### IN THIS EDITION Administrative Letter 2 3 **District News** 4-8 MS/HS News 9-11 **Elementary News** 12 Reminders/Announcements **UPCOMING EVENTS** January 23-26 Regents Exams <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Day (District Wide) 26 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Ends(MS/HS) **February** BOE Mtg. @ 5:30 p.m. 5 (Temple Elem.) PTO Mtg @6:30 p.m. 12 (Fenner) 15 Progress Reports (MS/HS) K-2 Magic School Bus 16 Field Trip 19 President's Day (No School) 20 BOE Mtg. @ 5:30 p.m. Mid-Winter Break (No 20-23 School) March 5 BOE Mtg. @ 5:30 p.m. Conference Day (No 8 School) HS Musical (Grease) @ 8-9 7:30 p.m. (HS Aud) HS Musical (Grease) @ 10 2:30 p.m. (HS Aud) 13 Progress Reports (MS/HS) PTO Mtg. @ 6:30 p.m. 18 (Fenner) 19 BOE Mtg. @ 5:30 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Ends (Elem) 22 Spring Pictures (Temple) 26 27 Spring Pictures (Fenner) 29 Good Friday (No School) 1-8 Spring Break (No School) 2 BOE Mtg. @ 5:30 p.m.



# **Falcon Athletes Give Back to the Community**







Falconer Central School 2 East Avenue, North Falconer, NY 14733 (716)665-6624

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Happy New Year!

As we move through the school year and start to look towards spring and summer, Falconer students are not only learning their traditional lessons in reading, writing, and arithmetic but are also learning about computer science across the grade levels. FCS offers computer science education through Temple Tech Time with Mrs. Mikula, Fenner STEAM with Mrs. Sigular, Middle School STEM with Mr. Caruso, and

High School Computer Science and Advanced Placement Computer Science Applications, taught by Mr. Spry and Mr. Caruso, respectively. Of course, students continue to use technology across the curriculum, not only for typing papers, but also for exploring concepts, "chatting" with historical figures, and designing presentations and works of art.

Our annual Computer Science Education (CSEd) week, held during the first week of December, and led by Mrs. Binkley and Mr. Caruso, hosts a variety of computer science explorations for middle school students, including creating a binary-encoded pixel art creation, coding robots, and designing a moveable falcon from rigid pieces in a "Rigamajig" kit. The purpose of this week is to highlight key ideas in computer science (binary code, pixels, robotics, programming, etc.), in ways that support collaborative problemsolving and critical thinking.

Part of New York State's new Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards is to help ensure that students are well-prepared to operate in a digital world, not only as consumers of digital content but also as informed citizens and responsible producers of content. Computer Science presents lifelong opportunities for our students, as computing-related job opportunities are growing faster than any other sector of new jobs in the United States. (Code.org states there are over 16,000 open computing jobs in NYS alone, offering an average salary of nearly \$130,000 annually, but under half of NYS high schools offer high school CS classes.) As your high school student starts to plan next year's schedule, consider having them sign up for one of the CS classes we offer at Falconer.

On a day-to-day basis, some of the new technologies we are using at school include the Remind App for middle/high school sports and extracurricular communication, MobileServe for high school students to sign up for and track their community service hours, SmartPass for middle/high school hallway movement, Freckle Math (primarily K-5, but available for all students), along with science simulations from Amplify (Fenner) and BrainPop (middle school). The science simulations allow students to visualize, manipulate, and experience things either too large (outer space), too small (atoms and molecules), or too dangerous (chemicals, ocean waves, earthquakes, etc.) to carry out in a traditional school space. Simulations and eventually augmented and virtual reality can help transform student learning from reading and listening to experiencing, with exciting potential.

Falconer also has a very successful Esports team, both at the middle and high school levels. Ms. Pekrul and Mr. Spry are the team managers and have led both to podium finishes at local tournaments. Esports is not a traditional school offering and the idea is often met with skepticism or criticism. However, it is proving itself as an extracurricular activity that promotes teamwork, problem-solving, responsibility, and communication. It also provides a social setting for gaming and improves students'



relationships. Our teams compete in Rocket League, Super Smash Brothers, Chess, and Brawlhalla.

For students in grades 9 - 11, there is a new regional opportunity offered through Dream It Do It, called the Advanced Manufacturing Program (DIDIAMP). In December, DIDIAMP's Melissa Himes visited our technology education classes and spoke with students about the program. Enrollment involves registering on the Tallo platform, where students can explore careers and career planning, receive invitations to local manufacturing educational events, and earn micro-badges in manufacturing. Students earn color belt levels as they complete the DIDIAMP offerings, and also earn a work-ethic credential over their high school career. Both distinctions build not only confidence and a manufacturing knowledge base, but also potential for career development as they enter the workforce or pursue college. There are over 1600 manufacturing facilities in Western NY, with 70,000 employees earning over \$4.6 billion in payroll and benefits, and producing \$26 billion in annual shipments. There is a growing need for hiring new, qualified talent. The potential for our students as they enter adulthood is great. If a student is interested in Tallo and DIDIAMP, they should contact me or their technology teacher at the high school.

This coming summer, FCS will again offer a one-week-long STEM day camp for Falconer middle school students, and we are working again with the Martz-Kohl Observatory to host a regional space camp. Both camps are held in July, and registration will open this spring. For middle and high school students looking for opportunities beyond Falconer, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) hosts an Entrepreneurship Academy (Boone, North Carolina) and a STEM Academy (Oak Ridge, Tennessee), at no cost to students in our region. Both ARC academy applications are due February 2, 2024, and the link can be found on our District website.

Behind the scenes, our tech team works tirelessly to keep our hardware and software running smoothly for all students and employees in the District. This is an enormous undertaking, as equipment and software are constantly being updated. FCS is "Falcon Strong" in the technology related courses and activities we

offer students because of the teachers and technicians who make these opportunities possible!

~ Mary Plumb
Director of Technology
and STEM

### **CSED Week**

Middle and high school students celebrated
Computer Science Education Week December 4-8 in
the MSHS media center! Mr. Caruso and Mrs. Binkley
planned a variety of activities throughout the week.
Students used decoding skills to create a pixel mural in
the hallway. Grade 8 won first place Battle of the Classes
points for the "Create a Falcon" engineering challenge
using the Rigamajig kits borrowed from the E2CCB media
center. Other activities included a human logic maze,
creating binary code bracelets,
solving Breakout escape
rooms, and using

rooms, and using Ozobot and Cubelet robots. It was a challenging week of problem solving, creating, and

coding!





### **FCS FBLA Hosts District Meeting**

On Thursday, October 19, 2023, District 13 Future Business Leaders of America held its Fall District Meeting at Falconer High School. Our Falconer chapters hosted the middle and high school chapters from Jamestown, Pioneer, Randolph, and Clymer Central Schools. District 13 State Vice President, Anna C., began the opening session with advisor introductions and a slideshow highlighting the state charity, K9s for Warriors. The opening session was concluded with a friendly ice breaker allowing attendees to interact with members from other chapters.

Members then attended one of two workshops. "Parli Like a Pro," led by Jamestown Advisor, Emily Johnson, taught a hands on approach to parliamentary procedure. Michelle Johnson (Falconer) and Lisa Perry (Clymer) led a "Champion Chapter, Merit Awards, BAA" workshop designed to inform members on the wide variety of challenges at the state and national levels of FBLA. Just before lunch, keynote speaker, Tim Black of Land Pro, provided an informational look at entrepreneurship and the challenges and expectations to achieving success. The day concluded with a Battle of the Chapters competition. Members from each school sent four members to the stage to battle with their FBLA knowledge. Falconer member, Jeffrey P. It was a great day of fun, social, and educational activities.



# Falconer Volleyball Wraps Up Season The volleyball team placed six players as all-stars after finishing in second place in the CCAA Division 1 West league. Hannah M., Nylah S., and Augustine K. were named to first-team. Mylie Z. was named to the second

mention.

The volleyball team finished a fantastic season as the Section VI Class C1 runner ups. They finished the season 18-3 with their only losses being to eventual

state champion Portville. Congratulations on a great season girls!



team and Ashley S. and Emily Z. were named honorable



Career Exploration Via the ASVAB

In January, the Armed Services
Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)
was offered at FCS. This test
measures one's skills and abilities as
they relate to numerous occupations
both within and outside of the military.
A common misconception surrounding
the ASVAB is that it commits the test
taker to the military. Rather, this test is

a resource and opportunity for students to explore where they may fit in the world of work. Through taking this test, students can gain a better understanding of which careers may be a good fit for

their interests, skills, personality style, and strengths. Whether a student is interested

in the military or not, the ASVAB is a great career exploration tool to help students determine their career goals!



The Friday prior to winter break, students in the middle/high school had the opportunity to "UNPLUG" from their devices and schoolwork and participate in different activities that fostered personal connection and creativity! These activities included playing board games, decorating cookies, joining a drum circle, practicing yoga, wreathmaking, learning how to grill a steak, taking part in gingerbread house STEM challenges, Lego building challenges, attempting to solve an

escape room, and more!



The FAFSA for the 2024-2025 academic year is now open! If your student plans to attend college between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, you can now complete the form to apply for financial aid to help pay for college attendance. As of this year, the FAFSA application process has been changed and updated. Thus, it may look different than if you had completed the application in previous years. Contact your student's school counselor or refer to <a href="https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa">https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa</a> for more information and assistance with this form!

Attending college can be costly, so start looking for scholarships for additional financial support! Talk to your student's school counselor and check out the college information page on the FCS counseling website for scholarship opportunities: <a href="https://www.falconercsd.org/domain/151">https://www.falconercsd.org/domain/151</a>

For students taking AP courses, the 2024 AP exams will be administered throughout the weeks of May 6-10 and May 13-17. More specific information will be provided as test dates draw near!

S A T	2023-2024 SAT Test Dates	Registration Due Date	<u>Late Registration Date</u>
	March 9, 2024 (Digital)	February 23, 2024	February 27, 2024  April 23, 2024  May 21, 2024
	May 4, 2024 (Digital)	April 19, 2024	April 23, 2024 SAT at S
	June 1, 2024 (Digital)	May 17, 2024	May 21, 2024 WWW.Com
	February 10. 2024	January 5, 2024	January 19, 2024
A C T	April 13, 2024	March 8, 2024	March 22, 2024  May 17, 2024  Register for ACT at A
	June 8. 2024	May 3, 2024	May 17, 2024 www.aos



### Doughnuts for Perfect Attendance

In December, students who maintained perfect attendance for the beginning of the school year were invited to have doughnuts during homeroom in the school counseling office. The middle/high school had nearly 80 students with perfect attendance! Dedication to attending school daily and arriving on time to school can not only have a positive impact on a students academic success, but it can also help students gain skills that will be helpful upon entry into the workforce. We look forward to even more students with perfect attendance in the future!



education within that field.

# Obtaining College Credits While at FCS

At FCS, there are a number of classes students can choose to take to obtain both high school and college credits! Typically during a student's junior and senior years, there are various course options taught that would give a student the opportunity to earn college credit through Jamestown Community College and a new addition, Houghton College. In order to begin accruing college credits in high school, students must take the **Accuplacer Exam** and obtain a passing score. During the spring of their sophomore year, students have their first opportunity to take the Accuplacer. If students pass the Accuplacer, they are eligible to obtain both high school and college credit for certain classes as long as a passing grade is achieved and all other course requirements are fulfilled. There will be opportunities to retake the Accuplacer in the fall and spring of each school year to maximize the chances of passing. Getting some college credit completed during high school can help to save both time and money for college bound students!

# Looking Ahead to Next Year: Course Scheduling

As we round the corner into the second half of the school year, it is time to begin planning and scheduling classes for next school year! Throughout the spring, students will meet with their school counselor to explore coursework being offered for the upcoming school year, review NYS credit requirements and anticipated regents exams, discuss plans for after graduation, and much more. We encourage students to be daring and embrace the challenge of higher level coursework and take up opportunities to engage in classes that may be fit their interests!

Who is your student's counselor?

Mrs. Warren - Grades 10-12 students with last names beginning with A-J
Mrs. Barber - Grades 10-12 students with last names beginning with K-Z

Miss Wright - Grades 8 & 9
Ms. Odell - Grades 6 & 7



Falconer's first ever unified bowling team has begun. Unified sports combines people with and without intellectual disabilities on

sports teams for training and competition. People with intellectual disabilities are classified as athletes, and people without intellectual disabilities are classified as partners. Unified bowling pairs an athlete with a partner. Teams will compete against other unified pairs. There is still time to join as an athlete or partner!

Please contact Coach Krista Vincent at kvincent@falconerschools.org.

# **Sophomores Visit Hewes Center BOCES**

On January 17, the sophomores had the opportunity to take a trip to the Hewes Educational Center home of Erie 2 Chautauqua Cattaraugus BOCES career and technical education programs. During this trip, students had the chance to tour the classrooms and obtain more information on career/technical education programs offered at Hewes. These programs include automotive body repair, automotive technology, conservation, construction, cosmetology, criminal justice, culinary, diesel mechanics, health careers, information technology/computer information systems, and small animal science. If a student decides to pursue one of the BOCES programs, they will complete the career/technical program of their choosing during their junior and senior years in conjunction with completing remaining coursework at FCS. From the education at Hewes, students graduate with career-ready skills in a particular field that would allow them to enter the workforce or continue their

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# 7

### **Reality Check Brings Awareness**

Reality Check cupped the bus-loop fence emphasizing how BIG tobacco companies dangerously target kids with the line: Flavors are the lure! Nicotine hooks kids to use tobacco products! The purpose of Reality Check is to bring awareness to the community and today's youth on the dangers of tobacco, vaping, and the influence

that big market industries have on younger populations. We also focus on learning how to work with politicians (locally and statewide) to help fight back against such targeting as well as how to be confident advocators for a healthier generation. In addition to the fence, Reality Check created a holiday tree for the high school's lobby festively decorating it with different ornaments

with startling facts about the effects of tobacco and vape usage.



In November, some members from FCS SADD (students against destructive decisions) attended the Sandy Hook, SAVE Promise club training. We met with organizers of the clubs and brainstormed ideas to make FCS a place where students feel like they belong. We also worked on ways to help struggling students. The Sandy Hook Promise is a national nonprofit organization founded and led by several family members whose loved ones were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012. SAVE promise clubs are youth-led organizations that encourage young people to take charge of their friends, schools, and communities.



FCS SADD will be using this training to implement activities to reach more students and community members. More to follow in the coming months.



The marching band returned from the championship competition in Syracuse sixth out of nine bands in the division with a score of 75.45 (the highest score the band had all season). This year the marching band was comprised of 43% rookies (as 13 members graduated last year). The average grade level of a member is currently 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Congratulations to all on a great learning year and we look forward to even more harmonious seasons to come.



### 8th Grade Success Class

Eighth grade students in Mrs. McDonald's success class celebrated the holiday with the first of two auctions this semester. The students earn McDonald's Money (a paycheck) when they arrive to class on time and come to class prepared to learn. They also earn money when they complete tasks on time. The objective is to teach students how to manage finances, set goals, and earn money. Students have learned the concept of net pay vs gross pay, withholdings, budgeting, and setting career goals. Students have also completed a project to purchase a home, a car, plan a vacation, budget for meals, and work to save for emergencies. During the semester, students can shop in the class store for waterproof stickers, healthy snacks, purchase a pencil or choose to save their money for drawings and auctions. The week before break students had an opportunity to purchase tickets with their earnings (paycheck money) for an opportunity to win various prizes. The students had choices to win a Roku, Amazon Fire Stick, a talking robot, jewelry, nail polish, Lily and Fox nail stickers, and other small giveaways. Mr. English was able to come and draw the winners and celebrate the end of the 2023 year with the eighth-graders. After the drawing, the students competed for candy canes in a Where's Waldo Christmas page activity and relaxed.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Veterans

Sixth-graders enjoyed conversation and breakfast with the Falconer American Legion Post #638 in November for

Veterans Day. Students had an opportunity to eat, visit, and ask questions about the military. The American Legion made and served breakfast to all the sixth-graders. It was a great way for our Falconer Students to honor local veterans!

# Middle School Students of the Month



November Macy O.

December Lucas O. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Middle School Kiwanis Terrific Kids



November **Bryant R.** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade







# Harvey C. Fenner Elementary October Soaring Students

Sierra S., Jayce S., Cora J., Dexter R., Eden A., Chris T., Riley B.,





Nolan C., Susan G., Andrew Y., Shawn R., Luca M., Wanbli L., Alahna C., Jazelle C.

Meleigha H., Isabella S., Avery Y., Skylar M., Claire T., Gracie M., Aydn S., Carter B., Faith E., Kemya F.,

Livianna C., Layla R.



## Harvey C. Fenner Elementary November Soaring Students

Brooklyn W., Kaytlynn M., Hunter P., Kobe., Jensy V., August C., Lydia V.



4<sup>th</sup> Grade



Audrianna S., Craig F., Noah N., Emma D., Aiden R., Lyla R., Narita W., Rowan G.

Owen C.,
Mason S.,
Nevaeh W.,
Emmaline P.,
Parker S., Beca
S., Kemyah F.,
Layla R., Luke
R., Teddy A.,
Madison C.,
Emma S.





# Iroquois Culture Explored

The 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been studying Iroquois culture. The students completed an Iroquois project at home and shared their projects and knowledge with their classmates. Students created either a longhouse, wampum belt, dreamcatcher, poster, or corn husk doll. The projects were displayed in the Fenner library.





## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Readers

Fifth graders were able to go to Temple on December 21 to read Christmas stories to the different classrooms.





K., Oliver S., 1—Corbin C., Anna T., 2—Harlie

B., Scott W.

UPK- Olivia D., Clara V., K- Camila N., Graham D., 1

Stella F., Kamden S., 2—Sammy O. and Arlo B.

Falcon Productions' Musical:

#### ecrwss



#### **Winter Edition: Reminders & Announcements**



### **Mission Statement**

The Board of Education, collective staff, and community of the Falconer School District are committed to preparing our children to be productive members of society. Through continuous evaluation and improvement, this partnership will provide a quality educational environment for students to meet the graduation requirements.



### Alma Mater

Falconer High School here's to you best in the land. 'Neath the old gold and blue, we will proudly take our stand. In classroom study, field, or track with you dear as our guide, no honor ever shall you lack. I'll win your pride.



### **Board of Education** Agendas, Additions/ **Deletions, & Minutes**

To access any of the above documents, go to:

- www.falconerscsd.org
- ⇒ District Home Page
- ⇒ Our District
- ⇒ Board of Education
- ⇒ Board Meetings 2023-24
- ⇒ Select what you want to look at (ex: Agendas, or Minutes)
- ⇒ Click on meeting date



www.FalconerCSD.org

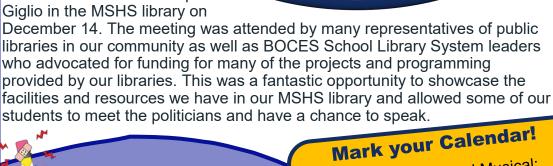
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**MS/HS Library Hosted WNY** Library Resources Council

Falconer Central School hosted the Western New York Library Resources Council's advocacy meeting with Senator George Borello and Assembly Members

Andrew Goodell and Joseph Giglio in the MSHS library on





### **Hello from the MS/ HS Nurse's Office!**

Just a reminder that all students in the 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades need an updated physical required by the state. Also, students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade need a Tdap;

7<sup>th</sup> graders need the 1<sup>st</sup> Meningococcal vaccine; and 12<sup>th</sup> graders need a 2<sup>nd</sup> Meningococcal vaccine also required by the state.

Please remember to call your child(ren) in when they are sick or send a note when they return so we can record their attendance accordingly. Be aware that students are not allowed to carry or have medications in their lockers without a doctor's note stating he/she can self-carry and self-administer. This includes prescription and over- the-counter medications.

If your child needs to be out of gym/sports for any reason please remember to have the doctor's office fax us over a medical note for our records.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us. Roxanne Brazie, RN, 716-665-6624 ext. 4238 or Stacy Bruce, LPN, 716-665-6624 ext 4239.