



## Table of Contents

Tully Elementary	2
Senior Spotlight	3
Tully Jr/Sr High School	4
District Wide News	5
Board of Education	6
Closing Remarks	7

## Students Selected for Elementary All-County

Three sixth graders have been selected to represent Tully Elementary School at the 2016 OCMEA



All-County Music Festival. Emma Byrne (clarinet), Katelyn Lamoureux (clarinet), and McKenzie Smith (flute) were recommended by Mrs. Dardaris and selected to perform in a band comprised of the finest young musicians in Onondaga County.

The festival consists of two days of intense rehearsals which will culminate in a concert on April 9th at North Syracuse

Jr. High School. Congratulations to Emma, Katelyn, and McKenzie on being selected to represent our school district!

## Why 15 Minutes Matters

Did you know there is an easy way to improve your children's chances for success at school and it's virtually free? And, best of all, not only will it entertain and delight them, but it will also strengthen your bond with them. Sound too good to be true? Actually, it isn't. The magic comes when you take just 15 minutes each day to read aloud to your children. For example, research has proven that reading a bedtime story aloud to your children each night helps to develop their vocabulary, improve their ability to learn to read and most importantly, foster a lifelong love of books and reading.



According to Jim Trelease, the author of "The Read Aloud Handbook", "Every time we read to a child we are sending a 'pleasure message' to the child's brain." Yes, it really is that simple! Reading to your children is one of the single most important activities for building the knowledge required for their reading success. And it only takes 15 minutes a day. So go ahead, read aloud to your children, today and every day, and watch the magic unfold!

This important message has been brought to you by the letters ELA and the TES Reading Teachers: Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Vassallo and Mrs. Kelly. Resource: [www.readaloud.org/why](http://www.readaloud.org/why).

**DON'T MISS**

## Graduation Reminder

Graduation will be held on Friday, June 24th at 7pm in the high school auditorium.

(Tickets Required)

## Kindergarten News

Our kindergartners dressed to play with their polar friends on one of our blustery days.

In math, students measured to see if they were taller than or shorter than and heavier than or lighter than the Polar bear, walrus and Emperor penguin. We discovered an Emperor penguin is taller than most kindergartners, and it takes a whole kindergarten class plus the teacher to weigh as much as a Polar bear!!

Our Polar scientists read and watched educational videos about each polar animal and their habitat. They loved learning about their polar friends!



## Fourth Graders Explore the Haudenosaunee Culture

In December, our fourth grader students got to show off their learning about the Haudenosaunee to their families.

At our "Night of Culture," our students participated in traditional Haudenosaunee games, performed a ribbon dance and afterward watched their Thanksgiving Address video. They also told the significance of the symbols on their wampum belts and shared their books about different topics of Haudenosaunee life, which they had researched in their classrooms and in the library.

This event was our Project Based Learning culminating activity.

It incorporated the expertise of our special area teachers, our library media specialist, and our fourth grade classroom teachers, who all worked collaboratively to help our fourth graders explore the Haudenosaunee culture.

This event, coupled with oral presentations and learning stations created by our students, marked the culmination of our students' research on different aspects of Haudenosaunee life.

It was a wonderful learning experience for our fourth graders and their families.



## Senior Spotlight

### Lily K. Aldrich



**Family:** Seth - dad, Kathy - mom, Hannah - sister, and Zach - brother.

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

Throughout my high school career, I have been lucky enough to grow close with the same friends since kindergarten. The best part of my high school career is the relationships with my friends of 13 years of my life.

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

I have learned through sports that working hard is crucial to being successful. Never giving up on your goals and working at them will help you pursue your ambitions. Hard work is the key to success. It applies to work, sports, school, and various other everyday life situations and will help you wherever you want to be in life.

**What is your proudest moment in high school so far?**

My proudest moment in high school so far was when I was inducted into National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society. These accomplishments reflect my hard work in school and in my community.

**What are your plans after high school?**

After high school, I plan on attending college and playing lacrosse on a collegiate level. I would like to become an elementary teacher.

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

I wish to have a steady and successful job with a husband and kids. I also want to have traveled to multiple foreign countries.

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

If I could invite two people to dinner, I would invite Will Ferrell and JK Rowling. We would talk about Will Ferrell's movies and skits on Saturday Night Live. He would make me laugh with his witty humor. I would also talk to JK Rowling about the Harry Potter books and her creativity behind them.

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

Balancing school, sports, and a social life have been a challenge for me throughout high school. But I have learned how to maintain stability through time management and putting what is most important first.

**Who's your hero and why?**

My parents are my heroes because not only are they good people morally, but they help others. They are respectful to others even if they don't deserve it. I aspire to be like them when I grow up.

### Nickolas J. Edinger



**Family:** Richard - father, Kimberly - mother and Jake - brother.

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

I have been a member of so many great sports teams.

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

I have learned that hard work and

commitment pay off.

**What is your proudest moment in high school so far?**

My proudest moment was when the 2015 lacrosse team, I was on, were League champions.

**What are your plans after high school?**

I would like to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point and play lacrosse.

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

I would like to finish my schooling and military commitment and be established in a career of my choice.

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

The President of the United States and Michael Jordan. We would talk about past experiences that led them to their current success.

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

I suffered a knee injury during football season and had to work hard to get it back to full strength for lacrosse season.

**Who's your hero and why?**

Jimmy V is my hero because he continued to lead and inspire while he was battling cancer.

## Drama Department Off to a Strong Start!



The Tully Drama Department kicked off its 2015/16 season with the play *Annie Play Will Do*. The play is set in an American high school where a catastrophic scheduling misunderstanding leaves the drama teacher with only one day to cast and produce the big school play!

She turns to her two best students to help direct the performance, unaware that they have just gone through a very nasty breakup. They can't agree on how best to proceed, and with Ms. Morris too wrapped up in technical details to help, they decide to each take half the cast and rehearse separately.

Unfortunately, Laura and the drama class spend the night rehearsing for *Annie Get Your Gun* while Paul and his friends prepare for *Annie*. Nobody discovers the error until the curtain goes up - a drama club's worst nightmare brought hilariously to life!

In December the Drama Department continued going strong by hosting the *1st Annual Tully Follies*. Students, faculty, and administrators combined to put on a great night of entertainment for the entire community. Athletic contests, musical acts, humorous skits, and even an eating contest were all presented in a variety show format. Fun was had by one and all, and all proceeds went to benefit the Drama Department.

We have two great productions planned for the second half of the year. First up is *Lucky Stiff*, scheduled for March 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

*Lucky Stiff* is an offbeat, hilarious murder mystery farce complete with mistaken identities, six-million bucks in diamonds, and a corpse in a wheelchair. The story revolves around an unassuming English shoe salesman who is forced to take the embalmed body of his recently murdered uncle on a vacation to Monte Carlo. Should he succeed in passing his uncle off as alive, Harry Witherspoon stands to inherit six-million dollars. If not, the money goes to the Universal Dog Home of Brooklyn or his uncle's gun-happy ex!

This musical is based on the novel *The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo* by Michael Butterworth.

The Drama Department plans to wrap up the year with *Twelve Angry Jurors* on May 20th and 21st. Based on the classic motion picture starring Henry Fonda, this powerful production shows what happens when a single dissenting juror on a capital murder case holds a mirror up to her fellow jurors and forces them to confront their own assumptions, conceits, and prejudices.

## Quebec 2016



Twenty-two eighth graders enjoyed four days in Quebec City with the Junior High International Club in January. Students enjoyed dog sledding, ice fishing, and tubing. They attended a military reenactment of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, ate a traditional meal, danced, and had a taffy pull in a "sugar shack". They also participated in an improv game show featuring Mrs. Gero's "banana seat bike story", visited the Sainte Anne de Beupré Basilica and the Hôtel de Glace Ice Hotel, flew down a toboggan next to the Château Frontenac on the Saint Lawrence River, walked over the suspension bridge high over Montmorency Falls, and enjoyed some shopping time in Old Quebec and at the Galeries de la Capitale Mall.

Our fearless guide, Maude St. Pierre of Jumpstreet Tours, rocked every minute of every day. Our Tully students were awesome while embracing each unique cultural and educational experience, and they were great representatives of Tully JSHS!

Thank you to the Board of Education, Tully Administration, Teachers & Staff, Tully Parents, bus driver Jim, and especially our chaperons Mrs. Lori Gero and Mr. Chris Scalza!

## New Redesigned SAT

Revisions made to the SAT are intended to more closely align the test with the curricula used in high schools today. Here are some important changes with the new SAT: (1) The new test is designed to take three hours, which is shorter than the previous three hours and forty five minutes. (2) The essay writing portion of the new test is optional, but will add an additional fifty minutes to the test. (3) Students will not be penalized for incorrect answers, as they have been in the past. (4) The Critical Reading section is now called Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and is better aligned with the curricula currently used in high schools. (5) There will no longer be sentence completion sections that test obscure vocabulary words, instead more relevant vocabulary words from the reading/writing sections will be used. (6) The new math portion will now limit calculator use in some sections. (7) Score reporting will return to a 1600 point scale, with the Math Section and the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section each scored on a 200-800 point scale.

For information on the new test and how to sign up to take it, visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org), or call our Guidance Office at 696-6240.

## Extra Credit!

You can help your school in many ways with these free offers. Just by using the everyday items you already use, money and school supplies can come our way. We hope you will participate. A collection site is set up in the Tully Elementary School office and Tully Jr/Sr High School office where the following items may be dropped off:

**Box Tops for Education** - General Foods Boxtops found on the top of various boxes are redeemed for cash which supports junior high functions.

**Campbell Soup Labels** - Bar code labels on all Campbell products including condensed soups, microwavable soups, Select Harvest Soups, V8 soups, soup at hand, Supper Bakes Meal Kits, V8 Splash Beverages, Spaghetti O's, Prego, Swanson, Franco- American Gravies, Pepperidge Farm products, and Market Day products

**Price Chopper Tools for Schools** - When you shop at Price Chopper with your AdvantEdge Card and register our school for Price Choppers' Tools for Schools program, you make it possible for us to receive Free Educational Equipment. You must register each year and delegate Tully (school code 16640) to receive these points. With these reward points the school can choose school supplies for free.

**Target** - Target offers credit card rewards every time you use your Target card. You must delegate Tully to receive these rewards. Every six months Target sends the school a check.

## News from the School Cafeteria

### Why Whole Grains?

Grains are important sources of many nutrients, including dietary fiber, several B vitamins (thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, and folate), and minerals (iron, magnesium, and selenium).

Dietary fiber from whole grains or other foods may help reduce blood cholesterol levels and may lower risk of heart disease, obesity, and type 2 diabetes. Fiber is important for proper bowel function. It helps reduce constipation and diverticulitis. Fiber-containing foods such as whole grains help provide a feeling of fullness with fewer calories.

Evidence indicates consuming whole grains as part of a healthy diet may reduce the risk of heart disease.

Eating whole grains may help with weight management

All grains offered in the cafeteria are whole grain, this includes: Sliced Bread, Bagels, Muffins, Rice Crispy treats and even the breading on the Chicken patties and popcorn chicken!

## Tully Teacher Association Scholarship

Each year at Commencement the Tully Teacher Association recognizes an exceptional student with a four thousand dollar scholarship. We are very pleased to be able to continue offering this scholarship to our most outstanding students each year. Students must have an overall average of 90 or higher to apply for this scholarship.

Jennifer Newton coordinates the scholarship and will be providing application information to qualified students in February. At that time, the application will be available on the Counseling and Career Center page of the Tully Schools website. The application deadline for the TTA Scholarship is Friday, April 15th at 2:45pm. Students should direct any questions about the TTA Scholarship to Jennifer Newton. She can be reached at [jnewton@tullyschools.org](mailto:jnewton@tullyschools.org) or at 696-6240.

## Trunk Sale - Saturday, April 16th TTA Scholarship Fundraiser

- Who: Tully Teacher Association Scholarship Program
- What: Trunk Sale - Garage Sale out of the Trunk of your vehicle
- Where: Tully Jr/Sr. High Parking Lot
- When: April 16th 9:00am - 1:00 pm
- Why: We love to support an outstanding Tully Graduate with Scholarship Monies and give you the opportunity to "Get rid of some of your junk"
- Cost: \$10 payable to the TTA Scholarship Fund to rent a space. After April 1, the cost will go to \$15 for a parking spot.

Contact Jennifer Newton, TTA Scholarship Coordinator, at 696-6240 or [jnewton@tullyschools.org](mailto:jnewton@tullyschools.org) for an application form.

Submit the form and a check for ten dollars. You will be provided with a reserved spot in the Tully Junior Senior High School parking lot for the Trunk Sale. Fill your vehicle and get ready to sell!

Other events will be occurring that day that will be bringing people to the school. We will also be advertising the event to get members of the community to attend.

## Tully Athletics

### Spring Sports Start Dates:

**JV/V Sports** Monday March 7, 2016  
(Baseball/Softball/Boys Lacrosse/Girls Lacrosse/Boys Track/Girls Track)

**JH Boys Lacrosse** Monday, March 28, 2016

**JH Sports** Monday April 4, 2016  
(Baseball/Softball/Girls Lacrosse/Co-Ed Track)

### 2015/16 OHSL Patriot League Champions

<u>Fall 2015:</u>	<u>Winter 2016:</u>
Varsity Football	Varsity Volleyball
Varsity Boys Soccer	Varsity Boys Basketball
Varsity Girls Soccer	Boys Indoor Track

Varsity Boys XC	
Varsity Girls XC	
<u>Fall NYSPPHSAA Scholar Athlete Teams: (Grade Point Averages)</u>	
93.38 Team GPA	Varsity Boys XC
94.17 Team GPA	Varsity Football
97.55 Team GPA	Varsity Girls XC
97.76 Team GPA	Varsity Boys Soccer
98.20 Team GPA	Varsity Girls Soccer

## Board Members

*\*Term expires June 30 of year listed*

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.

- **March 8, 2016**
- **March 21, 2016**
- **April 5, 2016**
- **April 18, 2016 (meeting includes school budget adoption and OCM BOCES vote)**
- **May 10, 2016 (meeting includes budget public hearing)**
- **May 17, 2016 (in addition to the meeting, the budget vote is 6 am – 9 pm)**
- **June 7, 2016**
- **June 20, 2016**



## Article Submission Guidelines

Welcome to the return of the printed Knight Insight. Many of you have requested your preference for the return to printed issues. We will also continue to put them on the school website.

The next issue will be the April 2016 issue. **Articles are due into the district office by March 7, 2016.** We must keep 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](mailto: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.**

## From the Desk of the Superintendent



Three years ago, the New York State Comptroller’s Office instituted a statewide fiscal monitoring system, designed to identify the degree to which school districts (and local governments) may be experiencing fiscal stress. This fiscal monitoring system looks at both fiscal indicators and environmental indicators, both of which play an important role in identifying the overall fiscal health of a school district.

Relative to fiscal indicators, the State Comptroller’s stress test is an analysis of a school district’s yearend fund balances, its operating deficits/surpluses, its cash position, and its use of short-term debt. A school district’s fund balance is similar to a savings account, meant to be used as a rainy day fund in case of emergencies. Operating expenses are simply the ongoing costs associated with running a school district, and include everything from the cost of energy bills to payroll expenses. Cash position simply refers to the money we keep in our checking account, which is used to pay for ongoing operating expenses. Short term debt is very much like a credit card; it serves a valuable purpose, but it is not something we should use to pay our monthly bills.

Relative to environmental indicators, the State Comptroller’s fiscal stress test is an analysis of a school district’s property values, enrollment trends, budget vote trends, graduate rates, and levels of poverty as measured by participation in free and reduced lunch programs. By looking at these indicators, we should get a sense for a community’s ability to support a school district’s local tax levy, and a sense for the demands for a school district’s services. Consistent property values and a stable student population should mean that a local community has a strong ability to sustain its school district.

Looking at the trends for our stress test over the past three years, it is clear that our fiscal stress has decreased, while our environmental stress has stayed relatively flat (See chart below and lower percentage scores equate to lower stress levels).

### Financial Stress

FYE	Score	Designation
2013	26.7%	Susceptible to Fiscal Stress
2014	10.0%	No Designation
2015	6.7%	No Designation

### Environmental Stress

Score	Designation
20.0%	No Designation
20.0%	No Designation
23.3%	No Designation

These results should be no surprise. Over the past few years, we have been very focused on monitoring our spending and on keeping costs down, while at the same time looking for ways to maintain, and even enhance, the learning opportunities we provide for our students. Additionally, while our enrollment has decreased over the past few years, parental and community support for what we do has remained quite strong. Compared with many school districts across New York State, our future looks quite bright. Our financial house is in good order, we offer excellent learning opportunities for our students, and we benefit greatly from a community that places a high value on education.

For those interested in additional information on this topic, feel free to visit the New York State Comptroller’s website ([www.osc.state.ny.us](http://www.osc.state.ny.us)), and as always feel free to call me with any questions or concerns.

**Robert Hughes, Superintendent of Schools**

Email: [rhughes@tullyschools.org](mailto:rhughes@tullyschools.org)

Office: 315-696-6204

## 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](mailto:mfisher@tullyschools.org).

**TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOLS**  
**20 State Street, Tully NY 13159**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Tully, NY  
Permit No. 7



TO: LOCAL POST OFFICE BOXHOLDER  
OR RURAL ROUTE PATRON

## TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS

*March*

Tue	1	CDE Competitions @ Tully HS, 3-9pm
Thur	3-5	Senior High Drama/Musical, 7pm
Fri	4	Jr/Sr High End of Grading Period Registration Deadline for April ACT
Sat	5	SAT Test
Mon	7	JV/Varsity Spring Sports Begin
Tues	8	BOE Meeting, 6pm
Fri	11	Jr/Sr High Interim Reports Mailed March Madness Volleyball Night, 6pm-12am

Tues	15	Sr High Band and Chorus Concert, 7pm
Wed	16	Jr High Band and Chorus Concert, 7pm
Mon	21	JV/Varsity Spring Sports Pictures
Tues	22	Tully FFA Banquet 6:30pm
Thurs	24	Trivia Night at HS, 7pm
<b>Fri</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Good Friday - NO SCHOOL</b>
Thurs	31	NJHS Induction, 6:30pm