in the 21st century. As the video states and the teacher emphasized, by the year 2020 there will be 1,000,000 more jobs in computer science and a projected 400,000 students in the field to fill them.

Mr. Dworetsky's engaging teaching, the encouragement of the speakers in the videos, and the hands-on enthusiasm of the young people at the computers made for a positive introduction into a skill that will begin to open new doors for these youngsters. Two quotes from the video capture the impact of the day. "Everybody in this country should learn how to program a computer...because it teaches you how to think," said founder of Apple Computers Steve Jobs. All the Harry Potter fans in the classes had to be influenced by another point, "Programmers of tomorrow are the wizards of the future."

For classroom teachers like Ms. Elyn Levy and Mr. Dominick Scanna, observing and assisting their students on the computers was thrilling. These teachers and others throughout Sullivan County will be able to learn more about using coding in their classes through offerings in professional development by Sullivan County BOCES.

BCES Winter Concert.



The BCES Winter Concert did not disappoint as a full auditorium was treated to an equally full program.

Ms. Bernard conducted the Brass Band, the Woodwind Band and the Concert Band. The Brass Band and the Woodwind Band played four holiday pieces which included an American, a German and Caribbean folk songs. The Concert Band performed three selections including a holiday piece to celebrate Kwanza, Chanukah and Christmas.

Mrs. Henderson conducted the Bell Choir, the Recorder Ensembles and the Chorus. Here again the hard work was evident as the children entertained with several traditional

pieces. The experiment of a duet between the Bell Choir and the Alto Recorders was well received.

The Chorus, accompanied by Mr. Leon Hilfstein, ended the program with happy melodies to wish the best of the holiday season to one and all.



FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

I want to take this opportunity to wish the students, parents, staff members and their families the best of holidays! There is certainly nothing more important than spending time with those you love and who love you! May your holidays be bright!!

Michael Williams

E=E • Effort Equals Excellence!

Michael Williams



From the High School Assistant Principal

During this holiday season let me take a moment to wish everyone the best. As we ring in 2015 here are a couple of recommendations based on some observations of the year thus far:

1. Students are supposed to be in the building by 8:05. One of the leading disciplinary referrals this year has been "late to school" referrals. Please help your child arrive on time.
2. Basketball season is in full swing. Please remember that students must leave the building or be in a supervised activity before attending games. Also, students must be academically eligible to attend games.
3. January Regents are around the corner. The key to success is preparation. Have your child see Ms. Lippen about getting help through the extended day program.

All the best in 2015!

Frank Godlewski

Sports Update

The Winter Season is in full swing as we come to the winter break. The boys teams that are offered are: wrestling (v, jv, modified); basketball (v, jv, modified); indoor track (v only); and Alpine skiing (v only). Girls teams are: basketball (v, jv modified); cheerleading (v, jv); Alpine skiing (v only); and indoor track (v only). Our winter coaches are: Carmine Berardi, Phil Motl, and Mike Geller for boys' basketball; Dan Redmond, Lucille Carter-Harris, and Shaina Swerdling coach girls' basketball. The Alpine Ski Teams are coached by Janet Carey and Dave Luczynski. Mike St. Lawrence and Brian Cavanagh are coaching the new indoor track program. The cheerleading coaches are Kiffanie Rogers-Sanchez and Frances Garcia. Patrick Sause is the wrestling coach.

Before we know it, the spring season will be here. Baseball, softball, track and field, and boys' tennis will be offered. Please make sure your athlete's physical is current and their health update/permission form completed. You can remind your son or daughter to pick these forms up at the Athletic Office, the nurse's office, or download them from the school website. Please feel free to call (434-6800 ext. 2212) or email (hfried@fallsburgcsd.net) me with any questions or concerns.

I hope your Holiday is merry, happy, and warm.

Harold Fried

Fallsburg Student Government Association Delivered Food Donations

For the past twenty-five years, the Student Government Association at Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School has been collecting food donations to offer families at Thanksgiving. The SGA at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School has been adding to this collection over the past few years since it came into being. Students delivered boxes of food to the St. Andrews Episcopal Church Food Pantry on November 24.



World Famous Musicians and Dancers Bring their Heritage to Fallsburg

Fallsburg High School Auditorium was filled with joy and laughter on the afternoon of December 10 in a very special assembly featuring Dr. Bernard Woma and his touring troupe of Ghanaian musicians and dancers. Dr. Woma, a world-renown master xylophonist, has appeared before world leaders, such as Presidents Nelson Mandela and Barack Obama. As soon as he appeared on stage, he engaged the audience immediately. For one hour, the dancers and musicians transformed the stage to a West African party and display of Ghana's rich cultural heritage of music and dance.

The performers danced throughout the aisles in the auditorium and invited students and teachers to follow them back onto the stage. Dozens joined in the rhythms of the music as Dr. Woma took everything up to new musical heights. All those on stage and all those in the audience were radiant—smiling, waving their arms, and moving to the beat of the music. People forgot about the sub-freezing cold outside and snow blanketing the area. Immediately after the thunderous applause for the performers, all students transported themselves with abundant energy from the auditorium to the school buses just outside the main lobby.

Dr. Woma and his group came to Fallsburg through the generosity of an Arts-in-Education Coser and a partnership with Nesin Cultural Arts. His main teachings to the students, besides having them engage their whole bodies in the experience of the dance rhythms and music, were "If you can talk, you can sing" and "If you can walk, you can dance." Throughout the hour, he emphasized how instruments were made with materials native to West Africa and that the dancers learned from their ancestors the different steps and movements. "Tradition is a legacy," said Dr. Woma. "It is up to us to know it and pass it on to our children."



High School Winter Concert

The Fallsburg High School Music Department performed their annual Winter Concert in the auditorium before a full house on December 11, 2014. Choral Director Colleen Barber led the junior, senior and select chorus in several traditional songs. Band Director John Lusk directed the junior and senior bands. Leon Hilfstein accompanied the singing on the piano.

The band music featured a beautiful composition of "For the Beauty of the Earth," selections from "The Nutcracker Suite" and a very moving Russian piece entitled "Salvation is Created." The Junior Chorus highlighted "Count on Me" that was recently recorded by American Idol winner Phil Phillips, with heartfelt solos by Ashley Hernandez, Mailee Martinez, Ethan Mednick and Amit Payton.

The Select Chorus offered another modern rendition with an Etta James hit, "At Last" with blues solos from Nyasia Harris and Guillermo Granados. Cullen Feagin was outstanding as soloist in German on "Welcome Winter on this Night." One of the most original pieces of the evening was "Hanukkah Remembrance" with an exquisite viola solo by Rose Steingart and a narration by Lilianna Moody.

Before closing the evening, the master of ceremonies David Hilfstein (son of Leon), acknowledged the wonderful singers and outstanding musicians and Ms. Barber and Mr. Lusk for their work in bringing out the joyous sounds of the evening. Everyone in the audience left the auditorium filled with the sweet music and great inner warmth.



2014-2015 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
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28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				
													30														

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	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31							29	30	31					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
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31													30	31						30	31						

 SCHOOL CLOSED
 CONFERENCE DAY
 REGENTS EXAMS

SCHOOL CLOSED

SEP	1, 2, 25, 26
OCT	.....	13
NOV	.....	11, 26-28
DEC	.....	24-31
JAN	.....	1, 2, 19
FEB	.....	16
MAR	.....	30, 31
APR	.....	1-6
MAY	.....	25

SCHOOL DAYS

SEP	.....	18	+ 1 CONF
OCT	.....	20	+ 2 CONF
NOV	.....	16	
DEC	.....	17	
JAN	.....	19	
FEB	.....	19	
MAR	.....	19	+ 1 CONF
APR	.....	18	
MAY	.....	20	
JUN	.....	19	
TOTAL	.....	185	+ 4 CONF.

MAKE-UP DAYS

DAY 1	.....	Nov 26
DAY 2	.....	FEB 16
DAY 3	.....	MAR 30
DAY 4	.....	MAR 31
DAY 5	.....	APR 1

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

GIVE BACK DAYS

1 st day	.....	May 22
2 nd day	.....	Apr 7
3 rd day	.....	Apr 8



FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

115 BRICKMAN ROAD • PO Box 124 • FALLSBURG, NY 12733-0124

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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 MS. KATHERINE RAPPAPORT • MS. VALERIE SITZ • MS. SONIA WARD • MR. ROBERT WHITAKER
 MR. SHAWN WILES

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CONTACTS

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 Dr. Matthew T. Evans • Assistant Superintendent 434-6800 Ext. 1204
 Mr. Daniel Grecco Jr. • Business Manager 434-6800 Ext. 1219
 Mr. Keith Edwards • Director of Technology 434-6800 Ext. 1258
 Ms. Jane Tingley • Director of Staff Evaluation
 & Student Data. 434-6800 Ext. 1257
 Ms. Heather Hendershot • Pupil Personnel Director. 434-6800 Ext. 1273
 Mr. Michael Williams • High School Principal 434-6800 Ext. 2206
 Mr. Frank Godlewski • High School Asst. Principal. 434-6800 Ext. 2207
 Ms. Mary Kate Stinehour • Elementary Principal 434-4110 Ext. 3206
 Mr. David Viglione • Elementary Asst. Principal 434-4110 Ext. 3204
 Mr. Harold Fried • Interim Athletic Director. 434-6800 Ext. 2212
 Central Registration. 434-6800 ext. 1222
 Tax Collection 434-6800 Ext. 1219

FAX NUMBERS...

Superintendent 434-8346
 Business Office 434-0418
 High School 434-0168
 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.

KEEPING YOU POSTED

Date	Event	Time	Location
12/24-1/2/15	School Closed		
1/5/15	School resumes		
1/7	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Board Rm.
1/19	School Closed		
1/21	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Board Rm.
1/26-29	Regents Exams		
2/4	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Board Rm.
2/10	Pops Concert	7pm	HS Audit.
2/12	Pops Concert snow date		
2/13	Superintendent's Conf. Day		
2/16	School Closed		
2/18	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Board Rm.

Date	Event	Time	Location
2/19	Band Play-a-thon	7-8pm	
3/2-6	Spirit Week		
3/4	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Board Rm.
3/5-7	All-County Band		
3/13	Superintendent's Conf. Day		
3/18	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Board Rm.
3/19	BCES Music & Art Expo	7-8pm	BCES Cafet.
3/20&21	HS Play		
3/26 & 27	BCES Parent/Teacher Conferences		
3/30-4/7	School Closed		
4/7	School resumes		
4/8	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Board Rm.
4/21	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Board Rm.

