

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

January 2023

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



I hope this issue of the Comet Newsletter finds you in the very best of health and spirit. I also hope that your holiday season was enjoyable, and that this new year brings us, one and all, the very best of everything.

Pool Update – The Fallsburg Central School District (FCSD) swimming pool is finally ready! We are only awaiting a pool permit from the Board of Health. We are planning to have a grand re-opening of the pool and a ribbon cutting ceremony Tuesday, January 24, 2023. Following that ceremony, we will begin planning for the re-introduction of swimming into our physical education classes and will work with the Town of Fallsburg as they plan to bring back the swimming programs they hosted in previous years.

Wall of Coaching Fame - FCSD is proud to announce that we will be inducting two new members into the Wall of Coaching Distinction this coming January. At the January 18, 2023, Board of Education meeting, Melvin Feldman and Paul Marsden will be honored as the newest recipients of this prestigious distinction. Both of these gentlemen left their mark as coaches at FCSD. They influenced many athletes over the years to become not only competitive athletes, but, more importantly, great citizens in society.

It is an FCSD honor to recognize these two great coaches for their positive impact on students in the years that they coached.

Budget Season – It's hard to believe that we are starting a brand-new budget season yet again. The Board of Education, at its December 7, 2022, meeting adopted a budget calendar which began in October and will end with the School District budget vote on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. The Board of Education's budget committee will meet throughout the budget season with a series of workshops that start in January and end in March. The overarching goal is for the Board of Education to adopt a proposed budget at its April 12, 2023, meeting which will go before the voters on May 16, 2023. The Board budget committee will once again be tasked with balancing the needs of the school district with the capacity of the taxpayers.

Here is wishing us one and all a very happy New Year!

Educationally yours,

Dr. Ivan J. Katz, Ed. D.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Fallsburg JSHS PBIS Team Recognizes Two Students of the Week

Fallsburg Central School District has been a very active member of Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Program for many years. Both school buildings in the town are constantly creating and generating enthusiasm among the student body for ways to acknowledge students for excellent behavior inside and outside the classroom.

One idea engages the staff at the Junior/Senior High School to recognize special demonstrations of good values that make a difference in the lives of fellow students and the school community. The PBIS Team created the Student of the Week Program.

On December 8, 2022, two students earned the honor and received certificates with their names, the names of the staff that nominated them, and a brief description of the reasons for the award. You could tell from the looks of appreciation on the faces of Hector Jami Cocha and Arianna Gonzalez that they were happy and proud of their recognition.



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FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Fallsburg Families,

Happy New Year! We hope that you and your loved ones had a wonderful winter break. We are excited to welcome back our students!

The theme of my column this issue is school safety.

Fallsburg Junior Senior High School takes concerns about physical and emotional safety very seriously. It is critical that all members of our school community conduct themselves by the **"See Something, Say Something"** rule.

To help students report concerns, we have an anonymous safety tip reporting tool on our website. Students can click on the link and share concerns with school staff completely anonymously. This link can be found on the home page for the Junior Senior High School on the right side of the screen.

We know that sometimes young people feel it is not their place to report concerns, but that responsibility is shared by all members of our school including our students. If a student has concerns about any of the following, they should promptly report it to ensure a safe building environment:

- *Concerns about a peer's mental health and the potential for self-harm - sometimes individuals, both young and old, need social or emotional support. The school can best support all learners when we find out information about who may need help.*
- *Potential threats of violence against specific students*
- *Potential threats of violence against the school*
- *Incidents of bullying, both in-person or on social media*

It is important to remember that students should not feel they have to "prove" a claim or decide whether or not a threat is serious or a joke. All threats should be reported, and then our staff will conduct a thorough investigation to determine whether a threat is serious or not. **No one should ever assume that a comment about a threat was a joke.**

Students should also not be concerned about a friend getting in "trouble" if a report is made. When administration and/or our SRO investigates a situation, students are given full due-process rights and only someone who has violated the Code of Conduct would receive a consequence.

School safety is everyone's job and our school functions best when all school members work together to keep our building safe both physically and emotionally.

If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to speak to someone directly about, you can always contact the following Junior Senior High School faculty members:

Safety Concerns:

- Administrators
- School Resource Officer (SRO)

Mental Health Concerns:

- Social Workers
- Counselors
- Administrators

Thank you for being a partner in school safety!

Yours truly,

Kyle Roddey

kroddey@fallsburgcsd.net

SAFETY FIRST

From the High School Assistant Principal

Dear Fallsburg Families,

Happy New Year! As the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year draws to a close, I am excited to have been engaged in so many wonderful activities. Whether it was watching the Robotics team prepare for a competition, seeing our students perform in the Winter Concert, or engaging students in the day-to-day activities of education, sports, and other after-school activities, I have continued to be proud and appreciative of the efforts our students and staff have shown. Our school community is one that is tightly knit and demonstrates both the promise and dedication of commitment. I encourage everyone to come to a sporting event and plan to attend our Spring Drama Club production and upcoming concerts as it truly adds to the dynamic of what our students are capable of achieving.

Additionally, I want to take this opportunity to stress to our students that if you are not yet involved in additional activities outside the school day, the new year is a great opportunity to reach out and connect to programs and activities that could spark in-

terest in your academic and social careers while in school. It is never too late to get started, and if you are interested but don't know where to begin - please stop by my office and we can chat about it!

I also want to congratulate all students who made the Honor Roll and Superintendent's Honor Roll for Quarter 1 - keep up the great work! If you were close to achieving this distinction, know that there are tools at your disposal to help you reach those goals - whether it is staying for academic tutoring or meeting with your guidance counselors.

I hope 2023 brings in health and happiness for our entire Fallsburg community. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

Sincerely,

Shana Bruestle

sbruestle@fallsburgcsd.net

We would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy 2023!

"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written." (by Melody Beattie)

We are looking forward to writing the "next chapter of our book" with our BCES students, family, and community.

Below are two pics from the BCES Chorus (made up of 4th through 6th graders) who performed at the Sullivan County Government Center in Monticello. Our kids did a fantastic job as did our BCES music department.

Kudos to all involved in making this performance a success!

Respectfully yours,

Mary Kate Stinehour

BCES Principal

mstinehour@fallsburgcsd.net

From the Elementary Assistant Principal

Dear Fallsburg Families,

I am hoping that you had a restful winter break and that you were able to spend time with your loved ones!

December was a special time here at BCES, as it was full of seasonal fun and memorable moments for our students. They learned about different holidays and traditions celebrated throughout the world, decorated our



hallways, participated in our PTA sponsored holiday shop and caroled throughout the building. Also, our chorus and band members showed off their hard work with a wonderful December concert presentation that the community was able to enjoy. None of this could be possible without the support of our school community; thank you to our students, their families and to our staff for their hard work.

As we embark on a new year, I am excited to continue to support our students, as they continue to learn and grow. In January, we will celebrate our students who have demonstrated positive changes with our "On a Roll" ceremony. Students will also participate in "Expectation Stations." They will be reminded of our behavior expectations and have the opportunity with their classmates and staff to participate in demonstrating these expectations through role play. These celebrations and reminders, both at school and at home, help support our students and lead them towards success.

As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns that you may have. Wishing you all a happy, healthy New Year 2023!

Respectfully Yours,

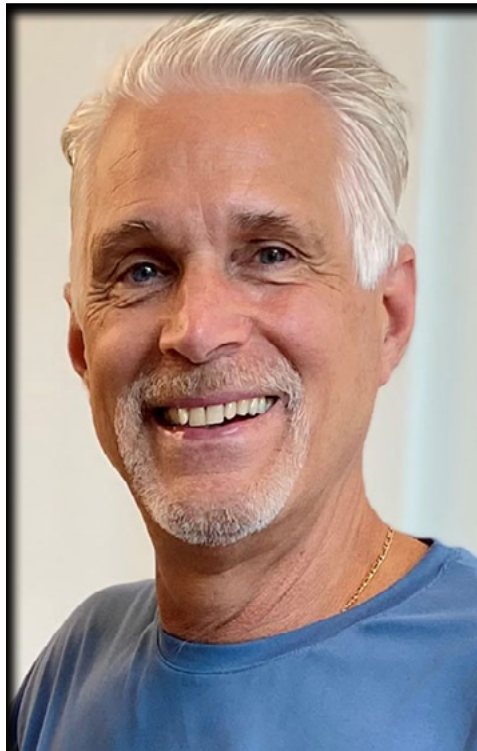
Pamela Carr

BCES Assistant Principal

pcarr@fallsburgcsd.net

Fallsburg Honors Two Outstanding Coaches

For the past four years, FCSD has asked for nominations of past team coaches by the Fallsburg community for the Coach's Wall of Distinction. This year the honors go to Paul Marsden and Melvin Feldman. They will be inducted into the Coach's Wall of Distinction on January 18, 2023, at the Board of Education Meeting.



Spearheading the nomination of Coach Marsden was Fallsburg Central High School graduate from the Class of 1997, Uriah Goldfinger. Current FCSD Staff Member Lisa McAdoo submitted the award application for Coach Feldman.



High School athletic coaches teach the fundamentals of sports and hone the skills of the players. More important, they are shaping and molding the character of pre-adolescent boys and girls. What makes a coach outstanding in the work is not measured by wins and losses or by awards earned. A good coach gains the respect of the players, other coaches, and the school community. Paul Marsden and Mel Feldman excelled in their chosen coaching.

Each letter of support from former Fallsburg students attests to how these coaches mentored them, accepted them, and welcomed them from the first day of the season through the successes and the challenges of competition, and, in particular ways, helped shape their future lives.

Both Mr. Marsden's and Mr. Feldman's teams won many awards over the 31 years and 35 years they coached at Fallsburg Central School District. Between them, their teams placed more than a dozen championship banners on the walls of the FHS gymnasium. The two men acknowledge their predecessors and

fellow coaches that were their mentors - Jack Halchak for Mr. Marsden and Ward Young for Mr. Feldman.

Celebrate these two outstanding men when they take their place on the Fallsburg Coach's Wall of Distinction on January 18, 2023, at 7 PM in the Junior/Senior High School Auditorium.

Two Special Star Awards at Fallsburg Central School District

Just before Thanksgiving, the Fallsburg Central School District expressed its gratitude for an outstanding organization and teacher at the Board of Education meeting on November 16, 2022. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ivan Katz read the Star Awards recognizing Dr. Verna Greer of the Parent Teacher Organization



(PTO) and Ms. Susan Kentop for their very special contributions to the enrichment of the school community. As Dr. Katz put it, the PTO and Ms. Kentop were "caught making a difference."

JSHS Principal Kyle Roddey, with great pride, nominated the PTO for coming together as a group of parents, reviving a long-dormant organization, and instilling new life. The teamwork of a handful of dedicated people helped create two incredible Family Engagement Days, a Multi-cultural Dinner, a Car Show Fundraiser, and a Halloween Dance for students. They are engaging more and more families and students in coming to the school and supporting wonderful activities. The champion for the PTO and driving force, Dr. Verna Greer, accepted the Star Award on behalf of the group.

BOE member and parent Ms. Colleen Picciotti nominated Ms. Kentop. Through a good friend with the Kind Cotton Founda-

tion, she received 1000 children's books for all ages from Pre-K through Sixth Grade. Ms. Kentop brought individual carts of books to each classroom at BCES over a three-day period. She explained to each group a former teacher friend of hers had created this company to make beautiful cotton clothing items with embroidered messages of kindness on each. For every sale, she offers a book to a school.

The smiling faces of the children and teachers in each classroom showed their joy at hearing Ms. Kentop tell the story of these gifts. She then handed out the books, watched the children holding these treasures, and she even read them portions of books. Truly, Ms. Kentop embodied the goals of offering kindness from the book donor, and she spread kindness over those few days and forever for these young children.

Monticello Elks Bring Joy and Warmth to FCSD

Santa's elves come in many guises bringing gifts to worthy girls and boys. On December 8, 2022, three such elves arrived at Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School bearing huge bags of warm clothing



from jackets to gloves to slippers and scarves. Ronni Scannell E.R., Jim Gerrard PDD, and Jim Sheerer PPD have been leaders in the Monticello and Regional Elks for many years.

Just before Christmas, they receive a generous donation grant from the National Office and collect donations from their local members to purchase winter clothing for the Monticello and Fallsburg school children. They then shop for all the items in clothing stores.

Coordinating the donation for FCSD was Ms. Kristen Meyer of the Technology Department. She is the resident elf at the Jr/Sr High School for many years. Her specialty is doing good works for people in need in the Fallsburg community.

The Monticello Elks call Kristen and let her know when they are coming. She then speaks with the school social workers in both buildings and with Family & Community Engagement Director Dr. Aleta Lymon to get the names of children that can benefit from the clothing and get the sizes needed.

Thank you Monticello Elves, I mean Elks, for your generosity and loving kindness at this special time of giving.

21st Century Community Learning Center

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) After School program is in full swing at the JSHS. Take a look at some of our enrichment programs!

Puppets and Props with Mrs. Magnifico

Students are hard at work making props for this year's play!

Cooking and Baking with Mrs. Sager

Comet Spirit Wear Program with Mrs. Scanna

Guitar Club with Ms. Ruth

Writers Club with Ms. Range

Gardening Club with Mrs. Esposito

Video Game Club with Mr. Lundgren





Gardening Club



Cooking and Baking Club

2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 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	OCTOBER 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	NOVEMBER 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	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 31
JANUARY 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	FEBRUARY 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	MARCH 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	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
MAY 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	JUNE 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	JULY 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	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

 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

$$183 + 4 \text{ CONF} - 7 \text{ SNOW} = 180$$

**
 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.
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7 = FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

23 = LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

24 = GRADUATION

Updated: 6/29/2022

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
Mr. Steven Nilsen	High School Assistant Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2205
Ms. Shana Bruestle	High School Assistant Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2207
Ms. Mary Kate Stinehour	Elementary Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3206
Ms. Pamela Carr	Elementary Assistant Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3204
Ms. Amanda Stevens	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
Business Office	434-0418	& Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School
Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School	434-0168	115 Brickman Road ★ PO Box 124 ★ Fallsburg, NY 12733-0124
Benjamin Cosor Elementary School.....	434-0871	Benjamin Cosor Elementary School
		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 INFORMED...

1/18/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	JSBS Auditorium	3/24-25	"Little Shop of Horrors"	7pm	JSBS Auditorium
2/1/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Room	3/26/23	"Little Shop of Horrors"	2pm	JSBS Auditorium
2/15/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Room	4/3-4/7/23 Closed			
2/17-2/20 Closed				4/12/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Room
2/23/03	Pops Concert	7pm	JSBS Auditorium	4/25/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Room
3/1/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Room	5/3/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Room
3/10/23 Closed				5/17/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Room
3/15/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Room				

The Fallsburg Alumni Association wants to let everyone know that their
19TH Annual All-class Reunion and Scholarship Awards will be on
Saturday, July 15th, 2023.

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.