



KNIGHT INSIGHT



MAY 2015

World Games, page 9

Table of Contents

Tully Elementary	2
Senior Spotlight	4
Jr/Sr High School	5
Alumni News	10
District Wide News	11
Board of Education	12
Closing Remarks	13

TULLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Sharing Knowledge is Out of This World!

Wondering how you can learn more about Astronomy? Ask a fourth grader! Your favorite fourth grader is bound to be an expert on at least one area of astronomy. Afterall, he or she researched a topic, synthesized information from at least two texts, and created a page for a non-fiction astronomy book, complete with text features.

To celebrate the culmination of the project based learning event, Mrs. Meldrim coordinated a book share for the students. Fourth graders gathered in the library with a first grade class to teach those students about text features and Astronomy. Why first grade you ask? First graders also study Astronomy and looked to their "big buddies" to deepen their understanding. If you asked a fourth grader what was the best part of his or her week, you were bound to hear, "Teaching first graders!"



TULLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lego League



kids build and program robots and solve real world problems using science people to the fun and excitement of science and technology while building self-confidence, knowledge, and valuable career and life skills.

Thank you to the Tully Elementary PTO, Karin Dykeman and community for your support last year in our journey to the championships. You have seen our faces many times knocking on doors for can and bottle drives, selling candy bars and collecting your spare change in our donation jars. We are in need of even more support this year because we have two separate cross country competitions.

This year's fundraising goal is in excess of \$20,000. You may make an individual tax deductible donation to our Razoo site by going to: FLL Team NeXT Generation

Submitted by the NeXT Generation Team

We need your support! Did you know that one of Central New York's FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Teams won the FLL Regional Robotics Championship? That's Right! Team NeXT Generation, 10 children from Tully have earned the right to represent Central New York against 76 of the best teams from the United States, Canada and Mexico at the FLL North American Championships in Carlsbad, California this May.

In addition, NeXT Generation's project application was reviewed along with 527 other applications from 22 countries worldwide. The team was named one of 20 finalists selected to present our project to a team of judges at the FLL World Championships in St. Louis, Missouri this April. The top three teams chosen from this field of competitors will be invited to Washington, D.C. in June.

What is FIRST® LEGO® League, and why is it so important to our community? 200,000 students on 20,000 teams from 70 countries participate in FLL, a STEM related competition where



Jump Rope for Heart Update

Tully Central School Community:

We would first like to say THANK YOU for your generosity!

This year's **Jump Rope for Heart** event was

one of our best years yet! Your donations will help fund research and educational programs to help us learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and its effects on heart health.

We have sent in the order forms and donations for the incentives to the Jump for Heart and it is now being processed.

The incentives should be arriving soon. We will send them home with your children as soon as possible. Thank you again for your generosity!

The Elementary PE Staff

MAY 2015

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

ELIZABETH E. RUSSELL



Family: Father- Jeff, Mom- Bettemae, Brother- Christopher

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

The best part of my high school would have to be the sense of community that I have received here at Tully. It has given me the opportunity to participate in multiple clubs and sports teams in and outside of school.

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

By participating in activities outside of school I have learned how to really put the needs of others ahead of my own. It only takes a little effort to make a big difference.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far?

My proudest moment in high school would be making the Class of 2015 top ten. It is

rewarding to know all my hard work has really paid off.

What are your plans after high school?

After high school, I plan on going to college and getting my bachelor's degree in nursing. I would like to work in a hospital.

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

I hope to be an accomplished nurse or nurse practitioner.

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

I would invite Governor Cuomo and ask him what he is doing when it comes to education. I would also invite Emma Watson and talk to her about her views on feminism because I believe she makes valid points and is well educated.

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

A challenge that I have faced would have to be playing basketball for my father, the coach. It definitely was difficult at times but I honestly wouldn't have had it any other way. His passionate attitude pushed me to be the athlete I have come to be. It was a challenge but it is one I am grateful for.

Who's your hero and why?

My hero would definitely have to be my mom. She is the happiest person I know, but she is also the strongest. No matter what life throws at her, it is nothing she cannot handle. Something about my mom that really inspires me is that when she loves, she loves with her whole heart. If I can be half the person my mom is, I will be happy. She is not just my mom, she is my best friend.

EVAN L. VISCONTI



Family: Mom- Debra, Dad- Leo, Brother- Eric, Sister- Arielle, Dog Ginger and Cat Wasabi

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

I think it is impossible to choose just one part because I have tons of good memories.

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

During my summer internship in Tanzania, Africa, I learned about different customs and lifestyles first hand. It taught me to be more humble and thankful for the opportunities that I have and some everyday things that I had previously taken for granted.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far?

I was accepted into Providence College and the University of Loyola Maryland.

What are your plans after high school?

I plan to study business (entrepreneurship or international business) at either Loyola or Providence.

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

I hope to have a master's degree in business and a job that I am passionate for.

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

Nelson Mandella to talk about perseverance. Paul McCartney to talk about music. Ray Allen to talk about basketball.

Who's your hero and why?

My hero is a young man named Benjamin whom I met in Tanzania. He worked hard every day to try and support his younger siblings due to the tragic loss of his parents. Despite overwhelming difficulties he never gave up.

TULLY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

Student of the Month for March

STUDENT of the MONTH

	Alison Carr	English
	Colin Byrne	Social Studies
	Danielle O'Neill	Mathematics
	Doug Wehbe	Science

STUDENT of the MONTH

	Madison Featherstone	French
	Kaden Averill	Fine Arts
	Jessica Donald	Physical Education, Health
	Landon Drumm	Career and Technical Education

TULLY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

Six Weeks in Haiti

Madison Featherstone shared a photo presentation for the Junior High International Club's Café International lunch seminar on April 2. Through the organization Hand in Hand for Haiti, founded by Ed Brennan (see Hand in Hand for Haiti: One Hand Campaign youtube.com), Maddy spent six weeks last summer teaching French and English at the Lycée Jean-Baptiste Pointe du Sable near St. Marc. Ed Brennan founded the school as a long term aid initiative, with an emphasis on education, nutrition, and health, as a result of the devastating earthquake in January 2010.

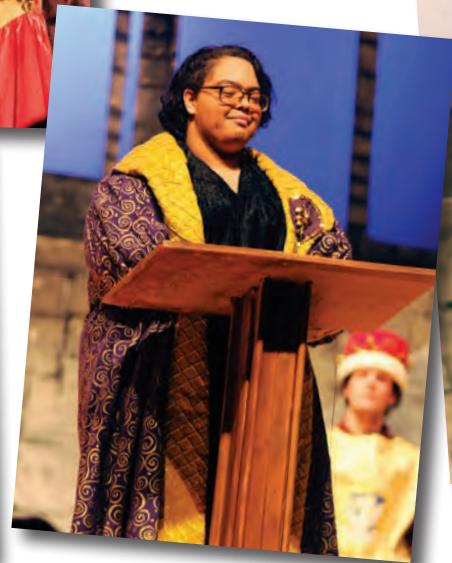
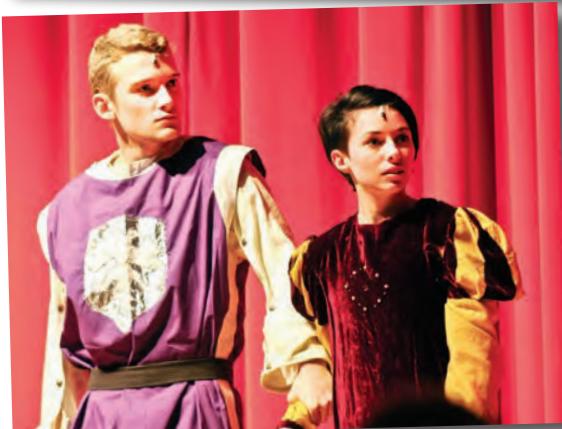
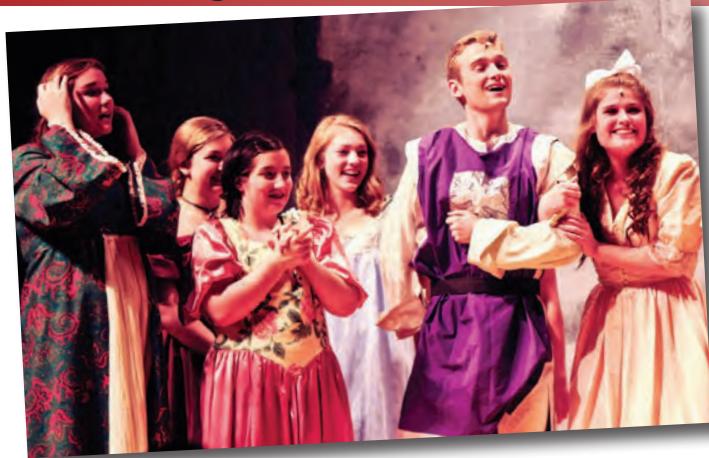
Maddy described her time as life-changing in the underdeveloped and poverty stricken country. We viewed pictures of the living conditions there, without electricity, running water, or plumbing, and often with extended families living together in one room houses. It is a country which still practices voodoo but whose children share a spirit of hope for the future. The children, who speak Haitian Creole, have it best at school where they are served two meals and have a full-time nurse on campus to provide dental and medical care. Music and dance were a very important part of their daily lives. Maddy said they were always singing.

Maddy also had an opportunity to see some of the larger cities, sadly, she said, they are still full of rubble and garbage piles. The food consisted of couscous, rice, a lot of hot dogs, and pasta and vegetables served for breakfast. Taximotos are the main transportation, and it is not uncommon for up to four extra people to hang on, in addition to the rider and driver seated on the moped. Tap taps are old pick-up trucks with benches that carry people between towns and taxi boats provide transport from beach to beach.

Maddy's volunteer work and stay in Haiti was an incredible opportunity and we were fortunate that she could share this experience with us. Thank you also to Mrs. Mulondo for allowing Maddy to miss class.



TULLY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL



Once Upon A Mattress

The High School musical, "Once Upon A Mattress" made its debut on March 6 & 7.

The cast worked long and hard on putting this production together.

Congratulations to the entire group:

Emma Hyvarinen	Taylor Currie
Kathleen Warner	Emily Teeter
Maurysha Cuttino	Elizabeth Ferguson
Carolyn Zobel	Peyton Wolf
Isabella Puente	Liam Lipsky
Brendan Gordona	Kirstin Soos
Bernie Kelly	Anna Moss
Katie Spaulding	Maddy Wiers
Ryan Gordona	Heather Lipsky
Alex Becker	Kayleigh Fournier
Ryan Huggins	

TULLY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

National Junior Honor Society Inductees

Bailee Abalos
 Rachel Barry
 Dante Bertolo
 Jessica Bizub
 Madison Brown
 Colin Byrne
 Alison Carr
 Caleb Erno
 Sydney Grosso
 Erin Hutton
 Heather Lipsky
 Marcus Lombardo
 Mackayla MacDowell
 Kathryn Moncada
 Maria Murray
 Wiley Shaw
 Madison Smith
 Morgan Spaulding
 Alicia Wood
 Sierra Yonko
 Timothy Zilberman

My Favorite Teacher Award goes to...



Tully High School congratulates Mrs. Karrie Frey for her award and a big thank you to Kathleen Warner for her thoughtful nomination. Mrs. Frey received her award at a special ceremony hosted by Barnes & Noble on April 17th.

The Barnes & Noble My Favorite Teacher Contest provides students with the opportunity to tell their communities how much they appreciate their teachers. Students were invited

to nominate their teacher by writing essays, poems or thank you letters that share how their teacher has influenced their life and why they appreciate and admire their teacher. Entries were judged on the compelling nature of the teacher's qualities, the sincerity of the student's appreciation and the quality of expression and writing.

Spanish Honor Society Inductees

Walter Abrams
 Lily Aldrich
 Trevor Averill
 Danielle Bedford
 Ashleigh Crawford
 James Davenport
 Brendan Gordona
 Megan Hafler
 Hannah Leva
 Jon Lippert
 Michael Lombardo
 Nicholas Martino
 Brendan McGinn
 Cassidy McGinn
 Erynn McNerney
 Caesar Morenus
 Meredith Mumper
 Charles Petit
 Sam Sheldon
 Sophia Sheldon
 Nellie Sherlock
 Chelsea Smith
 Christian Zook

French Honor Society Inductees

Emma Currie
 Ashley Daddona
 Tessa Doody
 Matt Nassif

County Science Fair

On March 22, 2015 several Tully students competed in the CNY Science and Engineering Fair, sponsored by the MOST which is a great representation from our district. The students were **Addy Shaw, Moira McIninch, Everett Chambala**, and **Daderik Ledbetter**. And best of all - **Moira McIninch** won a High Honor award!

Congratulations

Graduation - Friday, June 26th @ 7:00 pm; in the HS Auditorium; Tickets required

TULLY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

Team Poland WINS World Games 2015!

World Games 2015 was hosted by the Junior High International Club on Thursday night, April 2 from 5:30 – 10:00 p.m. at the JSHS. First Place Champions, Team Poland, took the grand prize with Team Scandanavia in second place, followed by Brazil in third place. Soccer, floor hockey, and volleyball tournaments were officiated by Referee Schiener and, as usual, fun prevailed! Team Canada had the best uniforms and Cassie Fisher and Morgan Spaulding won the bonbons contest.

A Rainbow (inflatable) Obstacle Course from Endeavor Entertainment, open gym, movies, Just Dance, and the Bubblegum Contest rounded out the evening activities. Thanks to Mr. McClure, Ms. Abbott, and Mr. Dando for the water coolers, gym equipment, and popcorn machine.

Athletes feasted on taco-in-a-bag, veggies and fruit, A Pizza & More Pizzas, Italian ice, and cotton candy. Thank you to Wegmans and Kinney Drugs Tully for your generous donations! Along with Mr. Schiener, chaperones included Ms. Derdzinski, Mrs. Sipfle, and Mrs. Newton.

Mr. Hughes visited to witness the intense competition, Mr. Nabinger set up the movie, and special thanks to Mr. Wood for letting us enjoy the TouchTunes Digital Jukebox all night.

Thank you to our custodial staff for taking the time and care to display our flags from around the world. The Junior High International Club Officers, Tim Zilberman, Logan Bedford, Alicia Wood, Tim Kamakaris, and Tyler McNerney for many months of planning and preparing for the event. Great job!

And, finally, THANK YOU to the parent chaperones, who were so gracious to volunteer their time! We cannot do it without you... Dorothy Wood, Amy Zilberman, Bradley Biggs, Martine McNerney, Jodi Carr, Darren Featherstone, JoAnn Featherstone, Kristin Daddona, Douglas Clay, Jeff Fitzpatrick, Shelley Bailer, Jeff Bailer, Michelle McAllister-Henry, Bridgette Beaulieu, Jaclyn Yonta, and Annette Bizub!



ALUMNI NEWS

Nate and Cristy Williams, Class of 2006

There's nothing like real New York maple syrup. That's certainly what we believe at Dutch Hill Maple.

Dutch Hill Maple was created in 1968 when my Father-in-law decided to tap 15 maple trees in his backyard. Almost 50 years later, my husband, Nate, and I (both Tully class of 2006 graduates) are helping to carry on and grow the family business. We now tap approximately 3,300 trees in the Tully area and have shipped our syrup all over the United States (and even as far as Denmark!).

Many people aren't aware of what's involved in bringing real maple syrup from the woods to your waffles. It requires a lot of hard work and dedication. The official "maple season" usually starts in March. However, the guys are preparing all throughout the year. From splitting and stacking wood to setting up tubing and tapping trees, a maple producer's job is never quite finished.

When you start seeing the steam at the Sugar House, you know its maple time. The sap starts flowing when the weather is just right – warm days and cold nights. It is pulled out of the trees through our tubing using a vacuum system. The sap collects in our holding tanks where it waits to be concentrated. Sap is approximately 98% water which must be boiled out to condense the remaining sugar into maple syrup. To make that job easier and a little less time consuming, we use a reverse osmosis machine. The RO condenses the sap by removing the majority of the water. Using this system allows us less time boiling so we can produce a higher volume of syrup at a faster rate (and it's eco-friendly). From the RO, the condensed sap goes into our big evaporator where it boils down into pure maple syrup. After going through a filter press, the final product is ready to be canned.

To learn more about real maple syrup production and to follow our progress, like Dutch Hill Maple on Facebook! If you'd like to order some of our maple syrup, you can contact us through our FB page, email dutchhillmaple@gmail.com or look for Dutch Hill Maple in building A at the CNY Regional Market on Saturday mornings. Be sure to stay tuned for our new product coming Spring/Summer 2015 – maple candy!

Maple syrup is the passion and tradition of our family that has been passed down from generation to generation. Our logo is red and black to show our hometown pride for Tully, where we will always continue to *tap into tradition*.

Cristy Williams

Our TULLY GRAD'S - Making Us PROUD!

Send In Your 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

If you prefer, mail your article to Mary Fisher, Tully Central School District, 20 State St, Tully, NY 13159.

If you have any questions, call the district office at 315-696-6204.



MAY 2015

TULLY DISTRICT WIDE NEWS

PARENT ACADEMY

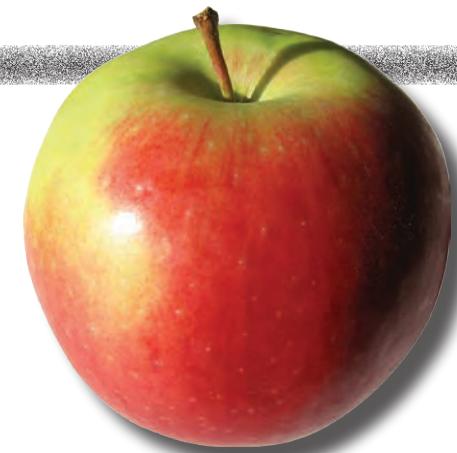
If you teach grades 3 through 8 you are very familiar with New York State assessments in Math and ELA. What if you don't teach? Have you ever wondered what those assessments look like? A group of fourth grade parents did! At the March Parent Academy meeting, parents were able to take a look at the expectations of a fourth grader on test day. They even tried their hand at answering test questions. A lively discussion developed as parents learned the correct answers to test questions and the rationale for the responses.

What is Parent Academy you ask? It is a group of parents that meet monthly with Mrs. Fowler-Conner, Miss Griffin and Ms. Fritton to learn about fourth grade Common Core and what it's like to be a fourth grader. Topics of discussion have included homework, problem solving skills, social and emotional needs of a fourth grader and

the rigor of the curriculum. Many people contribute to Parent Academy's success by sharing knowledge from their areas of expertise. Guest speakers have included Mrs. Leuze, Mrs. Heymann, Mrs. Meldrim, and Mrs. Vassallo.

What is the purpose of Parent Academy? Strengthening the bonds between parents, children and school is important for a child's success. When everyone openly communicates, demonstrates respect for each other and participates in the learning process, students win!

How do parents feel about Parent Academy? Mrs. Selmsen said, "I love it!" Teachers agree. What began as a way to communicate with parents quickly proved to be a meaningful learning experience for the teachers as well.



Guidelines for Articles for Knight Insight

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

The **deadline** for article submissions is the **10th of each month** for the following month edition, except 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 or you may fax it to (315) 883-1343.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meet the Candidates on May 11 at Tully Free Library

Tully school district residents will have the opportunity to meet and ask questions of candidates running for open spots on the Tully School Board. The Tully Free Library will host a Candidates Night on May 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Padgett Community Room.

The Tully School District budget vote is Tuesday, May 19th in the Tully Elementary School. There are three slots available and voters can vote for three candidates. Two candidates are up for reelection and the others are new candidates.

The format on May 11th will be an informal panel presentation. A moderator will introduce the candidates and they will each speak about why they are running and what they hope to achieve on the Board. The candidates will then answer questions previously submitted to the library. If you wish to submit questions, you can do so via the library website [www.tullyfreelibrary.org/candidates](http://tullyfreelibrary.org/candidates) or at the library front desk.

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

MAY 19, 2015

VOTING HOURS 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM

VOTING LOCATION: ELEMENTARY CONFERENCE ROOM

BOE Candidates - names as they will appear on the ballot – Vote for Three:

- Edward J. Wortley, II
- Jan S. Kublick
- Matthew J. VanBeveren
- Ken Steiger
- Carrie Edinger

Voter Qualifications - In order to vote you must be:

- a United States citizen
- at least 18 years of age
- a resident of the school district for at least 30 days preceding the vote

School Budget Presentations – May schedule:

May 4, 2015	7:30 pm	Tully Fire Department at the firehouse on Railroad Street, Tully
May 6, 2015	7:00 pm	Village of Tully municipal building on Meetinghouse Road, Tully
May 7, 2015	6:00 pm	Budget Public Hearing – Jr./Sr high school library
		Special BOE Meeting immediately following Budget Public Hearing
May 11, 2015	8:00 pm	Town of Preble municipal building on Preble Road, Preble
May 13, 2015	7:30 pm	Town of Tully municipal building on Meetinghouse Road, Tully

Term Exp.	Member
2015	Mr. Ken Steiger, President 358 Frenchs Bay Road Tully, New York 13159 Home: (315) 696-5829
2017	Mr. James Bertolo, Vice President 5360 Peninsula Road Tully, New York 13159 Home: (315) 696-8786
2016	Mrs. Denise Cardamone 6368 Route 80 Tully, New York 13159 Home: (315) 696-5599
2016	Mr. Mark Drumm 5344 Rt. 80, PO Box 1177 Tully, New York 13159 Home: (315) 696-5958
2015	Mr. Jan Kublick 7416 Maple Ridge Road PO Box 79, Tully, New York 13159 Home: (315) 696-5292
2017	Mr. Steve Pierce 5613 Whittier Lane Tully, New York 13159 Cell: (315) 575-0728
2015	Mr. Brad Phelps, Student Ex Officio member 1025 Sky High Road Tully, New York 13159 Home: (315) 696-2450
2015	Mr. Dan Twentyman 143 Long Road Tully, New York 13159 Home: (315) 696-8741

CLOSING REMARKS



News from the Superintendent

Over the past month three new challenges have emerged for us here at Tully Schools. First, the long, cold winter extended into the spring, and because of this we have been challenged to find time to reschedule numerous athletic contests. Second, the NYS Budget was finally adopted. It did include increased financial support for local schools, but it also included some sweeping educational reforms, including new laws re-defining how schools should approach teacher evaluations. This will become a challenge for us, because the current law has created a two month timeline for implementation, when in reality a twelve month timeline would be more appropriate. Finally, immediately following the adoption of the NYS Budget, the opt-out movement took hold, and a large number of parents opted their children out of the 3-8 ELA and Math Assessments. In the short term, this led to some logistical challenges for us as we had to figure out how to supervise our students who had been opted-out of the Assessments. In the long term, the challenge for us will be how to interpret the results of these Assessments, when there was such a low overall participation rate.

Some people may say that these are big challenges, but in reality they are no worse than the challenges we have conquered in the past. I do find, however, that when new challenges emerge, I need to remind people of our ongoing successes, as a means of maintaining positive forward momentum. For example, at the elementary level this year our students have done some wonderful things. They have created a bat museum (the mammal, not the sports equipment), learned a little history by hosting a Thanksgiving feast, learned about the life cycle by hatching chicks, and each student has had a little public speaking experience during our all school assemblies. In grades 3-12, at least one-third of our students participated in fine arts activities, including the ES Musical, the Junior High Musical, the High School Musical, the High School Drama, NYSMMA, and the Scholastic Arts competition. In fact, our HS literary journal (*The Pen and Palette*) was recognized for excellence by the National Council of Teachers of English. We have also had 10 of 11 varsity teams designated as scholar athlete teams so far this year. In grades 8-12, our passing rates and mastery rates on Regents exams last June were among the highest in Onondaga County. Our graduation rate in June 2014 year was 93% (also among the highest in Onondaga County), and this year it looks like almost all of our seniors will once again graduate on time.

So, if our past is really prologue to our future, and I am sure that it is, then I am confident that we will be able to tackle this new set of challenges, as effectively as we have tackled all those that have come before.

Enjoy the spring.

Robert Hughes,
Superintendent of Schools
Office: 315-696-6204
Email: rjhughes@tullyschools.org

[SIGN UP FOR ED ALERT](#)

MAY 2015