

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

November 2022

EDITOR - SHELLEY MARCUS ★ ASSOCIATE EDITOR - SARAH SATZ ★ CONTRIBUTING EDITOR - LARRY SCHAFMAN

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



I hope this issue of the Comet Newsletter finds you in the best of health and spirit. In this issue I would like to update you on a few important items of note.

Pool Update – The whole school community has been waiting for the time when the pool will be complete and ready for use. We are waiting for final completion so that we can get clearance from the Sullivan County Department of Health to open the pool. The pool, while mostly complete, is lacking a black stripe at the 5 foot line. To address this, the sub-contractors who have been doing the pool work are scheduled to be here before the end of October to drain the pool so it will be ready for the installation of the new line, in the appropriate spot. Once that work is completed the pool will be refilled and we can then plan for a grand re-opening of the pool.

School Community Relations - The School Community Relations Committee met in October to plan for upcoming school community events like we held last year. We held a winter event at BCES last March and a spring event at the JSHS last May. Those events were grand successes in terms of school community attendance and participation and we're hoping for similar success stories this school year.

Grow our Own Initiative - I have been working with our administrative team on a Grow Our Own Administrative program along with the Mid-Hudson School Study Council and SUNY New Paltz with the hope of being able to start a new local administrative cohort in Sullivan County in January 2023. The county-wide goal is to increase the field of certified and qualified administrators in Fallsburg and Sullivan County and that is what is behind the Grow Our Own concept.

To that end, we held two local cohort interest meetings at the JSHS and at BCES. We had 18 of our teachers attend these cohort interest meetings where we discussed the program and answered any and all administration-related questions. 16 out of the 18 staff members who participated in these cohort interest meetings have

committed to taking the next step which was to participate in the formal SUNY New Paltz cohort interest meeting that was held on 10/25. Hopefully those interested will decide to move forward and do the coursework that will lead to a Certificate of Advanced Study.

Wellness Committee - We held our first Wellness Committee meeting of the year in October. I resumed the Wellness Chairperson seat I started 17 years ago. I will continue to run the committee until we get a full-time Director of PE and Athletics.

The meeting was held on 10/7 and we reviewed the previous work done by the committee. The committee is supported by Cornell Cooperative Extension and Sullivan 180. Both of those groups believe that Fallsburg has an exceptionally progressive and action-oriented Wellness movement, and they are excited to continue to support us moving forward.

Award Recognition - The Sullivan County School Board's Association held their annual awards dinner on October 12, 2022, at the Villa Roma. The event was well-attended, and congratulations go out to Fallsburg's winners, Dominick Scanna for Outstanding Educator and Dr. Aleta Lymon for Outstanding Friend to Education. They represent Fallsburg exceptionally well and we are very proud of our award winners.

I would like to wish everyone a happy fall as we prepare to enter the holiday season. Thank you for all that you do to support the Fallsburg Central School District.

Educationally yours,
Dr. Ivan J. Katz, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

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FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

Happy November to our Fallsburg Families!

Our year is off to a wonderful start! We are seeing great strides in student academic performance this year, compared to last year. We want to encourage all students to participate in our After School Tutorial Program to improve grades and learning. In addition to after school academic support, we also offer many exciting enrichment activities including Guitar Club, Dance Club, and a new Gaming Club, to name only a few!

I would like to congratulate all our student athletes on a wonderful Fall Season! All of our teams and athletes did wonderfully! Now we set our sights to an exciting Winter Sports Season!

We were recently joined by retired New York Yankee John Flaherty. This presentation was offered through our partnership with Access: Support for Living. During this virtual talk, Mr. Flaherty spoke to students about the importance of mental health support and grit. His message was motivating, and he explained to students that even professional athletes need mental health support at times. As a school, we always want our students to remember that "it is ok to not be ok" - if anyone ever needs support, we have amazing social workers and counselors on staff to help them navigate any emotional concerns.

Dr. Lymon and I are gearing up to begin our Student Equity Caucus. This is a

volunteer group of student leaders who wish to participate in ongoing discussions about how to bring about greater equity to our school and celebrate diversity. If your child is interested in participating in this group, please ask them to reach out to Dr. Lymon or me.

Last, I want to congratulate our Junior Senior High School PTO on a wonderful recent Halloween Dance they sponsored for students! This was a wonderful event for our students and a good time was had by all!

Thank you everyone!

Kyle Roddey

Kyle Roddey
kroddey@fallsburgcsd.net

From the High School Assistant Principal

Hello Fallsburg Families,

As we begin to transition from autumn activities to winter ones, we replace our skeletons with turkeys and lights, we also must pause to remember that these are important milestone markers. Another milestone marker has been prepared this year for our Seniors, who are engaging in a post-secondary entry checklist pilot program throughout this school year. This is an initiative that is part of the National Center for Rural Education and Research Policy, a partnership we have worked closely with for the past three years with Harvard University's Center for Education Policy Research. Supported by the 2023 Senior Counselor, Mr. Joe Levner, the students have selected a potential college/workforce/military pathway and are embarking on activities to meet their post-secondary educational goals. To support students with this process even further, the school held a

FAFSA night to support student and family engagement with this process. I wish all of our seniors luck as they navigate this upcoming final semester of their Fallsburg career and make plans for their future!

To all other students and their families, continue to work hard and stay focused as we move into the winter months. The first marking period is nearly done - take advantage of our expanded after school program offerings, our clubs, and our sports. I encourage you all to be an active Comet - it will surely help to prepare you for the day that you complete your own post-secondary entry checklist!

Sincerely,

Shana Bruestle

Shana Bruestle
sbruestle@fallsburgcsd.net

FCSD After School Program for 2022-2023

As the new school year began at Fallsburg, Director of the Junior/Senior High School After School Program Ms. Jamie Lippen welcomed many interested teachers and staff to an information meeting on September 13, 2022. Ms. Lippen has been guiding wonderful learning opportunities for students and staff over the past several years. She announced that the school district will be receiving funding from a federal grant through New York State in the amount of \$945,000. The funds will be spread out over five years and cover after school and summer programs in **both buildings** in the district.

At the meeting was Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. Sally Sharkey. She worked on the application with the grant writer from Ulster County BOCES. Staff members were to submit their proposals for classes and activities to Ms. Lippen by the end of September. The main criteria are that it be Project Based Learning (PBL). Principal Kyle Roddey said that administration would be determining what PBL involves.

At BCES, long-time Director of After School Program Ms. Christine Decker announced that the program which began on October 11, 2022, with over 200 students in grades K-12 registered. The primary focus is homework/skills practice but also has a large project-based learning component. All students will work with teachers and support staff to investigate engaging topics and work on long-term projects that are designed around their interests. In addition, Ms. Decker adds that BCES will be offering art on a rotating basis. Long-standing morning programs, Math Counts for 5th/6th graders and Buddies, are ready to go as well!



Fallsburg PTO Car Show Fundraiser Event



Classic car, truck and motorcycle owners supported the Fallsburg High School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) on September 24, 2022. The vehicles were on review in the horseshoe driveway in front of the High School. Judges were the visitors to the fun-filled event. Prizes were awarded to first, second, and place winners.

Inside the building, visitors were greeted by volunteer parents, grandparents, and Fallsburg High School students at several tables in the decorated main lobby. Although there was no admission fee, the PTO had tip jars throughout the building, and there was a nominal charge for tickets to enjoy the special activities. There were different booths, including face painting, henna, tie-dyeing, and getting delicious home-made baked goods. Visitors could make donations to get tickets for voting on their favorite top three vehicles.

In the school cafeteria, those desiring to soothe their palates were delighted to have several special treats. The first station was a healthful and refreshing smoothie made to order with blended fruits and milk. There were hot dogs donated by Stewart's Shops®, and an inviting tray of eggplant parmigiana donated by Joe Taylor's Catering in Rock Hill.

Just after noon, the student winner of the logo design contest for the PTO received an award certificate as well as a free tie dye T-shirt and smoothie. The talented artist is eighth grade student **Ruth Joy Mahnken**.

An event like this required lots of planning, donations of money, supplies, and foods, and, most of all, the infusion of willing and welcoming volunteers. The PTO succeeded in bringing everyone together on this gorgeous fall day. Kudos to PTO Steering Committee Dr. Verna Greer, Ms. Tracy Israel, Ms. Lisa Acosta, Ms. Trevonne Gilliard, Ms. Jenine Alvarado, Ms. Andrea Hook, and Ms. Faith Mahnken.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTIONS

Junior National Honor Society

Saladin Basic	9	Ashleigh Fuentes Ardon	8	Robert Perrera	8
Emina Cenovic	8	Jayden Johnson	8	Yulena Phillip	8
Jordyn Marie Cerone	8	Tiffany Maccagli	9	Efrain Rodriguez	8
Carissa Ciorciari	8	Douglas Medina Carcamo Jr.	9	Layla-Marie Russell	8
Jayden Edwards	9	Eric Moocz	8	Marilyn Santos	9
Amirah Finn	9	Allanah Owens	9	Kierstyn Surerus	9
		Madeline Pantel	9	Abigail Toledo	8
				Alisha Tremper	8
				Peyton Varner	8
				Xavier Young	8
				Rodrigo Zacapexpan Reyes	8
				Nataly Zempoaltecalt	9



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTIONS



National Honor Society

Ezekiel Acosta	11
Asly Avila Reyes	11
Haris Basic	11
Jordan Batista	11
Yuna Bennett	12
Nikolas Bonner	11
Sherlin Bruno Pinzon	11
Bintou Darboe	12
Emma DeGraw	11
Jaedon Espinoza	11
Stephanie Granados	12
Mia Irlbacher	11
Jacob Lawrence	11
Angelina Levner	11
Samantha Medina Garzon	12
Adam Mednick	11
Danica Morris	11
Catherine Pena	11
Allison Perna	12
Emily Perna	11
Juliza Pineda Caballero	11
Jalysa Poindexter	11
Michael Razumoski	12
Nadiushka Rosa Gonzalez	11
Cyriah Russell	12
Rugiatu Sesay	11
Christos Vernezos	12
Isaiah Young	11



From the Elementary Principal

As we enter the colder months, I just want to take a moment to remind our families that we have extra hats, coats, and gloves. If you, or someone you know, is in need of any outerwear, please reach out to your child's teacher, our nurse, Ms. Herbert, or a member of our Student Support Services Suite. We are here to help in any way we can.

In addition, please be sure that your child is dressed for the weather. It is best if your child dresses in layers, so they can be comfortable throughout the day. We do love to enjoy the fresh air, so students will be brought outside every day, weather permitting. If the temperature is about 32 degrees, expect your child to go outside at some point during the day, whether for recess, a walk on our Nature Trail or simply a brief outdoor break.

Reminders:

- November 16th & 17th - BCES Fall Picture Day
- November 23rd - November 25th - No School - Thanksgiving Break
- December 1st & 2nd - Noon Dismissal for Students - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- December 24th - January 2nd - No School - Winter Break

Respectfully yours,

Mary Kate Stinehour

BCES Principal

mstinehour@fallsburgcsd.net



From the Elementary Assistant Principal

The first two months of the 2022-2023 school year have been a whirlwind! I would like to thank all BCES students and their families, along with the faculty, staff, and the Fallsburg community for welcoming me into my new role as Assistant Principal. It is an honor to be a part of the Fallsburg Family and I embrace the relationships I am building with you all, to ensure the success of all our students here at BCES.

I am enjoying getting to know our students and I make it a daily priority to be present throughout our school building and grounds. It brings me joy to watch our students learn in the classroom, enjoy their time at recess with friends and pass me in our hallways. My favorite part of the day is greeting our students as they arrive in the morning, all smiles and ready for a great day!

As students continue to settle into this new school year, it is important to remind them of our behavior expectations here at BCES. This includes all behavior in the classroom, hallway, cafeteria, playground, and when riding the bus. Our behavior expectations are:

BE SAFE! Being safe includes always keeping your hands and feet to yourself, always walking, and staying seated and facing forward on the bus.

BE RESPECTFUL! Being respectful includes using an inside voice, waiting patiently, taking turns, being a friend to others, and using kind words.

BE RESPONSIBLE! Being responsible includes completing all assigned tasks, being on time, going where you need to be, cleaning up your area, raising your hand, and asking an adult for help.

Thank you for supporting our students by reminding them to be mindful of these expectations so that we can ensure a safe, positive, and productive learning environment for all! As always, please reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas you'd like to share.

Respectfully Yours,

Pamela Carr

BCES Assistant Principal

pcarr@fallsburgcsd.net



BCES Elementary Performs at The Government Center

We are excited to announce the BCES Elementary Chorus, under the direction of Ms. Rachel Kleinman, will be performing at the Sullivan County Government Center on Tuesday, December 13th at 1:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to showcase their holiday concert music in our community!

The BCES Holiday Concert will be at the Fallsburg Junior Senior High School Auditorium on Wednesday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m. (Snowdate Thursday, December 15th) We are looking forward to seeing you this holiday season!

FCSD's Revised Pre-K Program Begins

On the first day of classes at BCES on September 7, 2022, the Pre-K staff welcomed families to the revised program. Children will be in school for a full day instead of two separate half-day sessions. A second classroom has been added that will have bi-lingual instruction in English and Spanish. Teacher Mindy Conciatori and teaching assistant Jennifer Varner will continue teaching the regular classroom; teacher Amy Saravia, who has taught Pre-K and Kindergarten for the past several years at BCES, and teaching assistant Tiffany Menendez, will conduct the bi-lingual class.

Classroom size will be a maximum of 18 children. The daily schedule will be the same as the rest of the school so the students can take the school bus, and, like other students, families have the option to drop-off and pick-up children. The school day begins with a brief meeting to orient students for the day. Breakfast in the classroom follows. Students will then attend "specials" such as gym and music for forty-five minutes. These classes are new to Pre-K this year.

Just after 11 AM, teachers will provide reading and English language arts until 12:30 PM. After lunch in the classroom, students return for a one-hour nap. When explaining the schedule to families, Ms. Conciatori and Ms. Saravia encouraged them to have their children bring favorite "stuffers" or blankets that they like to sleep with. The District will provide comfortable sleeping mats labeled for individual children.

Towards the close of the day, there is an hour of math. By 3:00 PM, it is time to pack up and prepare to leave. Since the program is new, teachers and administrative staff will be closely evaluating how this first year progresses. Parents were enthusiastic about having the children in the hands of the experienced teaching staff for the full school day.



Donor Brings Smiles to Every Child at BCES

On October 3, 2022, the joy of giving brightened the faces of dozens of very young children at BCES. Behind it all was Ms. Susan Kentop, long-time teacher and now Reading Coach. She told the students about her good friend, Kaitlin Johnstone, who had taught Kindergarten in Ellenville. She left teaching and moved away from the area to create a business called Kind Cotton. Let Ms. Johnstone tell you her mission statement. "Be Kind' are two simple words. Sounds easy, right? Kindness is the most basic human right we should all agree on. But kindness needs to be more than just simple pleasantries. In order to make a difference and change the world, we believe kindness must be rooted in justice and action. We believe in challenging one another to do better. We believe in standing up and using our voice to instill change. We hope you'll join us."

Kind Cotton was created to allow people like Ms. Kentop to provide the magical experience of books to as many children as possible, all through our kindness-spreading clothing. **Every purchase provides a book directly to a child.** You can find out more about the company at www.kindcotton.com.

When Ms. Kentop was talking recently with Kaitlin and finding out the exciting news of how successful Kind Cotton has become and how many children are benefitting from the company's generosity, Kaitlin asked her dear friend about her work as a reading coach. She then asked how many children were in the elementary school. When Susan replied, "About 1000," Kaitlin said that she would send 1000 books appropriate to each class level!

On October 3rd, shortly after the bell rang to begin school, Ms. Kentop loaded a rolling cart with assorted titles for Pre-K and Kindergarten and headed for that wing of BCES. In each classroom, teachers, staff and children welcomed her. She then shared Kaitlin's story with them to the delight and rapt attention of each child.

You can see, from just a few photos, how much joy filled the classrooms of the Pre-K and Kindergarten wing of BCES that day. Thank you, Ms. Kentop and Kaitlin Johnstone, for your gift of reading and love.



2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

 SCHOOL CLOSED
 CONFERENCE DAY
 TESTING
 TESTING DAYS
 GO HOME EARLY DRILL

SCHOOL CLOSED

SEPTEMBER	5, 6, 26
OCTOBER	5, 10
NOVEMBER	1, 11, 23 - 25
DECEMBER	26-30
JANUARY	2, 16
FEBRUARY	21
APRIL	3-7
MAY	29
JUNE	19

MAKE-UP DAYS

Day 1	2/20
Day 2	4/3
Day 3	4/4
Day 4	4/5

SCHOOL DAYS

SEPTEMBER	17
OCTOBER	19
NOVEMBER	17
DECEMBER	17
JANUARY	20
FEBRUARY	18
MARCH	22
APRIL	15
MAY	22
JUNE	16

TOTAL **183 + 4 CONF - 7 SNOW = 180**

** If allowable, remote learning will take place after all 7 snow days have been used. Snow day 8 and beyond will be remote learning days.

** Updated: 6/29/2022

7 = FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
23 = LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
24 = GRADUATION

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

★ Mr. Joseph Collura ★ Ms. Arlene Hussey ★ Ms. Renee Kates ★ Ms. Regina McKenny-Snead ★
★ Ms. Fiorella Muscia ★ Ms. Colleen Picciotti ★ 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
Mr. Jaime Dymond	Director of Staff Evaluation & Student Data	434-6800 Ext. 1257
Ms. Leighanne Russell	Pupil Personnel Director	434-6800 Ext. 1273
Mr. Kyle Roddey	High School Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2206
Ms. Shana Bruestle	High School Assistant Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2207
Mr. Brian Lynn	Interim High School Assistant Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2205
Ms. Mary Kate Stinehour	Elementary Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3206
Ms. Pamela Carr	Elementary Assistant Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3204
Mr. Ronald Montalto	Interim 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	Fallsburg Central School District Office & Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School
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Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School	434-0168	Benjamin Cosor Elementary School
Benjamin Cosor Elementary School.....	434-0871	15 Old Falls Road ★ PO Box 123 ★ Fallsburg, NY 12733-0123

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 ENFORMED

11/11	School Closed			12/21	BCES Chamber Chorus	10-11am	HS Audit
11/16	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Rm.		Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Rm
11/23-25 SCHOOL CLOSED				12/22	JHS/HS Winter Concert • Snow date		
12/1-12/2	Half Day – BCES Parent teacher conferences			12/26/22 - 1/2/23 SCHOOL CLOSED			
12/7	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Rm.	1/3/23	School resumes		
12/14	BCES Winter Concert	6pm	HS Audit	1/18/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Rm.
12/15	BCES Winter Concert snow date	12/20	Jr/Sr HS Chorus	2/1/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Rm.
	Winter Concert	7pm	HS Audit	2/15/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Rm.
12/20	JHS/HS Winter Concert	7pm	HS Audit				

Save the Date! The Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School Drama Club presents:

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

There will be 3 performances. March 24 & 25, 2023 at 7pm and March 26, 2023, at 2pm. Tickets will be available at the door.

