

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

May 2021

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



Dear School Community Member:

I hope this update finds you in the best of health and spirit given the ongoing pandemic challenges faced by all members of our school community. The budget season is well underway as we head to the May 18, 2021, budget vote and board member election. This has been a most challenging budget season, but Fallsburg is putting forward another balanced budget with no tax levy increase.

The Board of Education and the Central Administration have been working on a budget that continues to balance what school children need with what taxpayers can afford. The District's budget season goal was to create a minimal impact on the tax levy, given the current state of the economy. I am happy to say that the budget committee was able to accomplish this by putting forth a responsible budget that has a 0% tax levy increase for the second year in a row.

The Board of Education, on April 20, 2021, adopted a budget of \$47,994,681. This is the budget number that the public will vote on May 18, 2021. This budget translates into a 0% increase to the tax levy.

If you have any questions on the budget, please do not hesitate to contact me. Voting will be in person this year in the Junior-Senior High School Library. Voting hours will be 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Please take the opportunity to vote on May 18, 2021. Your vote counts!

Thank you.

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



Change in Polling Hours for Budget Vote and Board of Education Seats

The polling hours for budget votes and board member elections have been changed to 11 AM to 8 PM.

The location is still the Fallsburg Junior Senior High School Library.

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Omar Gai: A Journey to Fulfill a Family Dream

On March 11, 2021, the Chancellor of the State University of New York (SUNY), informed Omar Gai of Fallsburg that he would receive the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. This prestigious award honors SUNY Students "who have successfully integrated academic excellence with leadership, campus involvement, community service, and/or creative and performing arts."

Omar's family emigrated to the United States from Gambia in West Africa. In 2017, a few years after Omar arrived in Fallsburg, the school received a federal government grant to be part of the My Brother's Keeper Program (MBK), launched by President Barack Obama in 2014. The New York State My Brother's Keeper initiative seeks to "Change the Narrative" of boys and young men of color, and all students, by closing and eliminating the opportunity gaps they face and helping them to reach their full potential.

Omar was one of the first students to enter the Fallsburg program. Dr. Aleta Lymon, Director of the Fallsburg MBK Program and Liaison for Family & Community Engagement for the District, remembers Omar as shy when he joined the group. Omar is grateful to the class for helping him gain confidence. Additionally, Omar attended every special event created by MBK to provide the skills for college and career readiness.

One of the many wonderful opportunities was a four-week stay at Syracuse University summer school program in Omar's junior year at Fallsburg High School. This experience inspired Omar to continue his journey in higher education and fulfill the family hopes and dreams. In 2019, Omar Gai graduated FHS and attended SUNY Sullivan to study business administration.

Omar is most happy that he is honoring his mother and father for all the hard work they did in Gambia and on the journey to America. He has been accepted at three universities in New York, and he will most likely attend SUNY Albany on scholarship to get a bachelor's and a master's degree in business administration.



PBIS Program Keeps Spirits Soaring During Pandemic

During the past year at FCSD the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Program has continued holding special events every month to honor students and staff in both school buildings for positive behavior in and outside the classroom. The PBIS Committee has maintained their effort by holding special days, such as Unity Day and World Kindness Day, Pajama Day and Ugly Sweater Day.

Each month of the school year has a special designation and focus to acknowledge students nominated by school staff with Star Awards and Superhero Virtual Assemblies.

At BCES, PBIS Staff are in daily communication with all staff sending emails about events, providing resources for bullying prevention, and requesting nominations for "On a Roll" virtual assemblies to reward students for making positive changes in behavior towards the school, their fellow students and others. BCES celebrated the 100th Day of School and kids and staff chose their own special costumes.

Spirit Week this year was March 15 - March 19. Monday was "Swap Day" where teachers dressed up like students and students

dressed up like teachers. Tuesday was "Celebrity Day" where you dressed as a favorite celebrity. Wednesday was when everyone wore green in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Thursday was "Decades Day" when each grade level was assigned a decade and dressed according to the styles of that era. The week ended with Sports Day where everyone dressed in favorite sports gear.

FCSD Staff received monthly GOOSE Awards. Staff nominated members for their hard work, willingness to help students, and for dedication to the success of our students.

A new way to honor the entire staff was to host a special Staff Luncheon in the BCES School Gym, with proper social distancing. Everyone enjoyed a buffet lunch of sandwiches, chips, soft drinks and cookies made by the PBIS team. PBIS was thanking the BCES staff for their tireless work to make this year a success for all students. The Staff appreciates PBIS for bringing a sense of normalcy and lifting the spirits of everyone in the Fallsburg Central School District.



Happy Spring from the Fallsburg Junior Senior High School!

I want to take a moment and thank our students for their hard work and dedication this year. We know the pandemic has caused immense challenges, but we still have many students who have thrived academically. We also want to thank the students who are taking full advantage of our after-school tutoring program. These sessions are excellent opportunities for students to gain additional academic support to improve their grades.

We have some fun events coming up for our students:

Drive-Thru BBQ This event took place from 11:00 to 2:00 on Saturday, April 24th. During that time students drove up to the school and our socially distanced volunteers handed them a “to-go” box with a BBQ lunch! This event was sponsored by the SGA, My Brother’s Keeper, PBIS, and the Junior Senior High School.

Virtual Talent Show We are gearing up for a Virtual Talent Show for later this month! Our music, art, drama and other teachers are working with students interested in participating. Students who want to participate can reach out to their fine arts/music teachers or to school administration. The show will be shown on the district website in May!

Chatty Thursdays Every Thursday afternoon at 3:15 students can join myself and Assistant Principal Mrs. Bruestle for Chatty Thursdays. This is an informal opportunity for students to chat with school administration and each other. This gives our students another opportunity to connect with their school community.

Class of 2021 Graduation Planning for this year’s Graduation Ceremony is in full swing! Graduation is scheduled for Saturday June 26th at

the Junior Senior High School with a rain date of Sunday June 27th. The ceremony will be outdoors, weather permitting.

Mental Health Programming We are currently creating a new student mental health support initiative. To that end we are asking all parents and guardians to speak to your child about mental health. It is critical that our students feel comfortable sharing their mental health needs with loved ones, and we also want to make sure all members of our school community know how to access resources if in need. If you need information on any mental health resources, please contact the school social workers.

Kyle Roddey

Jr./Sr. High School Principal

From the Athletic Department

Spectator update 4/21/2021:

Section IX has approved spectators to attend outdoor athletic events.

Spectators must be limited to the State’s social gathering limit, which is 100 or fewer people in indoor non-residential settings and 200 or fewer people in outdoor non-residential settings.

Spectators must follow all protocols, such as maintaining social distance, wearing an appropriate face mask at all times, following the directional spectators signs as well as the spectator code of conduct already in place at Fallsburg.

Suzanne M. Lendzian

CAA, Director of Physical Education and Athletics

The SGA News

The SGA held several contests for the month of February and we had some winners!

Trivia Night - Byron Pratt and Jaedon Espinoza

Photography - Tamia Caston

Writing Contest - Bella Muscia – Here is the winning entry.

London bridge is falling down...

From every second that ticked by, A new fragment fell from the familiar site.

Screams echoed through the city.

Dogs barked.

Cats meowed.

Birds chirped.

From my miniscule apartment. I could see the sky turn gray.

The world plunged into chaos.

First the bridge, Then the buildings.

Then lives.

It was so quick. The naked eye could barely see what flashed. Lightning flew across the sky, Dancing with every touch.

Thunder roared as rain made tiny taps on cars.

I was so busy looking at the bridge, That I couldn’t even see cellular towers falling down.

They were all set on fire from the lightning.

It took a second, But I was taken aback.

I quickly grabbed essential items needed to survive and ran out my door.

I never looked back.

Bella Muscia, 8th Grade

FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

From the Elementary School Principal

Slowly but surely, the Fallsburg Central School District is returning to its pre-COVID academic norms.

It has certainly been a long journey. One of the concerns that we had with this plan was that the students were in

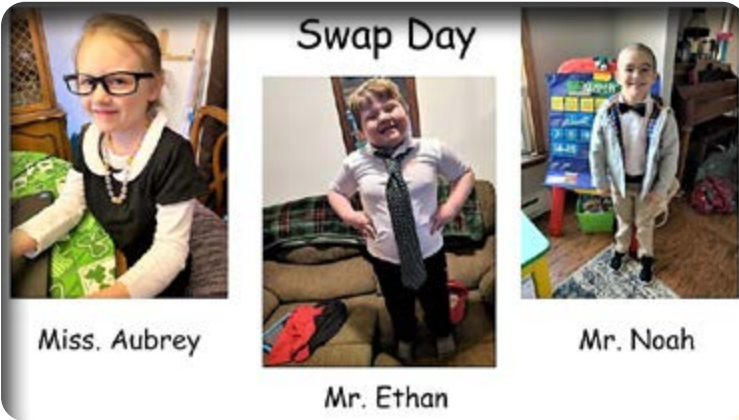
“specials” classes. As the weather warms up, more time will be spent outdoors while participating in these classes so please dress accordingly.

We would like to remind the students that, with this newly restored privilege, they have additional responsibilities. They need to follow the same hallway-passing rules that have always been in place. In addition, they must also observe COVID-related handwashing, mask-wearing and social-distancing protocols.

Hopefully, everyone will enjoy the “new practices.”

Be safe. Be well. Be strong.

Mary Kate Stinehour
BCES Principal
mstinehour@fallsburgcsd.net



Miss. Aubrey

Swap Day

Mr. Ethan

Mr. Noah

their classrooms all day and did not experience much movement.

However, beginning after spring break, the students will begin to experience more in-school movement. The children will leave their classrooms for Art, Music and Physical Education, and will be able to go to their



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

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

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

SCHOOL CLOSED

SEPTEMBER	7, 28
OCTOBER	12
NOVEMBER	11, 25 - 27
DECEMBER	23-31
JANUARY	1, 4, 18
FEBRUARY	12, 15
MARCH	12, 26, 29-31
APRIL	1, 2, 5
MAY	31

MAKE-UP DAYS

Day 1	5/21
Day 2	5/28

SCHOOL DAYS

SEPTEMBER	15
OCTOBER	20
NOVEMBER	17
DECEMBER	17
JANUARY	19
FEBRUARY	16
MARCH	20
APRIL	20
MAY	20
JUNE	19

TOTAL 185 + 4 CONF = 189

Amended: 4/30/21

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. Sally M. Sharkey Ed.D.	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
Mr. Kyle Roddey	High School Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2206
Mrs. Shana Bruestle	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
Dr. Aleta Lymon	Family & Community Liaison	434-6800 Ext. 1223
Central Registration		434-6800 Ext. 1222
Tax Collection		434-6800 Ext. 1219

FAX NUMBERS...

Superintendent	434-8346
Business Office	434-0418
Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School	434-0168
Benjamin Coser Elementary School.	434-0871

SCHOOL ADDRESSES...

**Fallsburg Central School District Office
& Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School**

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

Benjamin Coser 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.

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

May 5, 2021

May 18, 2021

June 2, 2021

June 16, 2021

Here is the link to join a Board of Education meeting: meet.google.com/ams-jbov-grd

Phone number to call in: 1-575-459-0023 (PIN: 343634508)