

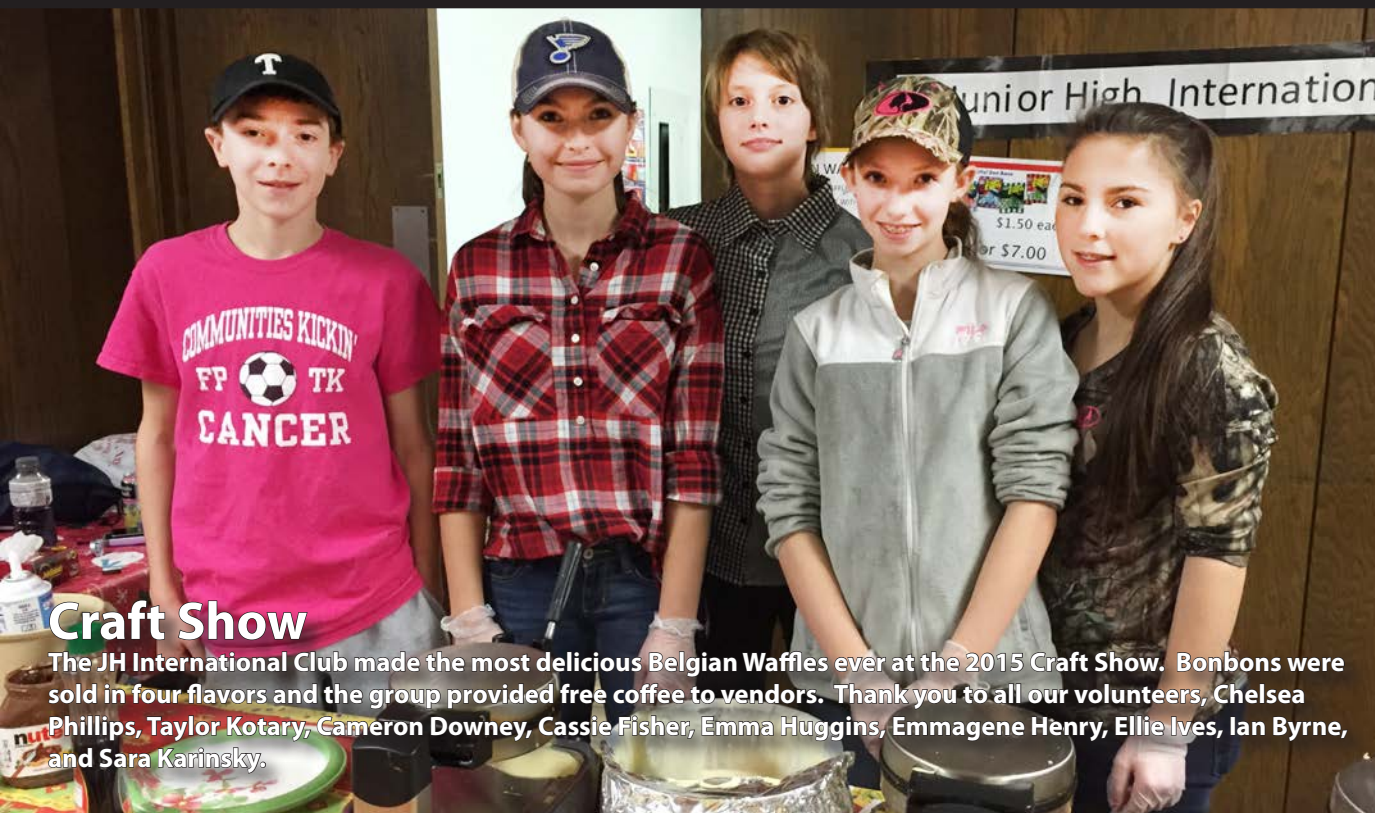


KNIGHT INSIGHT

January/February 2016

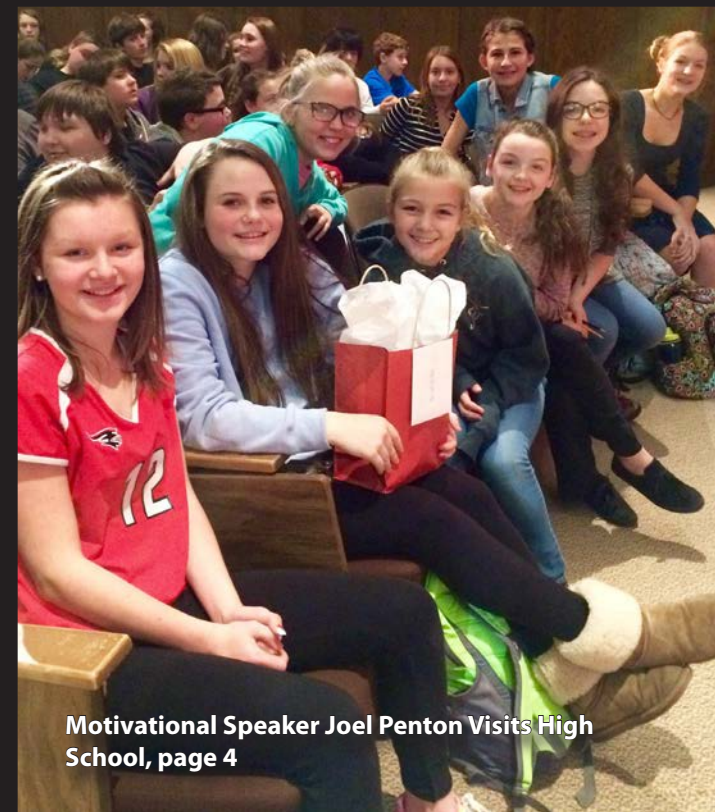
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Craft Show

The JH International Club made the most delicious Belgian Waffles ever at the 2015 Craft Show. Bonbons were sold in four flavors and the group provided free coffee to vendors. Thank you to all our volunteers, Chelsea Phillips, Taylor Kotary, Cameron Downey, Cassie Fisher, Emma Huggins, Emmagene Henry, Ellie Ives, Ian Byrne, and Sara Karinsky.



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TULLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Third Grade News

The third grade classes welcomed representatives from the Tully Rotary Club, the LaFayette Optimists, and the Pompey Lions Club to talk about dictionaries and the importance of education. Organization members presented each third grade student with a dictionary and a bookmark to keep. They then guided students through a mini-tour of some of the features of their dictionaries. The unanimous favorite was the longest word in the English language! After looking up the word "inspire" and discussing its meaning with the students, Club representatives encouraged the third graders to be inspired by learning, and to find the joy knowledge can bring.

The students are excited to put their dictionaries to good use exploring language and words. Thank you to these groups who do so much to support our community!



Endless Possibilities in the Library

Most of us remember the days when the school library was a quiet place mostly used for signing out materials. Today's students view the school library very differently. It is not unusual to see students in the library recording videos, working in collaborative groups, reading with friends on comfortable lounge chairs, or even playing games. Yes, supporting curriculum and instruction is the primary purpose; but it goes far beyond that.

Currently, at Tully Elementary School, students in grade six use the library for a weekly game of Dungeons and Dragons. The students voiced interest in doing something other than going home and playing video games or watching T.V. So, they made it happen in the library! This is a chance to socialize and have conversation, develop friendships, use their imaginations, and have fun. This is done during the end of the day Activity Period.

Students are already planning other activities such as Lego building, book club, an "egg drop" challenge and the "marshmallow challenge."

Ask your children and grandchildren what kinds of activities they would like to see in the library. We would love your input. Autumn Meldrim, LMS, ameldrim@tullyschools.org



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



SAM A. SHELDON

What are your plans after high school?

I plan to attend a four year college and hopefully decide on what I want to major in while there.

What do you hope to achieve by the time you're 30 years old?

By the time I am 30 years old I hope that I will have a good job which will bring me happiness.

If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be and what would you talk about?

I would invite Neil DeGrosse Tyson and Bill Nye the Science Guy. We would talk about the mysteries of life.

Family: Chris-dad, Janice-mom, Sophia-sister

What has been the best part of your high school career and why?

Probably deciding to play soccer in my senior year. I have never had so much fun and felt as close to a team before.

What have you learned by the activities you have participated in outside of school?

From the activities I have participated, in I have learned how to step out of my comfort zone, be happy, work hard and overall be a better person and leader in our community.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far?

My proudest moment of high school so far was being chosen to be on the Teen Institute Senior Staff for this year's conference.

What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them?

Stepping out of my comfort zone and accepting change are two things I have struggled with. I am trying to overcome them by trying new things such as going to the Teen Institute conference and by making changes in my life.

Who's your hero and why?

I would say my hero is my father. He has been through a lot of hardships in his life like watching the gradual decline of his mother to Alzheimer's and his own battle with cancer. You wouldn't know this because he brings so much activity and humor to his life.



SOPHIA R. SHELDON

What are your plans after high school?

I plan on attending college and majoring in Occupational Therapy.

What do you hope to achieve by the time you're 30 years old?

I hope to have my masters in Occupational Therapy and have a family.

If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be and what would you talk about?

I would invite my Grandpa Sheldon because I do not see him often enough and my Grandma Sheldon because I never really had a fun conversation with her because of her Alzheimer's disease. We would talk about all things Ohio and all of their adventures.

Family: Chris-dad, Janice-mom, Sam-brother

What has been the best part of your high school career and why?

The best part has been all the time that I have spent on the cross country and outdoor track teams. The teams are like a second family and I have had my best memories with them.

What have you learned by the activities you have participated in outside of school?

I have learned that you can overcome anything that gets thrown at you and hard work really does pay off.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far?

My proudest moment in high school has been getting a "5" on the AP US HISTORY exam.

What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them?

I have faced many challenges in running mainly because of injuries. I overcame them by working hard and never giving up, no matter how hard it got.

Who's your hero and why?

My dad is my hero because he has gone through so much and always comes out good in the end.

TULLY JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Motivational Speaker Joel Penton Visits

On December 9, 2015 Tully Junior/Senior High School students welcomed guest speaker Joel Penton. He is the author of multiple books, his newest one being *Stand Your Ground*.



Penton's presentation featured videos, music, student participation, and a more serious discussion of life choices. As stated on his website, "Joel brings a positive message to students that is both relevant and impactful. Combining humor and sincerity, Joel gives a real life example of the rewards that result from making right choices. His stories of personal trial and subsequent triumphs are proof that ordinary people can accomplish great things by simply following through with their commitments."

Joel, a graduate of The Ohio State University, played football for the Buckeyes for five years. While attending college, he was a member of three Big Ten championship teams, a member of the National Championship team, and a four-time Academic All-Big Ten selection. He was also the recipient of the Humanitarian Heisman, a trophy awarded to athletes with exemplary community service and high academic achievement. Joel felt that speaking with teens and sharing his message was his calling, so he decided not to go into the NFL.

Joel's overall message was that no matter what you choose to do, whether it be sports, drama, music, or any other interest you have, you must commit yourself. He mentioned how everyone can set goals, and most people do, but the people who can stay committed, even when it gets tough, are the ones who will *reach* their goals. Students had a chance to ask him questions about his studies in college, his athleticism, and his family. After his presentation, Junior High Student Council Officers thanked Joel personally and gave him a present – Tully spirit wear!

More information can be found on Joel's website: joelpenton.com

Students See *Peter Pan* at Syracuse Stage

On December 8, 2015, 7th and 8th grade students took a trip to Syracuse Stage to see a live production of *Peter Pan*. Students were "transported" to Neverland through a scene of clouds and fairy dust. There were many fantastic special effects including flying actors and a little ball of light named Tinkerbell. Our students paid close attention to the lights, costumes, props, actors, and music in order to later explore how all of these elements work together to create an engaging performance. They pondered the popular phrase from the play, "never grow up," and discussed its deeper significance and message. Our students expressed their opinions about this production through class discussions and a writing opportunity. Here are some excerpts from their writing:

"Junior High Students are now trying to find out what they want to be when they are older. When students recently went to see the play *Peter Pan*, maybe they found a new interest in acting or theater. JH students need to know how much effort goes into production."

– Camryn Denick

"I learned that when music goes along with the play, it emphasizes what's happening and really helps make that part memorable. It sets the mood."

– Emilia Conant

"Field trips like *Peter Pan* are important because they teach kids to pay attention to details."

– Phoebe Adams

"I think the saying 'never grow up' is a lesson because it's telling you to live your life while you still have the chance."

– Glenn Wilson

"Going on the field trip to see *Peter Pan*, the musical, has helped students to learn about theatrical elements that they would have otherwise not been able to discover and learn about to the fullest extent. Lighting is one key element to a good production, and it is very hard to fully understand the importance of different lightings without seeing it in an actual production."

– Anna Moss

"The acting was amazing, and it was very entertaining to watch. The music fit the scenarios that were going on and used a wide variety of musical instruments. The best part about the music was that the band was right under the stage."

– Tino Ferro

The quote "never grow up" means "that even when you do grow up, you should always hold onto your inner child. Your inner child is always there."

– Allie Kolodziejczyk

TULLY JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Junior High International Club News



The Junior High International club welcomed guest speaker Laura H Rasmussen on the 16th of November. In one short activity period, this Rotary Exchange Student showed what life in Hvalsø, Denmark is all about. Education in this country is a bit different. One first goes to a public school for ten years. After that, the student chooses a high school to attend for three years. There are no extracurricular activities in a Danish school, it is more serious and more challenging. Bike to train to bus is her daily commute. Through these experiences Laura explained some of the many major differences between her homeland and the United States.

Transportation was an eye opener here since she had grown up and is accustomed to using public trains and buses. Bikes are also a common form of getting around. In Denmark there are also very strict gun laws. In her presentation Laura even explained how strange it was for a citizen to have guns for hunting.

Other differences include: Denmark doesn't have mountains, women regularly park their baby strollers (complete with baby) outside of a cafe while they go in, and they address their teachers by their first names.

Laura stayed with the Currie Family and will soon go to the Sheldon's, and then spend her remaining time with the Spath's. She knows five languages: Danish, Norwegian, German, English, and Spanish. Her hobbies are crossfit and spending time with friends. At home she worked in a supermarket. She admitted she misses Danish food, and, her cats, Sonja and Harald (named after the king and queen of Norway).

Weirdest things in America? We have pickles at lunch and we put cheese on everything! People and students do not drive trucks, just cars, and if they need to haul something they use small flat bed trailers.

Did you know that LEGO was invented in Denmark? Did you know that 40% of the country's energy comes from wind power? Also, that education and health care are free? It is no wonder that the UN World Happiness Report names Denmark, 2 years in a row, the world's happiest country.

Rotary is an awesome organization. Laura has had so many opportunities, including, to gather with other Rotary students in the area, to travel to NYC. She has learned to say "yes" to trying all things new, and to be a good ambassador for Denmark.

The Junior High International Club would like to thank Laura Rasmussen for her time and wonderful presentation. It is experiences like her story that help the club develop new views of the world.

Respectfully submitted, Ellie Ives, President JH International Club

Health Class

Ms. Mirabito's 7th grade health class were given a unique task during their infectious disease unit to solve what bacteria had caused staff to become sick at a faculty luncheon. They put their detective hats on and worked together to solve the case!



Students also became advocates about the importance of protecting yourself during the cold & flu season. Their goal was to create a public service announcement for both the high school and the elementary school to inform the public using their knowledge of infectious diseases.



Mrs. Henderson & Mrs. Van Slyke were our professional judges and chose the winning posters for each school. The winning posters will be hung up throughout the schools so be on the lookout!

Elementary Poster Winners:

Maddy Erno
Erin O'Mara
Brooke Cochran
Kaitlyn Edinger

High School Poster Winners:

Gillian Wintermute
William Hardy
Joey Morgan
Julia Dietz

JAN/FEB 2016

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Term Expires	Member/Title	Contact
2016	Mr. Mark Drumm, President	(315) 696-5958
2017	Mr. James Bertolo, Vice President	(315) 696-8786
2016	Mrs. Denise Cardamone	(315) 696-5599
2018	Mrs. Carrie Edinger	(315) 696-0106
2017	Mr. Steven Pierce	(315) 575-0728
2018	Mr. Matthew VanBeveren	(315) 696-5745
2018	Mr. Edward Wortley, II	(315) 696-8609
2016	Miss Cassidy McGinn Student Ex Officio Member	(315) 696-6821



Meeting Dates

Meetings are held in the Junior/Senior High School Library at 6:00 pm. Dates, time and location subject to change and additional special meetings to be scheduled on an as needed basis. Check the school website for updates.

Upcoming BOE meetings through January 2016:

- ◆ Tuesday, January 5, 2016
- ◆ Tuesday, January 19, 2016
- ◆ Tuesday, February 2, 2016
- ◆ Tuesday, February 23, 2016
- ◆ Tuesday, March 8, 2016
- ◆ Monday, March 21, 2016
- ◆ Tuesday, April 5, 2016
- ◆ Monday, April 18, 2016
- ◆ Tuesday, May 10, 2016
(also budget public hearing)
- ◆ Tuesday, May 17, 2016
(also budget vote 6:00 am - 9:00 pm)
- ◆ Tuesday, June 7, 2016
- ◆ Monday, June 20, 2016

JAN/FEB 2016

CLOSING REMARKS



On February 2nd, beginning at 6:00pm, prior to our regular Board of Education meeting, in the JR/SR High School Library, we will be holding a Community Forum for Budget input. This event is open to the public, and all members of the Tully community are welcome to attend. At this forum there will be a brief presentation, outlining what we know to date regarding the 2016-17 school budget, followed by a chance to ask questions and offer feedback.

Governor Cuomo recently released his Executive Budget and so we have a sense for what our 2016-17 State Aid might look like. We have also already done some preliminary work to identify what our local tax cap might be. We should, therefore, have a general sense for potential total revenue for the 2016-17 school year.

Our goal on February 2nd will be to raise awareness of where the District stands financially, as we look forward to the 2016-17 school year. We would also like to solicit feedback from the community prior to making any final budgetary decisions. In general New York State's financial position has improved over the past two years. We anticipate that increases in State Aid will allow us to significantly close our long-

standing budget gap. Doing so will allow us to begin to pull away from using fund balance and reserves to cover our annual operating expenses.

Over the past few years, we have sought to contain costs through sustainable financial structures, such as our ongoing bus leasing program and our ongoing technology leasing program. We do plan on continuing with these cost saving measures. As we look forward to the 2016-17 school year, one of our main priorities has been to more closely align our staffing levels, with our District's needs. Our goal in doing so is to offer our students more, and better, learning opportunities, while holding expenses as level as possible.

Hope to see you on February 2nd.

Robert Hughes, Superintendent of Schools

Office: 315-696-6204

Email: rhughes@tullyschools.org

Article Submission Guidelines

The Knight Insight is published ten times per year and is available online @ tullyschools.org.

The **deadline for article submissions is the 10th of each month** except for the combined issues. The deadline for the summer issue, July/August is June 30 and the deadline for the winter issue, January/February is December 30.

We must adhere to the deadline in order to publish each issue in a timely manner. All material is subject to editing. The district has the final decision whether or not to publish an article.

If you would like to submit an article, please email articles to Mary Fisher at the Tully Central School District Office at mfisher@tullyschools.org. If you have any questions, please call (315) 696-6204.

It is requested that all articles be emailed in Word format whenever possible. Please do not capitalize all the words in the article. Please do not insert or embed a picture within the actual Word article. Pictures should be emailed in JPG format at 300 dpi. If you are unable to email the picture, you may drop it off to the district office. If you want the picture returned, please provide a self-addressed stamped envelope.

If you are unable to email your article in Word format, it is helpful if the material submitted is typed. You may drop it off to the district office, mail it to Mary Fisher, Tully Central School District, 20 State St, Tully, NY 13159, or send by fax to (315) 883-1343.

Alumni News

The Knight Insight wishes to highlight news of recent graduates. If you have information relating to academic or the career path of recent graduates, please email to mfisher@tullyschools.org.

SIGN UP FOR ED ALERT

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