

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

NOVEMBER 2019

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Dear School Community Member:

I hope this issue of the Comet Newsletter continues to find you in the very best of health and spirit as we prepare for the winter season. I just wanted to take a moment to give you short updates on our efforts in curriculum and instruction, the building project and the upcoming budget.

Curriculum and Instruction

With a new school year well underway, our school improvement efforts continue moving forward. Our school improvement initiatives are in response to the New York State Education Department and internal reviews of our curriculum and instruction. In particular, staff are developing and posting high-quality lesson learning objectives, aligned to the NYS Standards, and implementing a gradual release model of instruction. In this model, teachers are expected to gradually release the responsibility of learning to students, so that students - by the end of a lesson or unit - have done most of the work. Our Professional Learning Teams (made up of individual subject areas) meet during conference days to enhance their skills in these initiatives.

We continue to make staff training on current technologies a key part of our conference days so that teachers have multiple tools available in their teaching "tool box." Our November 1st conference day included training on how to use the new features of interactive Smartboard TVs.

Capital Project Update

Our capital project has been moving forward swimmingly! We are now completing the second phase of a three summer building project. Our outdoor track renovation is mostly complete. The track is now all-weather and brings a brand new look to our outdoor physical education and sports programs. Site work around the outdoor track and the baseball field continues through the fall in preparation for the spring. Work on the swimming pool began this past summer and will continue through next summer with the hope of re-opening the pool in the early fall of 2020. Work at the

elementary school this past summer included bathroom renovations and boiler replacements.

Next summer will be the most critical of the three summer project as the bulk of the project work (boiler replacement at the high school and security improvements at both schools), will take place during the summer months of 2020. Our goal is to have the project substantially completed by next fall.

Budget

It seems that we are always in the midst of a budget season in one way or another. A mentor of mine once told me that school districts are always handling three budget years simultaneously. We start the school year by auditing the previous school year, we deal with our expenditures in the current school year and we plan for next year's budget all at the same time.

While it is early, we are beginning the budget planning endeavors for the 2020-21 budget season. We are creating a budget timeline that will be presented to the Board of Education shortly. The budget season will get fully underway in January as we await the Governor to release his initial budget late that month. We are planning for a series of budget workshops in the winter months that will lead to a Board of Education budget approval in April (following the passage of the state budget on April 1st.) The board approved budget will then be placed before the voters on May 19, 2020, which is the date for the annual budget vote and school board election.

At the time of this writing, Halloween is upon us and that means that the fall/winter holiday season is right around the corner. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Fallsburg School Community a happy and fun-filled holiday season!

Educationally yours,

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

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FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

The 2019-2020 school year is off to a great start at Fallsburg JSHS. Below are just a sampling of the events and activities taking place in the first few months of school.

Spirit week and the culminating Battle of the Classes morning took place October 21-25th. Teachers and students were overwhelmingly positive about the day, which included a team building activity by grade level in six wings of the building for the first part of the morning, followed by games which included soccer, basketball and an inflatable obstacle course. The morning closed with a pep rally in the auditorium.

PBIS continues to motivate staff and students to Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be There. Staff has been nominating students of the day and last month 40 students were invited to the On a Roll Breakfast to be recognized.

The My Brother's Keeper program supported more than 30 students to visit our Nation's Capital for a two-day visit. Students toured the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC and were met by Congressman Delgado for a tour of the Capital. The group also spent time touring the National Mall.

First marking period report cards will be sent home before Thanksgiving break. Parents and students will notice the addition of five behavior categories separate from the class grades. Homework, Citizenship, Classroom Participation, Perseverance/Effort and Attendance will be reported as a way to show students and parents the progress and growth in these important career and college readiness areas. The information will allow students to set and achieve goals and to reflect on growth. In addition, report card mailings will include a copy of student transcripts for students in grades 9-12 to help inform families about progress toward graduation requirements. At Fallsburg JSHS we hope this information will help keep all students on track and prepared for a bright future.

Dawne Adams



Leah Exner Receives Grant from Voya Financial

At the beginning of the current school year, Voya Financial, Inc., a leading provider of retirement plans for educators, announced that Mrs. Leah Exner, first grade teacher at Fallsburg's BCES, was receiving a \$2000 grant as part of the company's 2019 Unsung Heroes awards program. On Friday, October 25, 2019, Ms. Andrea Brown, financial advisor located in Voya's Newburgh office, came to present the check to Ms. Exner in front of more than 40 students and colleagues in the BCES gymnasium.

Ms. Exner's innovative idea "BCES Trail: Educated Wellness," involved dozens of students of all ages using their creative powers in designing and building a one-mile trail that surrounds the school building and extends into a wooded area behind the back playing fields. A few examples are: students in the Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School helped design and build information kiosks; students from Sullivan County BOCES built a large equipment shed that now houses many supplies and equipment



to sustain and maintain the trail; Pre-K kids decorated donated railroad ties with their tiny handprints.

The grant money will help students create a writing area where they can work on creating brochures about birds, trees and math calculation projects to be displayed along the Trail. Some of the funding will also help provide creative signage designed by students. Throughout the process, Ms. Exner engages the students with technology and collaborative teamwork.

Fallsburg's Third Annual Color Run

On September 28th, 170 parents, children, teachers, students, custodians, other staff and administration participated to make the Third Annual Color Our Community with Kindness Run the most successful ever. The team of organizers was headed by FCSD Positive Behav-



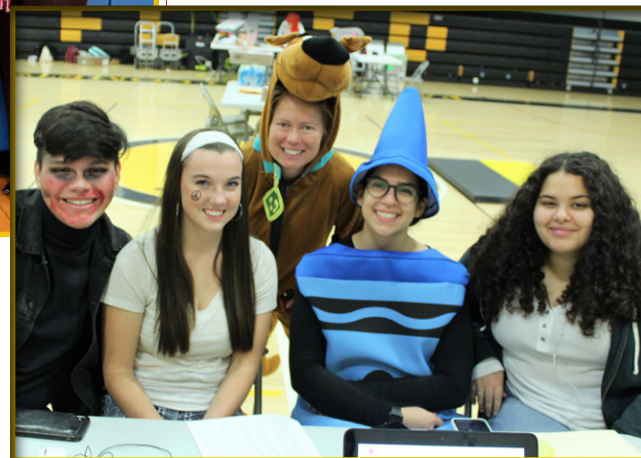
ioral Interventions Support team (PBIS) led by teachers Brittany Davis, Nicole Cortes, Daniel Redmond and their team, and FCSD Athletic Director Ms. Suzanne Lenzian of the district's Well-

this was done in front of a huge canvas sign with the word "KINDNESS" held up by four students.

Along the route, participants passed through vibrant color zones, making it a "total color immersion." Additionally, each pre-registered participant was provided with a single powder color packet that was thrown in the air at the final color celebration at the finish line.

FHS Holds Successful Blood Drive

What better day to have a blood drive than Halloween! That really was not the reason that the Fallsburg Jr/Sr High held its Annual Blood Drive with the Red Cross®. Faculty advisors Elisa Baum and Isabel Mejia-Corley organized the event and had about a dozen volunteers to support the all-day effort in the school gymnasium. The Red Cross technicians were very professional and playful as they all dressed



ness Committee. More than 80 people registered for the 5K run/walk to combat bullying and promote positive behavior in FCSD. The registration fee was \$18 per person dependent on the date of application.

The Color Splash FUNDrun by Get Active Fundraising was designed for all ages and fitness abilities. Before the walk/run, participants doused each other with packets of safe coloring. All

up in Halloween costumes that pleased the SGA and all the donors.

At BCES, we are all Superheroes!

Our PBIS/Olweus theme for the 2019-2020 school year is "We are all Superheroes!" Our school year kick off assembly was a huge success! Our students in grades K through 6 met our very own superheroes; Mr. Comet (AKA Mr. White) and Ms. Fusion (AKA Ms. Castore). Both superheroes will make their appearances throughout the school year to support our students and praise them for their positive choices and own superhero qualities.

To continue with this theme, each month staff members choose a student from each class who personifies a particular character trait. For the month

of September our character trait was "upstanding." Students who were nominated for demonstrating honesty and respect received a superhero ID card and a special invitation to attend a Superhero breakfast. For October, our character trait was being "Bully Free."

Twenty 6th graders are superheroes-in-training! They are working with members of Sweethearts and Heroes as well as our two Champion Teachers, Ms. Cortes and Ms. Davis. These students are learning strategies to work with our 1st grade friends. They practice and model Bully Drills to show our younger students how to handle situations where they, or a friend, may need help in challenging social situations.

At BCES our staff and students are superheroes in disguise!

Reminder:

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook @ Benjamin Coser Elementary School! Here you will find our "Week in Review", which includes what "day" it is (A, B, C...) and any upcoming events. It is also a means to communicate any changes in our schedule, such as "No after school activities" or "Early dismissal due to weather."

Respectfully yours,

Mary Kate Stinehour

Annual Safe Trick or Treat Night Celebrated at BCES



The Fallsburg Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) chapter hosted its Annual Safe Trick or Treat at BCES on October 25, 2019 from 5:30 to 7:00 in the BCES gym. The group provided tables so BCES stu-

dents could come in and Trick or Treat in a safe environment. SADD invited many community organizations, school clubs, teams, and local businesses that gave out goodies. Partnering in this yearly event was BCES Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The PTA sponsored a dance in the cafeteria with a DJ, strobe lights and tables of delicious snacks and soft drinks. Family and Community Engagement Liaison Dr. Aleta Lymon helped support the event with My Brother's Keeper students.

Book Bags Donated to BCES

On Wednesday, September 25th, the Lifers Inmate Organization from Sullivan Correctional Facility donated 25 book bags to the students of BCES.

Deputy Superintendent for Program Services Angel Justiniano, along with RPL I Cody Exner, delivered the book bags. On hand to receive the donation were, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ivan Katz, BCES Principal, Ms. Mary Kate Stinehour, BCES Assistant Principal, David Viglione, and BCES teacher's aide Kainan Justiniano.

These book bags were donated by the Lifers Inmate Organization and were intended to help those students who are in need. Each book bag contained a composition notebook, a two-pocket folder, a pen and pencil.

We are very grateful to our local community agencies who support our schools and work to improve our students' lives.

Unity Day

The Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports Team and Student Government Association want to thank everybody who participated in Unity Day at the Jr/Sr High School. The students and staff all received an orange unity band stating that Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School is united against bullying. Thank you for all the support.



Litter Pluck

On September 24th the Ecology Club did a litter pluck. The students decided to start on Laurel Avenue, the road by the Yeshiva. During the cleanup the residents came out of their homes to bring us water. In addition, there were countless people who stopped to thank us for our efforts to keep their community clean. Our students were overwhelmed by the appreciation and kindness of the Jewish community in their efforts of cleaning up. It was a great day!

Elisa Baum & Goranka Rogg • Ecology Club Advisers

Faith Colombo, Kimberly Mahler, Haddy Gai, Neema Darboe, Jose Rodriguez Diaz, Cody Harvey, Nevaeh Valree, Janelly Santos Lopez, & Geovanna Pineda-Reyes

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

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Jr./Sr. HS Nurse	434-3821

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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
11/6	BOE Mtg.	6:15pm	Middle School Bd. Rm.
11/11	School Closed		
11/20	BOE Mtg.	6:15pm	Middle School Bd. Rm.
11/27-29	School Closed		
12/4	BOE Mtg.	6:15pm	Middle School Bd. Rm.
12/11	School Closed – Conference Day		
12/18	BOE Mtg.	6:15pm	Middle School Bd. Rm.
12/23/19-1/1/2020	School Closed		
1/2/20	School resumes		