

November 2023

Comet News

Fallsburg Central School District

**Family
Engagement Day!
11/18 11am-2pm
at JSHS**

**New Comet
Sports
Section!**

**Grow Our Own
Administration
Internship Program**

**District Wins \$51,000
in Sullivan 180 Grant
Competition**

**1993 Section IX Class C
Volleyball
Championship Reunion**

Superintendent's Corner

Comet News Editors: Matt McRell | Sarah Satz | Lindsay Severino

with Dr. Ivan Katz



Dear School Community Member,

I hope this issue of Comet News finds you in the very best of health and spirit as we enter the fall season.

BCES Awarded \$51,000 in Health and Wellness Awards

It is my pleasure to inform you that on Thursday, September 21st, the Benjamin Cosor Elementary School won \$51,000 in Empowering a Healthier Generation (EHG) Awards. Sullivan 180 hosted a celebration event where Fallsburg (BCES) received \$51,000 in awards for the great work turned in at BCES relative to health and wellness. It was a thrilling moment in Fallsburg history, and I am fortunate, as Superintendent of Schools, to have witnessed this incredible recognition.

I would like to give a huge portion of thanks to Stacy Strassburg, our Sullivan 180 Liaison, for working to get the BCES competition ready for this county-wide event. The hard work and time on task paid off!

I owe a debt of gratitude to all involved in this grand effort, including Amanda Stevens, our Wellness Coordinator, and all members of our BCES team and Wellness Committee for showcasing the great things our staff and students have accomplished. As superintendent of schools, I am exceptionally proud!

65th JSHS Anniversary: Fallsburg Remembers!

As you may know, this is the 65th Anniversary of the Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School. To that end, we have planned for special celebratory remembrances that underscore the great things that have happened over the past 65 years. We call these remembrances "Fallsburg Remembers."

On September 29, 2023, the Fallsburg Central School District celebrated the 30th anniversary of the 1993 Section IX Class C Volleyball championship team. We welcomed back sisters and former teammates Zuequal Harrison-Bailey and Muun Queen Malone to honor their past accomplishments.

It was a wonderful remembrance and a great evening of honor and celebration. We gave our former champions a tour of the school so they could see all of the improvements, repairs, and upgrades that have occurred in the 30 years since they attended as students. We also provided them with Fallsburg swag and showcased them in the gym prior to the start of a home varsity volleyball game. Our past champions regaled the gym audience with motivating words and shared how their Fallsburg years shaped their lives. It was truly a night to remember.

As our 65th Anniversary Year continues, please be on the lookout for upcoming events that will be themed with the 65th anniversary brand.

Have an amazing fall season Fallsburg School Community!

Sincerely,

Dr. Ivan J. Katz, Ed.D.

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Fallsburg Board of Education
School Community Relations Committee
Presents

**All
Free!**

Fallsburg Family Engagement Day

November 18, 2023 11am-2pm

Games!

Raffle!

**Community
Resource
Tables!**

Food!



**65th Anniversary
Special Celebration!**

Free Transportation Pick-up/Drop Off

Bus 1 Pick-Up Locations

10:15am - Mountindale Post Office
10:30am - Woodridge Town Hall
10:45am - Woodbourne Firemans Parking Lot
2:00pm - Drop Off - Return in opposite direction

Bus 2 Pick-Up Locations

10:00am - Loch Sheldrake Municipal Parking Lot
10:15am - Hurleyville Post Office
10:30am - Laurel Avenue by Apartments
10:40am - Griff Court
10:50am - Main Street Houses
2:00pm - Drop Off - Return in opposite direction

Junior-Senior High School
115 Brickman Road, Fallsburg, NY
Contact (845) 434-6800 ext. 1220

*Sponsored in part by Rolling V Bus Corp.
& the My Brother's Keeper Foundation*

Fostering a Positive School Climate: Insights from Our Recent Surveys

Dear School Community,

Happy Fall! As we continue to navigate the challenges of education in today's world, it is crucial for us to pause and reflect on the factors that contribute to the overall success of our schools. One such factor that plays a significant role in shaping the educational experience of our students is the school climate.

A positive school climate is essential for nurturing a supportive and inclusive environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. It also influences staff morale and engagement, which in turn impacts teaching and learning outcomes. To gain a deeper understanding of our school climate, we conduct school climate surveys each year. What do we do with the information we gather? Please read on!

The Survey

Our school climate surveys were carefully designed to gather insights from various stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers, and staff. The questions covered a wide range of topics, including social-emotional support, safety, respect, communication, parent and community engagement, school leadership, curriculum, and instruction. We sincerely thank all those who participated. Your feedback truly matters.

The Findings

I would like to share some preliminary key findings that highlight areas of strength and areas where we can focus our efforts for improvement:

- **Room for Improvement in Communication:** Some respondents indicated that there is room for improvement in communication between the school and parents, suggesting a need for more transparent and effective communication channels.
- **Social and Emotional Support:** There is a continued need for support for the social and emotional well-being of students, recognizing the challenges many young individuals face today.
- **Student Relationships:** Some students indicated that there is a need for students to be more respectful and kind towards each other.

Next Steps

Now that we have a clearer picture of our school climate, it's time to take action. As we move forward, we will focus on the following steps:

- **Enhancing Communication:** We will work on improving communication between the school and parents, ensuring that information is easily accessible and timely.



- **Supporting Social and Emotional Well-being:** We will explore additional ways to support the social and emotional well-being of our students, providing them with the necessary tools to navigate life's challenges. Our Positive Action Kits provide mini social-emotional lessons and are used in classrooms district-wide. Teachers receive annual SEL training and support as well.
- **Supporting student relationships:** Our Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) and Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP) are programs that work to create positive and safe schools. We work with staff and students each year for continuous improvement. We are also exploring Restorative Justice to help students with relationship and social issues.
- **Building on Strengths:** We will continue to nurture the positive aspects of our school climate, reinforcing safety measures and promoting positive teacher-student relationships.

Together, we can ensure that our schools are not only places of learning but also spaces where every individual feels valued, safe, and empowered to reach their full potential.

Please stay tuned for more updates as we embark on this journey of improving our school climate. This year's School Climate Survey will be sent out during the second half of the year. Be sure to watch for it. Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Dr. Sally Sharkey

Assistant Superintendent For Curriculum and Instruction

A Message From Pupil Personnel Services

In the Pupil Personnel Services Office, we oversee English Language Learners, Special Education, McKinney Vento, Foster Care, and Section 504 Accommodation Plans for students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Through Comet News submissions, we aim to highlight one aspect of Pupil Personnel Services to help provide information and resources to parents/guardians and community members. In this issue of Comet News, we highlight English Language Learners (ELLs).

In Fallsburg, we foster an environment of cultural sensitivity and respect, promoting a diverse and inclusive atmosphere where students can celebrate their unique background while learning English. It is important that we understand what each student's linguistic needs are so we can provide the support and services to ensure their academic success. We follow a comprehensive evaluation process to determine each student's English proficiency level.

Upon entry, new suspected ELLs are administered the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL), which provides the English proficiency level for each student - Entering, Emerging, Transitioning, Expanding, or Commanding. The level prescribes the amount of English as a New Language (ENL) units the student will require to support their language development. Parents receive notification of their child's English proficiency, a consent form for ENL services and, if applicable, consent for placement in the Dual Language Program through their child's teacher.

A variety of programs and services are available to meet each student's individual needs.

Our English as a New Language (ENL) program aims to foster language proficiency, academic achievement, and social integration, ensuring your child feels welcomed and empowered in our school community. ENL services are provided by certified ENL educators who specialize in providing differentiated instruction and tailor their teaching methods to meet the unique needs of ELLs. Our Stand-Alone ENL classes offer smaller group instruction, enabling our educators to work closely with your child to enhance their English language skills, whether in listening, speaking, reading, or wr-

iting. Our Integrated classes allow students access to the general education curriculum while providing language support to help them access the material.

The goal of the Bilingual Education (BE) program is to help students become proficient in both languages, typically their native or dominant language and a second language. In the Junior Senior High School, students may take bilingual Social Studies and Math. At Benjamin Cosor Elementary School, students develop proficiency in both languages through the Dual Language Program, where they spend equal parts of their day developing their academic skills in both Spanish and English.

Throughout the year, we regularly assess and monitor students' progress to ensure they are making significant strides in their language acquisition. In the spring, all ELL students take the annual New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT), to determine their progress in acquiring English language skills and to inform instructional decisions. Results from NYSESLAT are mailed in the Fall of the new school year.

We hope that this information was helpful to our school community. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about English Language Learners, please contact any member of our department at the information below:

Contact information for PPS Administrators/Typists is listed below:

Leighanne Russell, Director
(845) 434-6800 ext. 1273
lrussell@fallsburgcsd.net

Dillon Paul, Assistant Director
(845) 434-6800 ext. 1276
dpaul@fallsburgcsd.net

Clarissa Lake, Typist
(845) 434-6800 ext. 1275
clake@fallsburgcsd.net

Lesvi Fuentes Hernandez, Typist
(845) 434-6800 ext. 1274
lfuenteshernandez@fallsburgcsd.net

If you need to reach the Pupil Personnel Services team, please reach out to any of us at any time. We are here to serve and happy to help guide you or answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Leighanne Russell
Director of Pupil Personnel Services

FCSD Wins \$51,000 in Sullivan 180 Empowering a Healthier Generation Competition



On September 21, 2023, the Fallsburg Central School District was awarded \$51,000 in grant prize monies at the Sullivan 180 Empowering a Healthier Generation Celebration at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts.

Fallsburg's Benjamin Cosor Elementary School was among five schools in Sullivan County that participated in the Empowering a Healthier Generation Competition. Each school was required to present its wellness initiatives to a group of objective judges. The top grant awards were for \$75,000 and \$50,000.

Benjamin Cosor Elementary School was named the recipient of the \$50,000 grant prize. Additionally, the district was the recipient of the \$500 Nutrition Turtle Award, sponsored by Foster Supply Hospitality, and the Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School was presented with the \$500 Collaborator Turtle Award, sponsored by the Zufall Family Foundation.

The prize money is intended to be spent on improving the outdoor classroom spaces and various wellness programs at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School. Dr. Ivan Katz, Superintendent of the Fallsburg Central School District, was beaming with pride when he stated, "This is a very proud moment in Fallsburg Central School District history, and it is a testament to the hard work and long-time efforts of our school community".



SULLIVAN 180
Date September 21, 2023
PAY TO THE ORDER OF Fallsburg High School
\$ 500.00
Five Hundred and ^{xx}/₁₀₀ DOLLARS
For Collaborator Turtle Award
Sponsor Zufall Family Foundation

SULLIVAN 180
Date September 21, 2023
Empowering a Healthier Generation Competition
PAY TO THE ORDER OF Cosor Elementary
\$ 50,000.00
Fifty Thousand and ^{xx}/₁₀₀ DOLLARS
For 2nd Place Award
Sandra Grier

SULLIVAN 180
Date September 21, 2023
PAY TO THE ORDER OF Fallsburg Central School District
\$ 500.00
Five Hundred and ^{xx}/₁₀₀ DOLLARS
For Nutrition Turtle Award
Sponsor Foster Supply Hospitality

Grow Our Own: A Look Into Fallsburg's Newest Administrative Internship Program

School administrators play a significant role when it comes to the efficiency of the education system. They're responsible for providing resources for teachers, promoting an inclusive school environment, and improving the quality of education. However, in recent years, districts throughout the Hudson Valley region have seen a decline in certified and available school administrator candidates.

With this becoming a significant concern among many districts, school leaders are left to their own devices to figure out ways to reverse the issue. Some have implemented their own initiatives with the hope that they can incentivize teachers to pursue certification. But there's one district that has seen signs of optimism with their efforts to increase the number of administrators, and that is the Fallsburg Central School District.

Fallsburg's "Grow Our Own" administrative internship program, sponsored in part by the Mid-Hudson School Study Council and supported by SUNY New Paltz, is the district's newest initiative to encourage more teachers to pursue an administrative role. Each intern is assigned to work under the guidance of an administrator and take on a variety of tasks related to the administrative position they are interested in pursuing.

The first slate of interns for this program consists of seven teachers, Carlye Bertholf, Anthony Cordero, Laura DeGraw, Regina Giordano, Isabel Mejia, Daniel Redmond, and Jaime Walsh, and one high school speech-language pathologist, Jessica Scanna. These interns are mentored under current administrators: elementary principal Mary Kate Stinehour, high school principal Shana Bruestle, and Director of Pupil Personnel Services Leighanne Russell.

One of the program's primary goals is to ensure that interns are comfortable enough in the role of an administrator before officially deciding to pursue a job in administration. The interns can pursue certification but are not obligated to finish the entire process, as



(from left to right) Jessica Scanna, Regina Giordano, and Leighanne Russell

it can be an overwhelming experience for teachers to make the leap from leading in a classroom to leading in a building.

"I believe the challenges of recruiting staff for administrative roles are the same as when I started. Some may lack confidence in moving into this type of position, others have young children or family commitments, which make it more difficult to devote the time needed to be an administrator," said Mary Kate Stinehour.

The program has been designed to accommodate the intern's busy schedules and be cost-effective. It consists of Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) courses that last four semesters, with two classes required per semester. Interns typically meet with their supervisor 2-3 times per week and have the opportunity to work on their own time.

The Grow Our Own initiative has also allowed interns to gain a well-rounded understanding of the education system and its challenges. This is especially true for Ms. Giordano, a high school special education teacher, who has experienced some of those challenges while working with Ms. Russell and the Pupil Personnel office.

One of Ms. Giordano's primary responsibilities was to help place students needing an alternative educ-

ation outside of the district. She would seek out a suitable school for the student and attempt the transitioning process. But certain circumstances, like arranging transportation and connecting with family members, have been challenging to navigate.

"We have not been all that successful in placing these students yet," said Ms. Giordano. "But, it's insightful to see how many steps are needed just to do one thing that sounds so simple."

Despite the challenges, the interns have found this program extremely valuable for their professional development. Even if they do not plan to become an administrator soon, the experience has made them more prepared for the role and better educators overall.

"Taking all of these classes has been helpful in teaching me to see the other side of the coin that I don't always see as a teacher," said Regina Giordano. "It has made me a better teacher because I have a better understanding of the whole system instead of just my classroom system."

The Fallsburg Central School District plans to continue the program with hopes of inspiring more teachers to take on an opportunity that could change their future career paths.

Fallsburg Honors 1993 Section IX Class C Volleyball Championship Team

On September 29, 2023, the Fallsburg Central School District celebrated the 30th anniversary of the 1993 Section IX Class C Volleyball championship team. They welcomed back sisters and former teammates, Zuequal Harrison-Bailey and Muun Queen Malone (née Harrison), to share their experience on the team.

After entering the 1993 playoffs as a fourth seed team, Fallsburg pulled off a significant upset against first seed O'Neill in the first round. Then they went on to defeat second seed Burke Catholic 3-1 in the final round—marking the team's first and only sectional championship since being promoted to Class C. Even with their playoff run coming to an end in the regional finals, their unexpected success will live on in perpetuity.

Zuequal Harrison-Bailey, who was a senior and team captain during the 1993 team earned a full scholarship to play volleyball at Virginia Union University. Upon graduation, she became the volleyball coach at her alma mater—winning Coach of the Year and appearing in three conference championship games. She currently resides in Richmond, Virginia and manages a non-profit organization that provides guidance for school children.

Muun Queen Malone, a junior during the 1993 season, earned the position of team captain after Zuequal's departure. Upon graduation, she attended Hampton University to pursue a career in nursing. She resides in Atlanta, Georgia, and is currently a nurse practitioner and lecturer at Kennesaw State University.

Before the evening's varsity volleyball match against Liberty, Ms. Harrison-Bailey and Ms. Malone were introduced by their former coach, Michael Weiner, and Superintendent, Dr. Ivan Katz. They reflected on their own journey after high school and provided words of encouragement to the members of the volleyball team.

"What I want to say to you today is find out exactly what you want," said Ms. Harrison-Bailey. "...and give it one-hundred percent every single day."



(from left to right) Mike Weiner, Muun Queen Malone, Zuequal Harrison-Bailey and Ivan Katz

Memorial Trees Planted to Honor Past Fallsburg CSD Employees

On October 17, 2023, the Fallsburg Central School District held a memorial ceremony on the front lawn of the Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School to honor the many teachers, administrators, and staff members who have passed. As a living tribute to those employees, the district planted two dogwood trees, one at the Junior-Senior High School and the other at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School.

Several school community members, including Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ivan Katz, and Board of Education president, Michael Weiner, shared their remarks about the legacies of the past employees.



"Let us celebrate the lives they lived and the profound influence they had on all of us," said Michael Weiner. "May this tree stand as a living tribute to their memory, a testament to the enduring power of education, and a reminder that their legacy will continue to grow and flourish through the students and fellow staff members they inspired."

Fallsburg Staff Honored During SCSBA Awards Dinner

On October 18, 2023, two Fallsburg school community members, Ms. Penny Esposito and School Resource Officer Phil Brooks, were honored during the annual Sullivan County School Boards Association Awards Dinner.

Ms. Esposito, a high school English teacher of 26 years, was the recipient of the Outstanding Educator Award. Ms. Esposito's approach to education has been described as highly dedicated and compassionate. She is regarded as a significant role model amongst students and staff. In addition to being a teacher, Ms. Esposito was the previous president of the Fallsburg Teacher's Association. As president, she was a strong ally for educators through her tireless commitment to furthering the interest of teachers throughout the district.

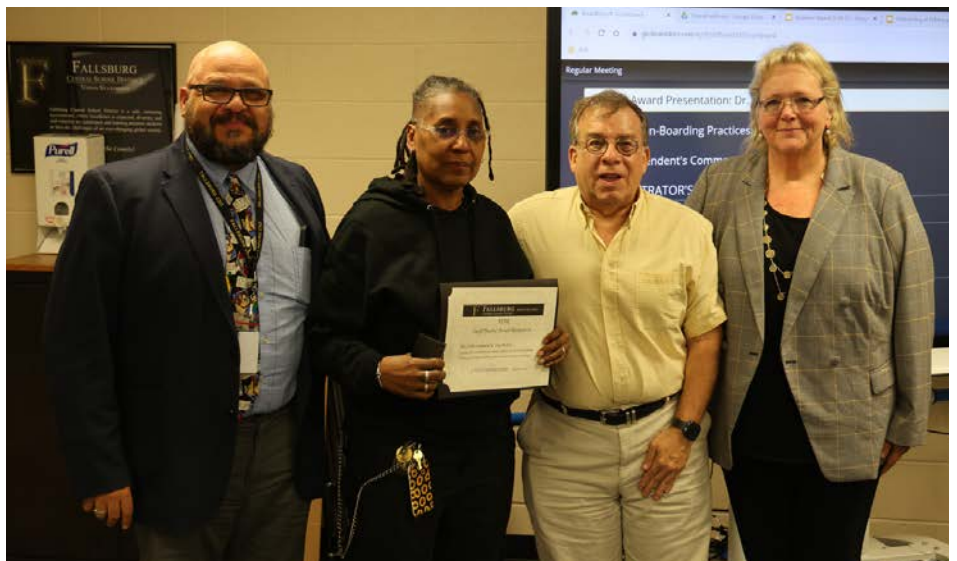
"To tell you that it is an honor to work with Penny Esposito is a complete understatement, but what I can tell you is that words alone will never do justice to the kind of outstanding educator Penny Esposito is or the positive difference she has made thus far in her career for the kids and adults of the Fallsburg Central School District," said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ivan Katz.

Officer Brooks, a school resource officer for the Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School, was named the recipient of the Outstanding Friend to Education Award. Throughout his time at Fallsburg, Officer Brooks has been an advocate for student success and well-being. He has remained deeply involved in school community events and celebrates student achievements. Many students consider him to be more than an officer, rather, he is a friend to seek out and talk to. "Phil's willingness to go above and beyond for our students demonstrates his exemplary character and relentless work ethic," said Dr. Katz. "Phil Brooks truly makes a positive difference in the lives of students in the Fallsburg Central School District."



(from left to right) Penny Esposito, Phil Brooks, and Ivan Katz

Lisa McAdoo is Fallsburg CSD's Latest STAR Award Recipient



(from left to right) Ivan Katz, Lisa McAdoo, Mike Weiner, and Sally Sharkey

On September 20, 2023, the Fallsburg Central School District Board of Education honored Lisa McAdoo as its newest STAR award recipient. The STAR award recognizes students and staff members who were caught making a phenomenal difference in someone's life. STAR stands for Staff/Teacher Award Recipient.

Ms. McAdoo, a Character Education Coordinator










Continue on
Next Page!

for the Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School, has left more than a positive impact on the district. Students and staff alike consider her a role model, mentor, and advocate for the welfare of others. Her passionate approach to education continues to motivate students to excel far beyond what they could imagine.


Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ivan Katz, gave his remarks on Ms. McAdoo (who was nominated for this special honor by Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Sally Sharkey). "Lisa has demonstrated an unparalleled dedication to the students here at Fallsburg. Her kindness and compassion create an environment where students feel valued, supported, and empowered to excel. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that a student's unique needs are met and that students feel valued and respected. Whether it's providing additional help to struggling students or reaching out when students need extra emotional support, Lisa's approach inspires growth in the individuals she comes in contact with."

District-Wide Fruit & Veggie Cart Calendar

November


MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 	2 Bananas	3 Baby Carrots
6 	7 Green pepper with ranch	8 Apple Slices Orange Segments	9 Pineapple	10 Baby Carrots
13 	14 Cauliflower with ranch	15 Apple Slices Orange Segments	16 Pears	17 Baby Carrots
20 	21 	22 Thanksgiving Break	23	24
27 	28 Grape tomatoes with ranch	29 Apple Slices Orange Segments	30 Clementine	

"Menu subject to change as needed"










Fun Facts About This Months Fruits And Veggies

- **Apples:** Helps keep teeth healthy and white, keeps the heart healthy.
- **Green pepper:** High in antioxidant and anti-inflammatory plant compounds, including vitamin C, carotenoids and phenolic acids.
- **Carrots:** Promote healthy vision, great for weight management.
- **Cauliflower:** High nutrient density, rich source of fiber, detox booster.
- **Grape Tomatoes:** Vitamins A, C, and folate, calcium, low in calories.
- **Bananas:** Improve digestion and heart health.
- **Pineapple:** Anti-inflammatory and pain-relieving properties.
- **Pears:** Linked to a lower risk of diabetes, boost heart health, assist in weight loss.
- **Clementine:** High levels of antioxidants such as vitamin C.
- **Oranges:** Protects your vision, boosts your immunity.




December

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1 Baby Carrots
4 	5 Radishes with ranch	6 Apple Slices Orange Segments	7 Honeydew	8 Baby Carrots
11 	12 Snap Peas with ranch	13 Apple Slices Orange Segments	14 Blueberries	15 Baby Carrots
18 	19 Zucchini with ranch	20 Apple Slices Orange Segments	21 Cantaloupe	22 Baby Carrots
25	26	27	28	29

School Closed








"Menu subject to change as needed"




Fun Facts About This Months Fruits And Veggies

- **Apples:** Rich in polyphenols that not only reduce inflammation but also help with blood pressure.
- **Radish:** Rich in antioxidants and minerals like calcium and potassium.
- **Carrots:** Support your immunity, may boost brain health.
- **Zucchini:** Many nutrients, high in antioxidants, contributes to healthy digestion.
- **Snap Peas:** Delicious and nutritional powerhouse, providing an excellent source of vitamins, minerals and fiber.
- **Honeydew:** Supports hydration, immune function, bone health, skin health.
- **Blueberries:** Fiber, vitamin C, vitamin K, manganese and potassium.
- **Cantaloupe:** Help lower high blood pressure, good source of potassium and folate.
- **Oranges:** Good for your skin, helps in brain development.

January

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 	2 Radishes with ranch	3 Apple Slices Orange Segments	4 Blueberries	5 Baby Carrots
8 	9 Greenbeans with ranch	10 Apple Slices Orange Segments	11 Honeydew	12 Baby Carrots
15 	16 Zucchini with ranch	17 Apple Slices Orange Segments	18 Grapes	19 Baby Carrots
22 	23 Broccoli with ranch	24 Apple Slices Orange Segments	25 Raspberries	26 Baby Carrots
29 	30 Snap peas with ranch	31 Apple Slices Orange Segments		

"Menu subject to change as needed"



Fun Facts About This Months Fruits And Veggies

- **Apples:** Helps keep teeth healthy and white, keeps the heart healthy.
- **Snap Peas:** Delicious and nutritional powerhouse, providing an excellent source of vitamins, minerals and fiber.
- **Carrots:** Promote healthy vision, great for weight management.
- **Radish:** Rich in antioxidants and minerals like calcium and potassium.
- **Broccoli:** Can help reduce inflammation, keep blood sugar stable and strengthen the immune system.
- **Blueberries:** Fiber, vitamin C, vitamin K, manganese and potassium.
- **Honeydew:** Supports hydration, immune function, bone health, skin health.
- **Grapes:** Good boost to immunity, promote better sleep, helps keep you hydrated.
- **Raspberries:** Lower blood pressure, essential to heart function, helps regulate sugar.

The Importance of Reading with Your Child

written by the Elementary Principal

Let's dive into the wonderful world of reading with your child. Here are some awesome reasons why it's a great idea for parents to read together with their little ones:

1. **Bonding time:** Reading with your child is a fantastic way to strengthen your bond. Snuggling up and exploring new stories together creates a special connection between you and your child.

2. **Language development:** Reading aloud exposes kids to a wide range of vocabulary, sentence structures, and language patterns. It also develops their speaking and listening skills, which make it easier for them to communicate effectively.

3. **Cognitive development:** Books improve a child's imagination and critical thinking skills. Following a story, they make predictions, analyze characters, and unravel the plot, stimulating their brain development.

4. **Encouraging a love for books:** Reading with your child nurtures a lifelong love for reading! When you share the joy and excitement of books, it creates a positive association, making them more eager to explore and learn independently.

5. **Sparking creativity:** Storybooks often inspire creative play and imagination. As you read with your child, you can engage in discussions, ask questions, and encourage them to use their imagination to expand on the story.

6. **Teaching life lessons:** Books often teach important values such as honesty, kindness, and perseverance. Reading these stories together provides an opportunity to discuss these values and how they apply to real-life situations.

7. **Emotional development:** Stories often touch upon different emotions and experiences. By reading and discussing these themes with your child, you can help them understand and navigate their emotions, fostering emotional intelligence.

So, whether it's a picture book, a fairytale, or a thrilling adventure, reading with your child is a fantastic way to create wonderful memories, promote learning, and have fun together!

Sincerely,

Mary Kate Steinhour

From the Assistant Elementary Principal

Hello Fallsburg Families,

The 2023-2024 school year is off to an amazing start; students are smiling, learning is in full swing, friendships are flourishing, and memories are being made!

As students continue to settle into the new school year, we are already celebrating their many accomplishments. Students are being recognized for outstanding bus behavior, displaying positive character traits, and meeting weekly PBIS goals.

PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. Its purpose is to encourage school-wide positive behaviors through instruction of expectations to increase social, emotional, and academic success and foster a community of kindness. Our PBIS goals and expectations include the following:

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.

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

Students are supported and reminded to be mindful of these expectations throughout the school day. Please ask your child about our PBIS goals and expectations. A strong partnership between school and home is crucial for the success of our students. I appreciate your partnership in fostering a supportive and respectful learning environment for all our students. Together, we can help our children grow into responsible, respectful, and well-rounded individuals. These goals and expectations help ensure a positive, productive learning environment for all!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Pamela Carr



SUPERHERO BREAKFAST!



Students that have displayed a positive character trait in class are nominated to be a BCES superhero! This month's character trait was being a good listener!



Big Apple

Crunch Day!



The Big Apple Crunch is celebrated every October as a way to show support for locally grown apples and celebrate the state's Farm-to-School initiative. Each student and staff would collectively take a bite into their apple. School districts from all across New York State have participated, including Fallsburg CSD!

From the High School Principal

Dear Fallsburg Families,

As we continue into the autumn season, I wanted to update you on some important school-related matters. Thank you to everyone who could attend our family/teacher conferences. These conferences provided a valuable opportunity for you to meet with your child's teachers, discuss their progress, and address any concerns or questions you may have. Please note that this meeting is not the only opportunity for you to check in with your child's teachers or support staff. Should you want to schedule a meeting, please reach out to their counselor using the email addresses listed below:

For Grades 7-9, if your last name starts with:

A-G: Ms. Vandyke
svandyke@fallsburgcsd.net

H-O: Mr. Levner
jolevner@fallsburgcsd.net

P-Z: Ms. Giarrizzo
mgiarrizzo@fallsburgcsd.net

Grade 10: Mr. Levner
jolevner@fallsburgcsd.net

Grade 11: Ms. Giarrizzo
mgiarrizzo@fallsburgcsd.net

Grade 12: Ms. Vandyke
svandyke@fallsburgcsd.net

In addition to family/teacher conferences, I'd like to share that our fall sports season is well underway. We appreciate the support from parents and the dedication of our student-athletes. Attending games and cheering on our teams is not only a source of pride for our school but also a wonderful way to build a sense of community. Please note that our upcoming family engagement day on Saturday, November 18th, is a wonderful opportunity to foster a stronger connection between families and the school. I really value your involvement and look forward to seeing you at this event.

Our students are working hard in these final weeks before their first quarter report cards are finalized. We want to encourage all students to participate in our 21st Century After School Tutorial Program to im-

rove grades and boost learning opportunities. There are academic classes and enrichment clubs such as guitar club, gaming club, yoga classes, spirit wear, and a board game club.

Please remember that our school is always here to support you and your family. Should you have any questions or concerns or require assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to our dedicated staff. Your partnership is invaluable to us, and we are committed to being available and responsive to your needs. Together, we can ensure that your child's educational experience is the best it can be. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We look forward to working together with you to continue to make this school year a success. Wishing you a wonderful fall season!

Warm regards,

Shana Bruestle
High School Principal

From the Assistant High School Principals

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. We would like to address the importance of attendance. Attendance is a critical component of your child's academic success, and we are committed to working together to ensure that every student has the best possible chance to thrive in their educational journey. Regular attendance is vital for several reasons:

- **Academic Success:** Students who attend school regularly are more likely to succeed academically. Every day missed is an opportunity for learning that cannot be regained.
- **Social Development:** Regular attendance allows students to build relationships with their peers, which is an essential aspect of their social development.
- **Preparation for the Future:** Good attendance habits in school prepare students for punctuality and responsibility in their future careers.
- **Consistency:** Consistent attendance helps students keep up with class materials and reduces the need for extra catch-up work.

Ways to Improve Attendance

We recognize that various factors can impact attendance, but here are some suggestions that may help improve your child's attendance:

- **Establish a Routine:** Set a consistent daily routine for your child, including regular bedtime and wake-up times.
- **Open Communication:** If your child is not feeling well or has other challenges affecting their attendance, please inform the school as soon as possible.
- **Celebrate Attendance:** Praise your child for good attendance and set up a small reward system to motivate them.
- **Stay Informed:** Keep an eye on the school calendar for important dates, and plan vacations and appointments around school breaks.
- **Supportive Environment:** Create a supportive and positive environment at home, emphasizing the importance of education.

Upcoming Events

We have several exciting events and activities planned for the upcoming months, and we encourage your child to attend and be an active participant in our school community. Please have a look at the school calendar for more details.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education. If you have any concerns or questions about your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to contact us. Together, we can ensure your child's success in school.

Sincerely,

Steven Nilsen & James Mort
Assistant High School Principals

JSHS Students Inducted into National Honor Society



On September 28, 2023, the annual National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society Induction ceremony occurred at the Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School auditorium. Inducted students have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, leadership, and character.

National Junior Honor Society inductees: Elenora Ahmetaj, Addison Alverado, Autumn Rain Atkinson, Keily Brizuela Fuentes, Amhara Gillmer, Melanie Gomez Perez, Stephon Harris, Layla Hermann, Camdyn Hoefling, Sophia Jacobs, Emmett Kleingardner, Ronny Mendoza, Dillan Padilla Avila, Keily Rosales Charuc, Kayden Saravia, Jiahanny Sebastian, Joslyn Smith, and Lavante Ward.

National Honor Society inductees: Meredith Anderman, Maya Ballard, Jefferson Banegas Gallo, Isabelle Batista, Gina Castillo Caguana, Emily Castro Ramos, Kenya Escalante, Luciano Esposito, Jaiden Figueroa, Adrianna Garcia, Erli Garcia, Evyonna Gilliard, Arianna Gonzalez, Isaac Hernandez Martinez, Nicole Jimenez, Hannah Johnson, Francely Maradiaga, Nancy Cadena Martinez, William Martinez-Martinez, Rachel Montenegro Sandoval, Bella Muscia, Vivian Ordonez Cabrera, Dalila Ortiz Fuentes, Kaitlyn Pedersen, Marco Reyes Mansanarez, Ceceila Riker Lainez, Jennifer Rios Nunez, Jaily Sebastian, Charlotte Steingart, Nick Storms, Ioannis Vernezos, and Jordyn Wall-Carty.

Comet Sports



Fall 2023

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY



Season Record: 7-3

Win at Eldred 15-50

Loss at Minisink Valley 45-18

Loss at O'Neill 40-21

Win vs. Port Jervis 15-50

Win vs. Eldred 15-50

Win vs. Liv. Manor 15-50

Win at Sullivan West 29-30

Loss at Monticello 41-20

Win vs. Liberty 15-50

Win vs. Liv. Manor 15-50

ROSTER

Jefferson Banegas
 Joash Fernandez
 Terrance Hayden
 Treyvon Hayden
 Isaiah Hershewsky

Azon Laurel
 Justice Laurel
 Adam Mednick
 Eric Mooch
 Anthony Pignataro

COACHING STAFF

Loren Rapaport
 Danielle Halikias

Isaiah Hershewsky and Terrence Hayden finished the season as the team's top boy scorers.

Isaiah Hershewsky broke the 3 mile school record with a time of 17:31. He also finished the season as a top 10 runner in the Class.

The team will go on to compete in the sectional championship meet on November 4th.



GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY



ROSTER

Meredith Anderman	Francely Maradiaga
Kassandra Damms	Cecelia Norris-Yanes
Arianna Gonzalez	Arrow Odell
Angelina Levner	Ilana Pinzon
Shelby Lyons	Jaily Sebastian
	Alisha Tremper

Arrow Odell and Meredith Anderman are the top girl scorers of the season.

Arrow Odell finished the season as a top 10 runner in the Class.

The team will go on to compete in the sectional championship meet on November 4th.

Season Record: 7-3

Win at Eldred 15-50
Loss at Minisink Valley 48-15
Loss at O'Neill 47-16
Win vs. Port Jervis 15-50
Win vs. Eldred 15-50
Win vs. Liv. Manor 15-50
Win at Sullivan West 15-50
Loss at Monticello 48-15
Win vs. Liberty 15-50
Win vs. Liv. Manor 15-50

COACHING STAFF

Danielle Halikias
 Loren Rapaport



BOYS SOCCER**Season Record: 7-6-1****Win** vs. Ellenville 3-1**Loss** vs. Beacon 1-5**Win** vs. Chester 4-0**Win** vs. Port Jervis 8-1**Loss** at Liberty 0-1**Loss** at Middletown 0-3**Win** vs. Webutuck 3-0**Loss** at Beacon 0-5**Loss** at Mount Academy 0-1**Win** vs. O'Neill 1-0**Win** vs. Liberty 2-0**Tie** at O'Neill 1-1**Loss** at New Paltz 0-3**Win** vs. Tri-Valley 12-1**COACHING STAFF**

Dylan Gaucher

After clinching the OCIAA Division IV title, the team made its way to the Sectional title game. They ultimately lost to O'Neill 4-0.

Diego Bonilla led the team in scoring with 12 goals for the season, and Jose Aleman was the team's assist leader with 6 for the season.

ROSTER

#7 Jose Aleman
 #10 Diego Bonilla
 GK Josue Campos
 #9 Iker Canales
 #17 Jonathan Dias Paredes
 #18 Angel Dubon
 #16 Jordy Fuentes
 #19 Cristian Garcia
 #25 Isaac Hernandez Martinez
 #27 Marco Mansanarez
 #5 William Martinez
 #8 Anthony Mendoza
 Granados
 #3 Cian Meyer
 #11 Kevin Montoya
 #6 Mauricio Ordonez
 #15 Junior Ordonez
 #2 Diogenes Ortiz
 #14 Kevin Padilla
 #22 Anthony Pavon Ortega
 GK Selvin Reyes
 #4 Frank Trochez
 #16 Allan Perez
 #23 Yordi Benitez



GIRLS SOCCER



Season Record: 0-11

Loss at Chester 0-7
 Loss vs. Sullivan West 1-4
 Loss vs. Port Jervis 0-4
 Loss at Port Jervis 0-8
 Loss at Liberty (*Forfeit*)
 Loss at Burke Catholic (*Forfeit*)
 Loss vs. O'Neill (*Forfeit*)
 Loss at O'Neill 0-6
 Loss vs. Liberty 0-2
 Loss vs. Chester 0-3
 Loss at Sullivan West 0-4

ROSTER

#10 Asly Avila
 #29 Nancy Cadena
 #11 Katherine Castro
 #2 Keelie Damms
 #3 Savanna Doty
 #9 Mia Irlbacher
 #6 Nicole Jimenez
 #5 Mayline Maldonado
 Katherine Murillo
 #13 Dalila Ortiz
 #12 Keyla Otero
 #15 Emily Perna
 #8 Angela Pineda
 Luz Quinde
 Marilyn Santos
 #4 Genesis Salgado

COACHING STAFF

Jordan Mootz
 Kassie Foertsch



VOLLEYBALL



ROSTER

#15 Gelsey Aguilar Torres
 #29 Maya Ballard
 #28 Arslyn Cantave
 #16 Emily Castro Ramos
 #2 Ashley Ingrassia
 #4 Hannah Johnson
 #11 Jennifer Magali Morales Perez
 #19 Brianna Noller
 #26 Georgia-Rane O'Brien
 #9 Kaitlyn Pedersen
 #18 Juleidy Rivera Torres
 #5 Jordyn Wall-Carty

Season Record: 8-9

Loss vs. S.S. Seward 0-3
 Win at Sullivan West 3-1
 Loss at Tuxedo 0-3
 Loss at O'Neill 0-3
 Win vs. Goshen 3-2
 Win at Ellenville 3-1
 Loss vs. Port Jervis 0-3
 Win vs. Liberty 3-0
 Win vs. Burke Catholic 3-2

Loss vs O'Neill 1-3
 Loss at Goshen 0-3
 Loss at Monticello 2-3
 Win at Rondout Valley 3-1
 Win at Liberty 3-1
 Loss at Chester 2-3
 Loss vs. Tuxedo 0-3
 Win vs. Chapel Field 3-0

COACHING STAFF

Amy Hobby
 Michael Ballard

For the first time since 2016, the volleyball team has made an appearance at the Section title game. They were also the only team in Sullivan County to qualify for a quarter-final game.

They subsequently lost to Highland 3-1, but breaking their playoff drought was more than enough to consider their season a success.



FOOTBALL



Season Record: 4-2

Win vs. Ellenville 48-24

Win vs. Tri-Valley 40-20

Win at Eldred 26-20

Loss at Sullivan West 16-32

Loss at Rondout Valley 22-48

Win vs. Liv. Manor/Roscoe (*Forfeit*)

COACHING STAFF

Dominick Scanna

Lionel White

Joseph Tofallos

Jake Scanna

Will Young

ROSTER

- #77 Robert Blake
- #55 Kyle Bland
- #65 Nikolas Bonner
- #10 Dominic Caston
- #59 Tyjae Coakley Franklin
- #4 Mahova Custodio
- #17 Chase Delfino
- #75 Aleck Drammeh
- #11 Ethan Dunn
- #56 Adam Frunzi
- #9 Alana Gjeka
- #69 Machi Hines
- #15 Guisseppe King
- #68 Daris Koljenovic
- #5 Nazir Lopez
- #3 Jadiel Monche
- #6 Colin Pavese
- #19 James Smith Jr.
- #2 Nicholas Storms
- #1 Isaiah Young
- #7 Xavier Young

After finishing 4-2 and 3rd in the division, the Fallsburg football team hosted its first home playoff game in team history. They defeated Tri-Valley 38-32 and will face off against Sullivan West in the next round.

Two school records were broken this season. Nick Storms broke the touchdown passing record, and Donovan Hart broke the receiving touchdown record.



CHEERLEADING



ROSTER

Nataly Alcocer	Catherine Pena
Chanel Han	Angie Rodriguez
Rachel Hosien	Aileen Rodriguez
Saleen Lyons	Keily Rosales
Francely Maradiaga	Helen Vasquez
Marielyd Muniz	Laura Williams

HEAD COACH

Kiffany Rodgers-Sanchez

ROSTER

Anderson Arce Acevedo	Joshua Tetteh
Holman Bacca	Christopher Venancio
Carlos Granados	Cristhian Aguilar
Jeremy Guillen	Kelvin Canales
Stephen Harris	Josue Galaes
Victor Medina Orellana	Alexander Abelar Martinez Jr.
Dillan Padilla	Juan Palaez
Daniel Perez	Moises Cubias
Pedro Pineda Ortiz	Josue Martinez-Lopez
Henry Reyes	Abraham Reyes Serrano
Cristofer Pivaral Ballesteros	

MODIFIED BOYS SOCCER



HEAD COACH
Peter Dworetsky

Season Record: 9-0

ROSTER

Addison Alvarado	Madelyne Maxwell
Kiara Allen	Melina Ortiz
Ajalise Carattini	Payton Pisaniello
Gianna Colombo Gonzalez	Katelyn Santiago
Surey Delgado	Marion Sesay
Niylah Emptage	Joslyn Smith
Isabella Gonzales	Khyliee Watson
Leyna Greenberg	Jaylisa Williams
Layla Hermann	Honor Wilson
Maelyn Mann	Katheryn Reyes Morales
Leyla Martinez	Lillyanna Mitchell Fuentes
Heaven Mathews	

MODIFIED VOLLEYBALL



HEAD COACH
Jennifer Varner

Season Record: 4-3

ROSTER

Keily Brizuela Fuentes	Brittany Reyes Serrano
Layla Cruz	Seylin Valasquez Hernandez
Deysi Diaz Hernandez	Janiya Ferguson
Katherine Juarez Cadena	Kimberly Yautentzi-Reyes
Alisson Lagos Guardado	Jennifer Fuentes Pineda
Kristel Lagos	Angie Carranza Bonilla
Nazareth Manjarrez Paredes	Tatiana Parada Escalante
Angelica Martinez Lopez	Karen Rodas Cruz
Paola Melendez Deras	Cruz Hernandez Orantes

MODIFIED GIRLS SOCCER

Season Record: 5-5-1

HEAD COACH

Nickolett Dillin

Senior Night!



SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					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 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			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 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					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 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	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 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				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		

MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					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 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	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 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			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 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						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						

SCHOOL DAYS

September	17
October	21
November	17
December	16
January	21
February	19
March	19
April	17
May	22
June	17
Total: 186 + 4 conference days - 10 snow days = 180 days	

MAKE-UP DAYS

Day 1	February 19
Day 2	March 29
Day 3	April 4
Day 4	April 5
SCHOOL CLOSED	
September	4, 5, 25
October	9
November	1, 10, 22, 23, 24
December	25-29
January	1, 15
February	16, 19
March	15, 29
April	1-5
May	27
June	19

If allowable, remote learning will take place after all 10 snow days have been used. Snow day 11 and beyond will be remote learning days.

- = First Day of School
- = Last Day of School
- = Graduation

School Closed	Board of Education Meeting
Early Dismissal & Planned Delay	Conference Day (School Closed)

Testing

= Board of Education Meeting (4/16)

October 6, 2023:
15 minute early dismissal

October 12, 2023:
Planned 2 hour delay

January 9, 2023:
Planned 2 hour delay

May 7, 2023:
Planned 2 hour delay

Fallsburg Central School District

115 Brickman Road
P.O. Box 124
Fallsburg, NY 12733-0124

Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School

115 Brickman Road
P.O. Box 124
Fallsburg, NY 12733-0124

Benjamin Cosor Elementary School

15 Old Falls Road
P.O. Box 124
Fallsburg, NY 12733-0124

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Ms. Lindsay Severino, Director of Student Equity
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Email: lseverino@fallsburgcsd.net

Mr. Kyle Donnelly, Director of Facilities
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Email: kdonnelly@fallsburgcsd.net

Central Registration

Phone: (845) 434-6800 Ext. 1222

Tax Collection

Phone: (845) 434-6800 Ext. 1219
Email: tax@fallsburgcsd.net

Board of Education

Dr. Verna Greer

Ms. Arlene Hussey

Ms. Renee Kates

Ms. Regina McKenny-Snead

Ms. Fiorella Muscia

Ms. Colleen Picciotti

Ms. Jennifer Reinhardt

Dr. Sean Wall-Carty, *Vice President*

Mr. Michael Weiner, *President*

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