



KNIGHT INSIGHT

MARCH 2015

Quebec Trip
2015, page 6

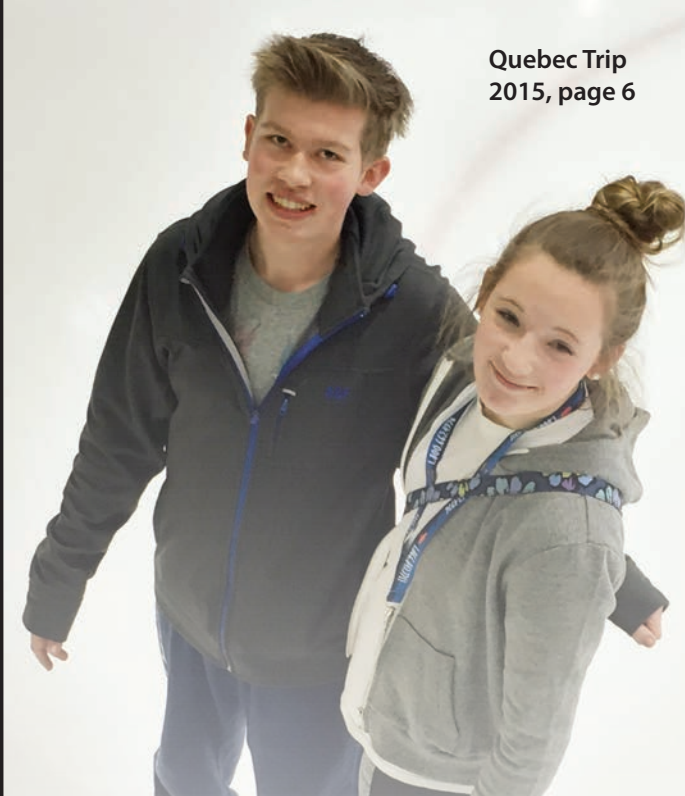


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TULLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

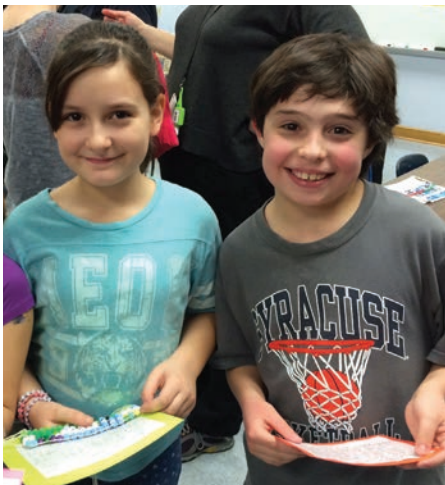
Night of Culture



In December, the fourth graders got to show off their learning about the Haudenosaunee to their families. At our "Night of Culture," students participated in traditional Iroquios games, demonstrated Iroquios oral story telling with the aid of instruments, and told the significance of the symbols on their wampum belts.

This event was the result of a "Project Based Learning" project that incorporated the expertise of the special area, ELA and classroom teachers. All of the groups worked collaboratively to help fourth graders explore the Haudenosaunee culture.

This event, coupled with oral presentations and learning stations created by the students, marked the culmination of the students' research on different aspects of Haudenosaunee life. It was a wonderful learning experience for fourth graders and their families.



Tully Sixth Grade News

At your own risk, ask your sixth graders what they have been doing in the library, and you may get a real earful. Some of what they share may be good, and some maybe not so much! They have been up to their elbows with authentic inquiry. Every step of the process has been student driven and Library Media Specialist instructed and managed. It is very, very hard work!

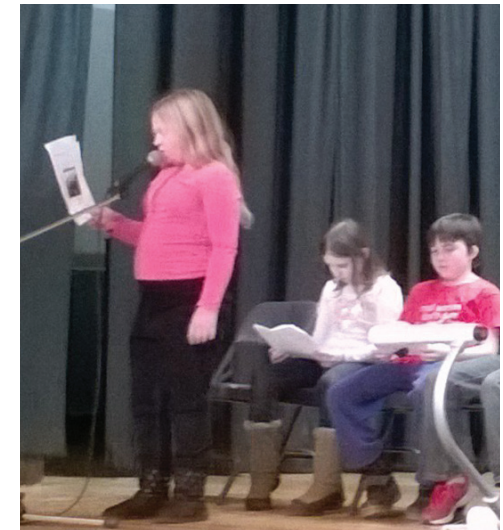
However, while many have been enlightened by their findings; others disturbed by harsh truths. It all began with their being informed of the complex learning targets involved in the inquiry process. The list of standards from the English Language Arts Common Core, and the Information Fluency Continuum is vast. Luckily, the two align quite beautifully. In a nutshell, the students each generated meaningful, quality questions for research. Then, they located and evaluated several resources to use (this is harder than you think). Finally, they are now beginning to synthesize information from several resources to answer their questions and support their claim. Often times, the direction of their questioning changes as they become more informed. All text based evidence will get properly cited, and the students will be responsible for teaching and informing their peers of their findings.

We have been fortunate to line up several community professionals to either come in or do phone interviews with our students on the various topics. This has made it especially interesting and "real" for the students. These special individuals include: Rob Kennedy, cafeteria manager; Dr. Rehder, LaFayette Veterinary Clinic; Nancy Graham, CNY SPCA; Albert Haier, Dairy Nutritionist; Dr. Coppola, MD. and Rick Head, Conservation Officer. We are thankful for their time and professional knowledge.

So, go ahead...ask them, "What have you been doing at the library?" I do hope you get an earful. If not, keep probing.

Autumn Meldrim, LMS

Life Skills



Fourth graders learned about life and career skills thanks to Merry Go Round Theater actors who visited in January. Students learned activities to help with listening, concentration, observation, and cooperation. Elephant, Airplane, Toast was a game that involved these skills. Actors would give an instruction and students would have five seconds to make the correct motion. This silly and fun game required concentration because without focus you would be out of the game. In conclusion, the Merry Go Round Theater actors taught us more about the skills we need for our lives and future careers.

Written By: Mrs. Fowler-Conner's Fourth Graders



MARCH 2015

TULLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL *Sports*

Hoop Shoot Contest

Congratulations to all the participants of the Homer Elks Club Annual Hoop Shoot Contest. During the last two weeks of December, Tully Elementary participated in the first round of the Hoop Shoot Contest. The top contestants of each age group continued on to the local lodge. On January 10th, Hoop Shoot hopefuls met at Homer Central School to give 25 free throws their best shot.



The athletes results:

• 8-9 year olds: **Zeke Mohat**

(2nd place), **Ella Hall** (2nd place), **Hannah Brenchley** (3rd place), **Matthew Bauer** (certificate of participation), **Jacob Verbanic** (certificate of participation).

• 10-11 year olds: **Lane Edinger** (1st place), **Mackenzie Smith** (1st place), **Adrianna Vantessel** (3rd place), **Will Hardy** (3rd place), **Tommy Maley** (4th place), **Daniel Mech** (4th place), **Mick Swan** (certificate of participation).

• 12-13 year olds: **Skylar Spinner-Conrad** (1st place), **Zach Lamarre** (2nd place)

Also, Lane Edinger received a trophy for making 8 consecutive free throws! The 1st place winners Skylar Spinner-Conrad, Lane Edinger and Mackenzie Smith continued on to Oneonta for the district level of the competition. Lane Edinger earned a 2nd place finish at Oneonta.

All the athletes did a fabulous job! We are so proud that they were able to participate this year and the three 1st place athletes advanced on to the next level at Oneonta.

We would like to congratulate these finalists and their parents who took the time to attend this highly competitive event.



Elementary Sports

The 5th grade Tully Boys Basketball wrapped up a successful Parks and Recreation schedule on February 14. Learning to play team basketball for the first time was met with eagerness by all and an appetite to excel. The sky is the limit for this group!

MARCH 2015

TULLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Girls Day Out 2015



SUNY Cortland Athletics Department and the YMCA hosted a special day for girls in 4th - 7th grade. This day was in conjunction with the National Girls & Women in Sports Day on Saturday, January 24th.

The girls were invited to SUNY Cortland to participate in activities that included gymnastics, dance, rock climbing, basketball and swimming, as well as a career fair with women from Cortland and the surrounding areas. Another special event was watching the Red Dragon Women's Ice Hockey team compete.

Approximately 100 girls from area schools attended this event. Tully was represented by 20+ young girls. Tully was very proud to have so many of their students participate in an awesome day for young girls. We would like to thank SUNY Cortland student-athletes, coaches, community volunteers and staff for inviting us. We are looking forward to next year's Girls Day Out!

A few comments from the participants:

It was the best day ever (Avery).

I went off the high diving board for the first time (Ava).

Rock Climbing was extremely challenging.

We got a lot of cool stuff: water bottle, whistle, tee shirt, wrist band and a back pack (Ava).

Girls Day Out

MARCH 2015

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

LISA M. ESPOSITO



Family: Dad - James, Mom - Roxann,
Brother - Brian, Sister - Heather

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

This year I have been going to the New Visions Criminal Justice Program. I have met some great people from different schools, including my best friend Erica Wirth.

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

Sports have taught me that working hard and getting the job done, can get you to a higher level.

What are your plans after high school?

I want to go to a four year college, take the civil service exam and become a police officer.

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

I hope to have a job as a police officer and love what I am doing.

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

I would choose Charlie Wilson, my New Visions teacher, Erica Wirth, my best friend and President Obama. I would pick these people because we all have opinions on what is going on in the world and it would be great to hear what they have to say.

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

The number one challenge I have is my learning disability. I've had to learn how to overcome it because it can only hold you back if you let it. I plan on doing great things.

Who's your hero and why?

My brother, Brian Esposito is my hero. He was always better than me at everything. He is the one that gave me the drive to do something great and it doesn't matter if I'm good at it or not. What matters is that you love it and can get the job done.

LIAM E. LIPSKY



Family: Dad - Richard, Mom - Theresa,
Sister - Heather, Brothers - Mike and Phillip

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

I was in Area All- State for my trumpet playing in my senior year and I also participated in Track State finals in 11th grade was pretty awesome.

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

I have become a better leader and I have grown as a person because of Brad Phelps rubbing off on me.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far?

Winning sectionals in three sports (cross country running, wrestling, and track) in 9th grade.

What are your plans after high school?

I plan on going to SUNY Potsdam to major in Music Business.

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

I hope to own a successful record label.

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

I would invite Betty White because of her great stories and Simon and Garfunkel because they seem like cool people.

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

I have not faced too many challenges, but preparing a college audition piece was a lot of practice.





Who's your hero and why?

My hero is Brad Phelps, Tully High School Student Council President. He is amazing in everything he does!





TULLY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

Student of the Month for January

★STUDENT of the MONTH

	Danielle Bedford	English
	Nellie Sherlock	Social Studies
	Sierra Yonko	Math- ematics
	Skylar Kays	Science

★STUDENT of the MONTH

	MacKenzie Bolt	Spanish
	Jordan Sturgen	Fine Arts
	Jason Phelps	Physical Education, Health
	Emily Fournier	Career and Technical Education

TULLY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

Quebec Trip 2015



Quebec was a blast. In my opinion, one of the best activities was dogsledding. The dogs ran really fast and the ride was long. Also, the dogs barked loudly and had a lot of energy. The dogs were happiest when running. You and a partner shared a sled so each could ride and then drive. After, we were able to cuddle the adorable puppies. We had a delicious lasagna lunch and Pouding Chômeur for dessert. (<http://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/Maple-Pudding-Cake>) After dogsledding we went ice fishing. We put frozen corn on our hooks. Heather Lipsky caught the first fish, followed by Wyatt Oursler. Winners got Bonbons! Also fun was the shuttle ride up the hill – we needed a running start due to the snow and winding road.

The Quebec City walking tour highlighted architecture and history. We viewed the Ice Castle, the St. Lawrence River, the Chateau Frontenac, the Parliament Building, churches and more, while listening to stories from the past. (<http://www.toursvoirquebec.com>) Before the walking tour we ate a delicious crêpe breakfast and played a lively boys vs. girls game to learn more about our guides.

We visited one of the three Martello Towers in Quebec City for an interactive activity. These were small defensive forts that could resist cannon fire, give a 360 degree defensive view, and are still standing today. We learned about the daily life of a soldier at war and the

training needed to fight. We were taught how a soldier would load a rifle and stand properly while on the front lines. There were several friendly competitions that tested the student's knowledge and speed of rifle loading. We wandered the tower floors finding scrambled words in French and English in order to learn about the food, drink, and other terms that described a daily soldier's life. It was good to take a break "indoors" after the walking tour as it was a cool MINUS 38 degrees that day. No kidding.

We had some free time in town to shop on Rue St Jean before heading out to the Sugar Shack for a traditional Québécois dinner which ended with hearty crêpes and pure maple syrup. We were given individual cups of syrup and after 10 minutes of very rigorous stirring we had maple butter! The Remparts Hockey game was the next event, and, of course the Remparts won! It was great! Other greats – we had a GREAT view of the whole city from the Hôtel Le Concorde, a GREAT view from the suspension bridge over Montmorency Falls, and toured the GREAT Basilica of Sainte Anne de Beaupré just to name a few more.

Valcartiers, the tubing park, was, for some, the highlight of the trip. Check out this video to see Mrs. Bertolo's favorite ride, the Snow Rafting. (<http://www.valcartier.com/glissades-d-hiver/en/attractions/snow-rafting>) There were hills for all skill levels and the steepest was called Everest. The Tornado had you spinning in circles all the way down the hill, about one hundred times, leaving you dizzy as you tried to climb out. Ice skating and go-karts on ice kept us busy all evening.

Article and pictures continue on page 7...



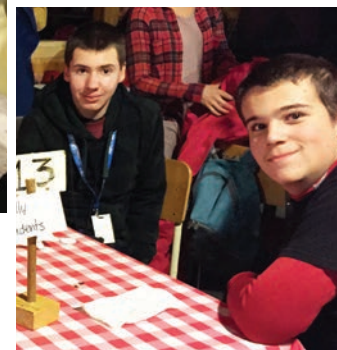
TULLY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

Quebec Trip 2015, continued...

Our last few hours in Quebec were spent at the Galleries Mall where we enjoyed our last Poutine, and shopping for souvenirs. Many thanks to our Jumpstreet Tour guide, Melissa, and trainee Brian, who were over-the-top dynamic, entertaining, informative, energized, and extremely well-organized! Melissa was QUITE the singer and arranged a Canadian Idol competition to help pass time on the bus. Co-Winners were Mackayla MacDowell and Ayla Baker but there were many fine student performances. And then there was "Pea Soup."

Thank you to our parent chaperons Mr. and Mrs. Bertolo, Mrs. Mary-Ann Murray, and Ms. Beth Moncada. Your help was invaluable! Thank you also to the Tully Administration and the Board of Education!

*Logan Bedford, Tim Zilberman,
Tim Kamakaris and Tyler Edinger*



TULLY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

What is the Academic Decathlon?

The Academic Decathlon is a nationwide competition that encourages high school students of all levels to participate in an educational experience. Teams consist of up to nine students who take tests in multiple subjects. Each team has three students competing at different GPA levels (Honors, Scholastic, and Varsity). Each member is given an individual score against others at their level; the top two scoring members at each level have their scores applied to an overall team score as well.

On Saturday, January 24, Tully fielded a team of 8 students (and 4 alternates) to compete in seven subjects: mathematics, art, science, music, economics, literature, and social science. Each student had 30 minutes to complete a 50 question multiple-choice test in each subject. Each subject centered around the theme of new alternatives in energy. After these events, students then compete in the Super Quiz – a multiple-choice competition consisting of all subjects taken in front of a live audience.

The hard work our students put forth into studying this year's material (over 2000 pages of text!) has really paid off. Tully placed first, becoming the Section III champions! Students brought home 24 medals across all levels and subjects. Tully also dominated the Super Quiz portion of the event, coming in first place!

As winners of sectionals, Tully students move on to the state level competitions. On February 11, students will compete in the Essay portion of the Decathlon.

Then, at the end of February, students will travel to SUNY Brockport to compete in the Interview and Speech portions, as well as further competitions in the seven subjects they have already studied. Great job to all participants, and good luck at States!



Participants and Medals

Peter Barletta	Varsity: 2nd - Math, 3rd - Economics
Alexandra Becker	Scholastic alternate
Julia Coffin	Honors alternate
Hunter Griffin	Scholastic
Jake Hutton	Varsity: 3rd - Art, 3rd - Economics, 3rd - Social Science
Julie Kunnumpurath	Honors: 3rd - Math, 1st - Economics, 2nd - Literature, 3rd - Social Science
Sam Sheldon	Honors: 2nd - Social Science
Jessica Swift	Honors alternate
Emily Teeter	Honors alternate
Katie Warner	Honors: 1st - Art, 3rd - Science, 1st - Literature, 1st - Social Science
Peyton Wolf	Scholastic: 3rd - Music, 3rd - Literature, 1st - Social Science
Matt Wood	Scholastic: 1st - Math, 1st - Art, 1st - Science, 1st - Music, 1st - Scholastic, 2nd - Literature, 2nd - Social Science

MARCH 2015

TULLY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL ♦ HONOR ROLL

Second Marking Period – 2015

The following junior high (7-8) and senior high (9-12) students at Tully Junior-Senior High School qualified for the High Honor, Honor, or Merit Roll for the first marking period. Students attaining an overall average of 94.5 and above qualified for the High Honor Roll. Students who attained an overall average of 89.5 and above qualified for the Honor Roll and those with 84.5 qualified for the Merit Roll. There must be no incompletes.

SEVENTH GRADE

HIGH HONOR

Nicole Ball
Ian Byrne
Elizabeth Ives
Anna Moss
Marissa Scalza
Ethan Selmser

HONOR

Rachel Biggs
Nathaniel Cattell
Sarah Daddona
Camryn Denick
Jade Dillenbeck
Cameron Downey
Constantino Ferro
Allison Gero
Sarah Karinsky
Taylor Kotary
Brooke Malchak
Angela Touchette

MERIT

Phoebe Adams
Coby Braun
Ashlynn Craig
Emma Huggins
Gabriel Inman
Matthew Kelly
Chelsea Phillips
Jonah Shay
Grace Swan
Kilee Walsh

EIGHTH GRADE

HIGH HONOR

Logan Bedford
Rachel Berry
Dante Bertolo
Madison Brown
Alison Carr
Caleb Erno
Erin Hutton
Timothy Kamakaris
Ashley Lippert
Marcus Lombardo
Madison Smith
Timothy Zilberman

HONOR

Bailee Abalos
Kaycee Bailer
Kayla Barry
Jessica Bizub
Colin Byrne
Mackenzie Delles
Jacob Dietz
Zachary Ebert
Jacob Edinger
Tyler Edinger
Bryce Florian
Sydney Grosso
Gemma Guy
Caitlin Halladay
Jenna Hamelinck

Rachael Hanson
Tarissa Hiltbrand
William Lake
Nathan Lamoureux
Heather Lipsky
Mackayla MacDowall
Dylaney McNerney
Sydney McNerney
Kathryn Moncada
Anabella Morgan
Maria Murray
Garrett Pierpoint
Wiley Shaw
Morgan Spaulding
Jared Swift
Austin Taubman
Kaylee White
Alicia Wood
Sierra Yonko
MERIT
Ayla Baker
Payton Beckwith
Shane Bowers
David Bruns
Ryan Bunaisky
Garrett Fox
Alexia Hotchkiss
Alex Locke-Wright

Wyatt Oursler
Margaret Picciano
Andrew Schaber
Yorvin Solis-Samayoa
Keith Van Dyne
Alexander Wiers
Ethan Wilson

NINTH GRADE

HIGH HONOR

David Ball
Daniel Bort
Julia Coffin
Joseph Crawford
Jessica Donald
Emma Gero
Spencer Metz
Gabrielle Moncada
Andrew Moss
Dominique Negrete
Jessica Swift
HONOR

Kaden Averill
Christina Aylesworth
Joseph Baker
Jessica Benedetto
Joshua Canaan
Joanna Case
Grace Chaffee
Matthew Doolittle
Elena Fecco
Haley Fowler-Conner

Mary Frank
Rachel Frateschi
Ryan Gordona
Abby Harrington
Morgan Hiltbrand
Taz Josh
Matthew Kamakaris
Sean King
Olivia Krom
Emily Lantiegne
Thomas Morse
Ashley Quinn
Matthew Slazik
Gerrit Van Dyne
Madalynn Wiers
Peyton Wolf

MERIT

Ceili Austin
Alexandra Becker
Leah Cook-Nethery
Jackson Deal
Mary Estay
Elizabeth Ferguson
Ryan King
Evan Rapp
Morgan Stone
Alexandra Walowsky
Edwin Young

MARCH 2015

TULLY JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL ♦ HONOR ROLL, CONTINUED

TENTH GRADE

HIGH HONOR

Amanda Bielecki
MacKenzie Bolt
Magdalyn Kosalek
Jakob Moss
Alexandra Tornatore

HONOR

Cody Baehr
Kara Clark
Danah Earley
Emily Fournier
Daniel Gambell
Rachel Gould
Hunter Griffin
Taylor Grosso
Jade Hendricks
Benjamin Jones
Skylar Kays
Callahan Lyon
Maureen Murphy
Laura Pascarella
Emmeline Perkins
Jason Phelps
Mackenzie Rienhardt
Alyssa Riese
Emily Spath
Alexander Stoogenke
Michael Wood

MERIT

Colin Byrnes
Payton Earley
Ryan Foody
Elsa Gauss
Anthony Geiss
Meghan Hawley
Aaron Hughes

Benjamin Kaufman
Brendan Lyon
Griffen Magnan
Gaige, Maloney
Francis McKenna
Katelyn McNerney
Kyle Redman
Michael Sawmiller
Sarah Sawmiller
Jordan Sturgen

ELEVENTH GRADE

HIGH HONOR

Walter Abrams
Danielle Bedford
Sabrina Covey
Ashleigh Crawford
Emma Currie
Ashley Daddona
James Davenport
Tessa Doody
Sarah Huggins
Jon Lippert
Elena McAninch
Cassidy McGinn
Brendan McGinn
Erynn McNerney
Caesar Morenus
Patrick Morse
Charles Petit
Sophia Sheldon
Samuel Sheldon
Nellie Sherlock
Breanne Trudeau
Maureen Whitney

HONOR

Lily Aldrich
Trevor Averill
Katelyn Bordwell
Landon Drumm
Wesley Fecco
Spencer George
Timothy Gibbons
Ashley Howe
Ellen Jaworski
Hannah Leva
Michael Lombardo
Meredith Mumper
Matthew Nassif
Joseph Schultz
Chelsea Smith
Emily Teeter
Kimberly Welch

MERIT

Rachael Acosta
Gracie Bartholomew
Karmen Beckwith
Kyle Berardi
Brandi Bradley
Carly Cox
Maurysa Cuttino
Nickolas Edinger
Zoe Fritz
Brendan Gordona
Shauna Hayes
Desirea Hemingway
Owen Hoke
Steven Hust
Jeremy Lake
Nicholas Martino
Samuel Pitman
Alicia Snyder

Christian Tague
Isaih Thomas
Gregory Voggel
Deeanna Wade
Amber Wiers
Christian Zook

TWELFTH GRADE

HIGH HONOR

Jenna Bailey
Taylor Currie
Clare Denick
Madison Featherstone
Jeffrey Fields
Katherine Graham
Lydia Guy
Megan Hafler
Kyle Hoke
Julie Kunnumpurath
James Maskelony
Danielle O'Neill
Lindsey Petit
Bradley Phelps
Megan Pierpoint
Sara Reppenhagen
Elizabeth Russell
Carleigh Tarala
Michaela Tracy
Kathleen Warner
S. Douglas Wehbe
Brianna Wolf
Christine Yeomans

HONOR

Jennifer Barrows
Madison Bossard
Emily Congelli
Rebecca Cornell
Emily Cornue
Jonathan DeCarlo
Cheyanne Fisher
Kayleigh Fournier
Brandi Fritz
Jacob Jaworski
Bernard Kelly
Liam Lipsky
Taylor Quinn
Bridgette Spicer
Evan Visconti
Matthew Wood
Carolyn Zobel

MERIT

Maria Courtwright
Hunter Currie
Meagan Dennis
Olivia Ganley
Raymond Herrick
Emma Hyvarinen
Grace Johnson
Madison Lyon
Adrian Nash
Anthony Negrete
Montana Patriarco
Mackenzie Prince
Matthew Quinlan
Taylor Soderholm
Kirsten Soos
Jillian Stewart

MARCH 2015

TULLY DISTRICT WIDE NEWS

Private Transportation Requests Due by April 1st

New York State Education Law Section 3635(2) requires that a written request be made to the Board of Education of a School District when transportation of a student to a non-public, private or parochial school is required. This written request should be made annually and should be received by the school district no later than April 1st for transportation for the next school year. Most non-public schools have a form available to make this request and can be contacted for assistance.

Please have these written requests sent to Attn: Theresa Flaherty, Tully Central School Business Office, 20 State St., Tully, NY 13159 no later than April 1, 2015.

Share Your Photography!

Tully is requesting that parents, students, teachers, friends or neighbors send pictures of things that happen in, around, or relating to school.

You don't need to send an article, just an image(s). If you send in your name we will publish it with your picture(s)!

Please send to: mfisher@tullyschools.org

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.

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.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Nominating Petitions Available for Board of Education Positions:

Three terms of office on the Tully Central School District Board of Education will expire on June 30, 2015. Each winner will be elected for three year terms from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018 at the annual school district election to be held on May 19, 2015.

Board of Education vacancies are not considered to be separate specific offices. This nominating petition does not describe a specific vacancy. Each candidate is considered for a vacant seat on the Board of Education as a whole and not as only to a specific office presently held by an individual.

Candidates may be nominated only by petition. Each nominating petition must be filed with the School District Clerk no later than 5:00 pm on April 20, 2015. Each nominating petition must state the name and residence of the candidate and be signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the school district. Each person signing must also state his or her residence.

Under the law a qualified voter is one who is entitled to vote at a school district election. To be entitled to vote a person must meet these three qualifications:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age
- A resident of the school district for a period of at least 30 days prior to the election.

Nominating petitions are now available. If you would like a nominating petition, please contact the district office at (315) 696-6204 or email mfisher@tullyschools.org

Board of Education Upcoming Meeting Dates

Meeting location: **Junior/Senior High School Conference Room or Junior/Senior High School Library**

Meeting time: **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: www.tullyschools.org

03.16.15	(Monday)	Meeting
04.13.15	(Monday)	Meeting
04.20.15	(Monday)	(Meeting will need to be held week of 04.20.15 if budget was not adopted at 04.13.15 meeting. Budget must be adopted by 04.24.15.)
05.07.15	(Thursday)	Budget Public Hearing (Must be held 7-14 days prior to Budget Vote Day)
05.19.15	(Tuesday)	Meeting Budget Vote: 6:00 am-9:00 pm
06.15.15	(Monday)	Meeting

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

During the 2010-11 school year, New York State implemented the GEA (Gap Elimination Adjustment). At that time there was a fairly substantial and real budget deficit at the State level. Over the past five years, the GEA has been one of the primary tools New York State politicians have used to address this budget deficit. Essentially, the GEA is a reduction in the school aid we are slated to receive; literally, New York State tells school districts that they will be getting one level of state aid, based upon a pre-determined State aid formula, but then in reality the State ignores that formula and gives school districts a lower level of aid.

Over the past five years, the GEA for Tully Schools has totaled approximately \$5,995,000. For the 2015-16 school year, we project the GEA for Tully Schools will be approximately \$835,000. Given the economic climate five years ago, and the State's budget deficit at that time, the GEA made sense. Currently, however, New York State is experiencing a budget surplus, and therefore has no need to maintain the GEA. Should our state level elected officials choose to do so, they could completely eliminate the GEA this year.

One of the other main challenges in constructing our 2015-16 school budget is that we do not know what level of State aid to anticipate. It is possible that our State aid will remain flat. It is also possible that our State aid will increase by 4.8%. Governor Cuomo has stated that any increases in State aid will be tied to meeting his demands for educational reform. He has many demands, and he has indicated that this is an all or nothing deal. Given all of this, it seems likely that we won't know specifically what level of State aid we will be receiving, until after we are obligated to adopt our 2015-16 school budget.

So, as we work to finalize the 2015-16 school budget, we will focus on the following four ideas. First, we will use State Aid numbers that are relatively flat. Second, we will attempt to preserve all of our student services and programs. Third, we will strive to create a budget that allows us to put forth a tax levy increase that remains below the "2% tax cap". Fourth, we will strive to reduce the amount of fund balance that we use to close our own budget gap.

Just as a point of reference, the projected GEA for the 2015-16 school year is about the same as the amount of fund balance we project we will need to use to balance our own budget. Five years ago this may have made sense, but now it just seems that the Governor is using our fund balance as leverage in his negotiations with the State Legislature.

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SIGN UP FOR ED ALERT

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