

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

FEBRUARY 2020

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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! While we are in the midst of winter and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring, we find ourselves with 6 remaining snow days (at the time of this writing). I would like to take this moment to explain what will happen with our snow day allotment for the remainder of this school year.

Because winter weather is so unpredictable, we have, as you know, built snow days into the school calendar. This year we built in 10 snow days. The snow days are built in to ensure that we give students the 180 days of required school time each year. We have had years where the winters were so bad we not only used up all of our allotted snow days, but we had to shorten spring breaks because we ran out of snow days. In other years, the winters didn't cause many school closures and we were able to tack on unused snow days (a.k.a. Give Back Days) to the spring recess and Memorial Day weekend breaks. Only Mother Nature knows what is truly in store for us over the next couple of months.

At this time, the school district has six (6) snow days left on the schedule. *Give back days* (days that we will be closed) will be used as follows:

- If 6 snow days are left** - school will be closed May 22nd, April 2nd, April 3rd, April 14th, April 15th, and March 13th.
- If 5 snow days are left** - school will be closed May 22nd, April 3rd, April 14th, April 15th, and March 13th.
- If 4 snow days are left**- school will be closed May 22nd, April 14, April 15, and April 3rd.
- If 3 snow days are left** – school will be closed May 22nd, April 14th, and April 15th.
- If 2 snow days are left** – school will be closed May 22nd and April 14th.
- If 1 snow day is left** – school will be closed May 22nd.

If there are any changes to the school calendar, I will send letters home to parents, and we will put that information on the district website (fallsburgcsd.net) and on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FallsburgCSD/>).

Here is wishing us an early spring!

Educationally yours,

Ivan J. Katz, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

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There is a lot going on at Fallsburg. Following are some of the events scheduled this month.

The School Climate Survey Focus Group

Consisting of a group of students and a group of parents, this group met with an independent moderator to conduct a root cause analysis and develop action steps based on results for last year's School Climate Survey. The group is scheduled to meet twice more this spring. A full report along with action steps will be presented to the administration once completed and then shared with the school community.

Reality Check Vaping Awareness and Nicotine Prevention Gameshow

The JSHS hosted an interactive event for our 9-12 students on Tuesday, February 11th to raise awareness about the vaping crisis.

The SGA sponsored events for Black History month. Events included a movie night and dramatic presentation based on Frederick Douglass. Students also decorated a bulletin board to feature significant events.

Fallsburg JSHS has implemented Friday music. In order to emphasize a positive climate in the building and set a happy tone, music is played on the school PA system as students transition between classes. Students and staff are encouraged to make requests to the main office of fun, uplifting music from all genres.

Fallsburg Junior/Senior High School Holds Second Blood Drive

In their effort to fulfill the need for blood in the region, Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School held its second Blood Drive of the 2019-2020 School Year on January 13th, 2020. The Red Cross crew from Binghamton arrived early in the morning



to the welcome of the Student Government Association (SGA) coordinators, Kimberly Mahler, Emily Collura and Jose Rodriguez. Faculty Advisor Elisa Baum oversaw the student involvement throughout the day.

The Fallsburg SGA has been faithful to holding blood drives for dozens of years. The school has hosted many first-time donors from the student body and new faculty and staff members. Countless lives have been saved as a result of their "gift of life" as the Red Cross calls donated blood, tissues and organs.

Robots Battle at Fallsburg Annual Robotics Scrimmage

To the sheer delight of their coaches, friends and families, 31 school Robotics Teams from as far away as Lake George competed fiercely on the floor of Fallsburg High School Gymnasium on February 1, 2020. The Annual Scrimmage hosted by the Robotics Team from the Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School for the past four years has drawn more and more teams and more parents each successive year as the sport and interest in robots has thrived.

The key driver of the event is FHS Coach and Technology Teacher Don Thomas. Conducting such an endeavor, from





organizing, inviting teams, setting up the gym into five fields of combat, running and judging the competitions, setting up refreshments for guests and lunch for competitors, and presenting awards, is a monumental task and an act of love for robotics and the learning it engenders.

Acknowledgements go to volunteers Fallsburg VEX IQ Robotics Team Members Haris Basic, Saladin Basic and Josslyn Schreier O'Dell; student volunteers Haddy Gai, Janelly Lopez Santos, David Parsons, Kebba Dumbuya, Cody Harvey, Ernie Li and Victors Kessler; Event Staff Cynthia May and Lisa McAdoo. Great thanks go to FHS Robotics Team Graduates and loyal supporters Tyler DuBois and Adem Crnovrsanin.

Volunteer judges were Jen Dietz, Jeff O'Neill and Eric Shewmaker (Monticello CSD).

A few of the many awards presented to Fallsburg Team C from the Jr/Sr High School for Excellence; to Lake George Warriors Teams from the High School and Jr/Sr High School for Tournament Champions in each category; Stargazers from Fallsburg Jr/Sr HS for Design; and Kennedy Gaels from Kennedy Catholic HS in Somers, NY for the Judges Award.

Many of these teams will be competing at New York State Tournament and Internationals later this spring.

Dawne Adams

SAVE THE DATE

The 16th Annual Fallsburg Alumni Association All-Class Reunion and Luncheon will be on Saturday, July 18th. Save the date to enjoy seeing old and new friends, celebrate the achievements of several worthy graduating seniors, honor the newest inductee to our Fallsburg Hall of Fame and partake in a simple, yet scrumptious, lunch. Watch for more details.



FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Emergency Situations

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

Be Safe, Be There, Be Ready: Three of the most important expectations at BCES. You may hear your child, or children in your community, 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 six 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 evacuation drills to the front field. Throughout the school year we will continue to have these types of drills in addition to other drills such as:

- lock down drills which are used when there is possible danger within the building.
- lockout drills that are used when there is possible danger outside of our building.
- hold-in-place drills which are used for minor, immediate situations that require the hallways to be cleared.
- shelter-in-place drills that are used for weather-related events where there is time to move to another location.

How are parents 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 of 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 the 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 Facebook page; website and via email. If you would like email notifications, please send your email address to our Director of Technology, Ms. Jane Tingley at:

jtingley@fallsburgcsd.net

or you can send it in to your child's teacher and ask that he/she forwards your email onto Ms. Tingley.

Respectfully yours,

Mary Kate Stinchour

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BENJAMIN COSOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

FROM THE ELEMENTARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Positive Behavior Influences Students

On Friday, January 31st, the staff and students participated in the 2020 Winter P.B.I.S. Celebration. The students participated in many different winter-themed activities

At one station, the students participated in craft-making activities. They then went to have some hot chocolate, and to hear a story.

Later, the students got to make a snowman, and then play a game of hockey. The students followed that up with a bobsled ride, and the biathlon.

Even though the weather has not been cooperative, the staff and the students made the best of things. A good time was had by all!

We appreciate the effort made by the P.B.I.S. committee, as well as the faculty and staff, on behalf of our students!

Dave Viglione

Another Year of Valentines for Vets at BCES



For the past several years, BCES has sent hundreds of hand-made Valentine's Day cards to veterans in New York State V.A. Hospitals. This year's program began during the week of January 13th and finished on February 1st, in time for every card to be processed for mailing.

The effort is school-wide, and every child has a chance to participate. Teachers from Pre-K through Sixth Grade devote a period from their schedules to provide materials for the students to focus on discussing who veterans are and what they mean to America. Kids share if they have veterans in their families now or whether their parents and other relatives served in the military services.

Valentine's Day is special to children of all ages. It is a time to focus on the heart. That is why this program is part of the BCES yearly schedule.

BCES Buddy Program Celebrates its Sixth Year



Six years ago, two teachers at BCES), Peter Dworetzky and Scott Persten, created a **"Buddy Program"** to benefit boys who needed some support in school. These were kids who were shy or needed to feel more connected with other students. The educators researched and brainstormed and developed their program. They went to FCSD's administrative staff with their ideas and received approval to launch the initial effort with the support of the Fallsburg After School Program Grant.

Beginning with a small group of boys, Mr. Dworetzky and Mr. Persten met the students one day a week at 8am, before school began. Since then the program has grown to two days per week, the number of children has grown by four-fold, now includes girls, and has the in-class support of several other staff members including Sharon Olvera, Lori Lindridge, Lionel White and Emily Ugolino.

Mr. Persten remembers telling a parent about the new program and how it could benefit their son. They agreed and that's how the buddy class has continued to grow. The teachers encourage buddies to always ask for help and guidance. One of their lessons is to learn that sometimes adults can't always tell you what to do. They grow to understand that teachers want kids to learn self-reliance and think for themselves. That's why these teachers and students come to the Buddy Program twice a week!

2019-2020 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	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30						29	30	31					29	30	31					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	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30	31			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	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	
					1	2			1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
																					30	31						

 SCHOOL CLOSED
 CONFERENCE DAY
 REGENTS EXAMS
 TESTING DAYS
 GO HOME EARLY DRILL

SCHOOL CLOSED

SEPTEMBER	30
OCTOBER	9, 14
NOVEMBER	11, 27-29
DECEMBER	23-31
JANUARY	1, 20
FEBRUARY	17
MARCH	0
APRIL	6-13
MAY	25

SCHOOL DAYS

SEPTEMBER	18	+ 1 CONFERENCE
OCTOBER	21	
NOVEMBER	16	+ 1 CONFERENCE
DECEMBER	14	+ 1 CONFERENCE
JANUARY	21	
FEBRUARY	19	
MARCH	22	
APRIL	16	
MAY	19	+ 1 CONFERENCE
JUNE	20	

TOTAL 186 + 4 CONF = 190

MAKE-UP DAYS

Day 1	2/17
Day 2	4/13
Day 3	4/6
Day	4/7

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

GIVE BACK DAYS

If 1 snow day remains:	5/22
If 2 remain:	5/22, 4/14
If 3 remain:	5/22, 4/14, 4/15
If 4 remain:	5/22, 4/14, 4/15, 4/3
If 5 remain:	5/22, 4/3, 4/14, 4/15, 3/3
If 6 remain:	5/22, 4/2, 4/3, 4/14, 4/15, 3/13
If 7 remain:	5/22, 4/2, 4/3, 4/14, 4/15, 3/13, 2/14
If 8 remain:	5/22, 4/2, 4/3, 4/14, 4/15, 3/13, 2/14, 2/18
If 9 remain:	5/22, 4/2, 4/3, 4/14, 4/15, 3/13, 2/14, 2/18, 5/26
If 10 remain:	5/22, 4/2, 4/3, 4/14, 4/15, 3/13, 2/14, 2/18, 5/26, 2/19

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

115 Brickman Road • PO Box 124 • Fallsburg, NY 12733-0124

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- ★ Ms. Debra Barbiani ★ Mr. Joseph Collura ★ Ms. Arlene Hussey ★ Ms. Renee Kates ★ Ms. Fiorella Muscia ★
★ Ms. Katherine Rappaport ★ Ms. Jennifer Reinhardt ★ Dr. Sean Wall-Carty ★ Mr. Michael Weiner ★

“Fallsburg Central School District is a safe, nurturing environment, where excellence is expected, diversity and individuality are celebrated, and learning prepares students to face the challenges of an ever-changing global society.”

CONTACTS

PHONE NUMBERS...

Dr. Ivan J. Katz, Ed.D.	Superintendent	434-6800 Ext. 1215
Dr. Matthew T. Evans	Assistant Superintendent	434-6800 Ext. 1204
Mr. Daniel Grecco Jr.	Business Manager	434-6800 Ext. 1219
Ms. Jane Tingley	Director of Staff Evaluation & Student Data	434-6800 Ext. 1257
Ms. Leighanne Russell	Pupil Personnel Director	434-6800 Ext. 1273
Ms. Michele McCoy	Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services	434-6800 Ext. 1276
Ms. Dawne Adams	High School Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2206
Mr. Louis Trombetta	Interim High School Assistant Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2207
Ms. Mary Kate Stinehour	Elementary Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3206
Mr. David Viglione	Elementary Assistant Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3204
Ms. Suzanne Lenzian	Director of Physical Education & Athletics	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	Date	Event	Time	Location
2/19/20	Board of Ed. Mtg. Budget Workshop #3	6:15pm	MS Board Rm.	3/27-28	The Addams Family	7pm	HS Audit.
2/20/20	HS Pops Concert	7pm	HS Audit.	4/1/20	The Board of Ed. Mtg.	6:15pm	MS Board Rm.
2/25/20	HS Pops Concert snow date			4/6-4/13	School Closed		
3/4/20	Board of Ed. Mtg. Budget Workshop #4	6:15pm	MS Board Rm.	4/21	Board of Ed. Mtg.	6:15pm	MS Board Rm.
3/18/20	Blood Drive Board of Ed. Mtg. Budget Workshop #5	8am – 3pm 6:15pm	HS Gym MS Board Rm.	5/6	Board of Ed. Mtg.	6:15pm	MS Board Rm.