

FALLSBURG

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Comet News

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NOVEMBER • 2014

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Dear School Community Member:

I hope that this issue of the Comet Newsletter finds you in the very best of health and spirit. The fall season is passing us by very quickly. Soon, the snowflakes will begin falling and the winter will be here for a hopefully short visit. In this issue I would like to update you on the progress of the building project and the Superintendent's Community Advisory Committee.

The Building Project

The building project is moving forward as of this writing. We are preparing to go out to bid for the remaining work that has to

be done in both of our buildings. This past summer we completed roofing work at the junior-senior high school and flooring work at BCES. The remainder of the project at BCES includes additional flooring work, bathroom renovations, glass/glazing/door work and some site work. At the junior-senior high school we have renovations in the kitchen, locker rooms and pool area. We will also be replacing the outdoor tennis courts. We project completion of this work by the end of next summer (2015). In the near future we will be putting out a video update on the building project so stay tuned.

Superintendent's Community Advisory Council

In a time of crisis, people want to be heard! Even if solutions are not there, parents, staff, and other concerned parties should get the opportunity to speak out and be recognized by all parties in the District.

To address this need, the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council (SCAC) came into being from formal and informal meetings held last spring and summer following the challenging issues facing the School District. The District realized that there was a pressing need to get accurate information out in as timely a fashion as is possible to the various constituencies that comprise the District

After a few meetings with some concerned community members, we decided to create an advisory council to meet with me. To date we have had one regularly scheduled and one special SCAC meeting to address an important matter facing the District. This venue allows people to talk openly on how to move things forward and how to get accurate and timely information out to concerned stakeholders. SCAC will also support the District's new initiative to highlight the many positive things that happen day in and day out in the Fallsburg Schools. The formative group behind SCAC named this initiative "The Faces of Fallsburg." You can view this ongoing project on the school web site (www.fallsburgcsd.net) and school Facebook Page.

Community members can come to SCAC members with issues or concerns at any time through open communication lines and through attendance at SCAC meetings. If you are interested in becoming a member of the SCAC committee or if you want more information on the SCAC committee, please contact me via email at ikat@fallsburgcsd.net or via telephone at (845) 434-6800, extension 1215.

Enjoy the fall. See you next issue!

Ivan J. Katz, Ed.D.



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FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Reading is the Key to Student Success

We are very fortunate to live in a world surrounded by technology. Everything and anything that we want is just a touch of a button away. Because of this, reading is not often seen to be of much interest. Reading can be crucial to a child's mental and social development. Reading strengthens the imagination, builds creativity and enhances critical thinking. Reading is the Key to Student Success

Below are some tips that we as parents can use to help our children build their reading skills.

Talk to your child

Children who are spoken to often will have good language skills. When you talk to your child, you teach the sounds of language, making it easier to learn how to read. Here are some things you can do to help your child build an appreciation for words and language: Tell family stories about yourself and family members; talk to your child about things you are doing and thinking about; ask your child questions; talk with your child about his/her experiences.

Make reading fun

Reading aloud can be fun for the whole family. Read your child's favorite stories as often as he/she wants to hear them. Let him/her fill in the words for you. Read all kinds of material – stories, poems, information books, magazines, newspapers and comics. Keep reading even after your child has learned to read. Choose some stories that are more difficult. He/She will learn new words and you can continue to share the joy of reading together.

Read every day

Children love routine. Reading is something you and your child can look forward to every day. Read with your child for at least 15 minutes a day. Brothers and sisters, grandparents and caregivers can join in, too. Choose a comfortable place to read where you can be close to your child. Read and say nursery rhymes, and sing songs together.

Set an example

When your child sees you reading for pleasure or information, he/she will understand that reading is a worthwhile activity. You are your child's most important role model. Here are some daily reading activities to share with your child:

- Read recipes, food labels, schedules, maps, instructions and brochures.
- Read traffic signs and signs in stores and restaurants.
- Look up information in cookbooks, phone books and dictionaries.
- Read greeting cards, letters, and email messages from relatives and friends.
- Talk to your child about how you read at work or just for fun.

Talk about books

Talking about books you read is just as important as reading them. Talking about a book helps your child understand it and connect it to his/her own experiences. It also helps enrich your child's vocabulary. Talk about your favorite books from childhood, and offer to read them aloud. Look at the cover and the title of a book and ask your child what he/she thinks might happen in the story. Think out loud about the story as you read and encourage him/her to do the same. Ask, "Does this make sense? Why or why not?" Ask more questions a few days later when he/she has had more time to think about the story.

Listen to your child read aloud

Give your child a chance to practice and improve reading skills. Listen to your child read. Be enthusiastic with praise often. Be specific with your praise so he/she knows what he/she is doing well. Show that you are enjoying the story by indicating interest and asking questions. Give enough time to figure out tricky words and show how he/she can learn from mistakes. Make sure that he/she chooses books that aren't too difficult. Don't worry if they are a little easier than the ones he/she reads at school. Encourage him/her to read on his/her own.

Create your own library at home

You can make your own family library. It doesn't have to be a whole room. It can be as simple as two chairs and a bookshelf. Some books are just right for borrowing from the library. Others will find a special place in your child's heart. These are the books for your child's bookshelf. Involve your child in setting up your special place to read. Let your child decide the titles to go on the shelf. Don't be surprised when he/she asks for a book he/she has read many times. A favorite book is like a best friend he/she can return to at any time. Surround your children with books and they will build lifelong friendships.

Know what boys and girls like to read

Boys and girls are different. How they learn and what they like to read are different. Generally, girls enjoy reading more, and they read more. They often enjoy novels and short stories. Boys sometimes lose interest in books in the elementary grades. They may like to read comics, magazines and information about "real" things. They also like action and adventure stories. All types of reading materials can be used to build good reading skills. Find out what your child likes so you can keep him/her interested in reading. There are many types of readers and one type should not be valued more than another.

Questions to ask your child's teacher

When children see their parents and teachers working together, the children feel more secure and confident about school.

- What reading level has my child reached?
- How can I set reading goals for my child?
- How can I support my child to reach these goals?
- What books could my child read easily and which ones would my child find more difficult?
- What books and authors might my child enjoy?
- What level of interest does my child have in reading?
- What reading strategies could I help my child use?
- What books or guides could help me to help my child learn to read and love reading?

Excerpt from: How to Help your Child Learn to Read and Love Reading; Parent Guide. www.peireads.com

So remember:

The **MORE** that you **READ**, the more **THINGS** you will **KNOW**.

The **MORE** you **LEARN**, the more **PLACES** you'll **GO!**

~Dr. Seuss~

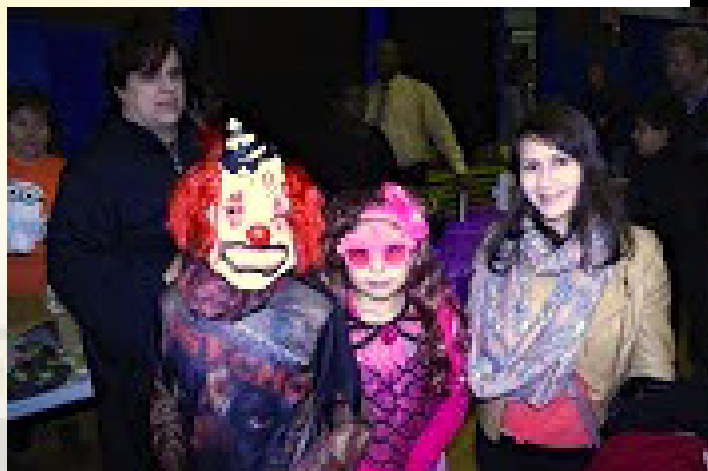
Mary Kate Stinehour

Boys and Ghouls Enjoy Pre-Halloween in Fallsburg



Many harvest moons have passed since Fallsburg's BCES held its first Safe Trick or Treat Night just before Halloween. This year's October 30 event was sponsored by Fallsburg High School's Students against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and the Parent Teacher's Association (PTA) of BCES. More than 30 town and county agencies and service clubs supported the event with

candy and snacks for the five hundred children and family members that paraded through the gymnasium where tables of goodies surrounded the entire perimeter. In the cafeteria the kindergarten and younger children had a "devil" of a time dancing and jumping to DJ Corey Gip's music provided by Party Master. The PTA donated and served colorful cupcakes, cookies, fruit, punch and water.



The event encourages parents to bring their children and enjoy safe trick or treating in a friendly and joyous setting. Many parents joined their young ones with their own costumes. Chief organizer and SADD Faculty Advisor Kiffanie Rodgers-Sanchez had lots of helpers from the School District Staff, the Town of Fallsburg Board and PBA, local service organizations and fire departments, and several other groups. There even was a jolly man roaming the building dressed up as a Superintendent of Schools and bearing a great resemblance to Dr. Ivan Katz. Principal Mary Kate Stinehour welcomed everybody at the front door dressed most definitely as a very good witch. She set the tone for a night of smiles and sheer delight.



FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Hello Parents!

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 students are not determined, they won't be successful. 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." We will continue to deliver this message as the year continues and our expectations regarding your child's achievement grow as well. 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. 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 the second round of 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!

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 end the message to your child that only their very best will do! Remember, together, we can make all students successful, and remember...

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. Most games begin at 6:00 p.m., therefore, students cannot just "hang out" in the building. Students must go home and return later for the game. Remember, eligibility is enforced for basketball games. **IF YOU ARE INELIGIBLE YOU WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO THE GAME!!**

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

Youth Economic Symposium

On November 7th, Mrs. Strack's Sports Marketing and 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 and Liberty 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 a rose to the challenge! Congratulations to all the participants! Mirza Javed and Sierra Patterson were part of the winning team and each won a \$500 scholarship to Sullivan County Community College!

Theresa Strack



Dr. Robert Dell' Amore Returns to Fallsburg

On Sept. 23 & 24 Fallsburg HS students welcomed back Dr. Robert Dell' Amore for two days of fun while teaching skills on how to prepare healthy and simple foods.

Meeting with each physical education class in the school gymnasium throughout the day, a select group of students from each class was invited to do all the preparation and cooking under the chef's guidance. The result was a fresh tasting, delicious pasta and vegetables creation that everyone got to sample.

The program is part of the Carol M. White Physical Education Program Grant that the Fallsburg Central School District received for bolstering the health, nutrition and exercise of the children in the schools. This year's presentation was particularly timely since September is End Childhood Obesity Month.



Retired Staff Breakfast

On September 2nd, retired staff from Fallsburg School District held their annual breakfast at the Blue Horizon Diner in Monticello. Thirty-two people attended including recent retirees Janet Kaplan, Mike Weiner and Bruce Rogers. Happy to see new and old faces in good health, Eileen Kalter and Ceil Cohen have been instrumental in corresponding with everyone to organize this popular yearly gathering.

❄️❄️❄️ SAVE THE DATE ❄️❄️❄️

'Tis the season for the BCES Winter Concert! Come one and all to see what our students have been doing! The concert will take place on December 16th at 7:00 PM in the Fallsburg High School auditorium. December 18th will be the snow date at the same time and place. Student performers should arrive by 6:30 PM. Dress for performers is Black pants or skirt and a white top with nice shoes. Featured ensembles will include 4th-6th grade students in Bell Choir, Recorder groups, Woodwind Band, Brass Band, Chorus and Concert Band.

Lauren Bernard

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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JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
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MAY							JUNE							JULY							AUGUST						
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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

Visit us at www.fallsburgcsd.net

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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

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Business Office 434-0418
High School 434-0168
Jr./Sr. HS Nurse 434-3821

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 & 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
9/2	Superintendent's Conference Day		
11/19	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Board Rm.
11/24-25	BCES Parent/Teacher Conferences		
11/26-28 - School Closed			
12/3	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Board Rm.
12/9	HS Winter Concert	7-8pm	HS Audit.
12/11	HS Winter Concert Make-up date		
12/16	BCES Winter Concert	7-8pm	HS Audit.

Date	Event	Time	Location
12/17	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7:15pm	MS Board Rm.
12/18	BCES Winter Concert Make-up date		
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		