

Issue:
February
2025



KNIGHT INSIGHT



Save the Date



JSHS presents Matilda

March 7th and 8th at 6:30pm
March 9th at 2pm

Concert Season

The holidays are always packed full of activities, traditions, and celebrations, and is also one of Tully's biggest concert seasons. Band and chorus members are eager to show off their talents filled with holiday cheer at both the elementary school and the JSHS. This year, parents of students at both schools were treated to the concerts in the same week with the JSHS performing on Tuesday evening and the elementary performing on Thursday evening. They all entertained the audiences thoroughly with songs new and old. Some JSHS chorus students also partook in the Season of Light concert at St. Charles of Borromeo Church in Syracuse. They performed individually as well as with the Solvay Choral. During "Silent Night," attendees joined in as a whole with lit candles, filling the church with the holiday spirit.



The Spirit of Giving

We had lots of fun and festive activities happening on campus before the holiday break, making everyone's time sparse, but many worked the spirit of giving into their schedules. We'd like to give those students a shoutout for their kindness! Our fourth graders surprised the Kindergarteners and SKATE room students with presents. Our fifth grade Character Council conducted a food drive to help our community. The Interact Club helped Rotary put over 70 family grocery hauls together with the Character Club's donated goods and other community donations. These groups, along with other individuals that participated in the spirit of giving, help to define what community is all about!

Alumni News

We would like to thank the Class of 1974 for their generosity!

After their 50th reunion, the Class of 1974 donated a memorial plaque in honor of their late classmate, Bill Bailey. Steven Fisher presented the plaque to the JSHS principal, and it was then placed on the memorial wall inside the vestibule.



Principal's Message



Welcome to the second half of the school year! Next up will be our celebrations of the 100th and 101st days of school. As a reminder, at TES we have three marking periods, so our report cards will be on a different timeline than the JSHS, which just completed the second of their four marking periods. Our report cards will be published on SchoolTool and ParentSquare at the end of this month.

REV Theatre recently visited to perform for our primary (K-2) grades. We will highlight this in the next issue, but mark your calendars for February 7th and 8th for our first fifth grade only musical, *Pirates! The Musical*. The Friday show is at 7 p.m. and the Saturday matinee is at 2 p.m. Our performers are excited to showcase their hard work!

In P2 this month, students will learn about humility, love, and cheering other's successes.

Edward Kupiec, ES Principal • Phone: 315.696.6213 • Twitter: @ekupiecTullyES • Email: ed.kupiec@tullyschools.org

Reading Buddies

The elementary school buddies from the Buddy Program welcomed their JSHS buddies into their library for some one-on-one time. Older buddies headed over to the elementary building during Activity Period to read books to them, color with them, and chat about how their day went at school. This program helps bridge the gap between the older and younger students, letting the younger buddies know they will always have a friendly face on campus. Reading is just one of the many activities that the buddies do together but it is an important one. It not only fosters a relationship between the buddies but it allows the younger buddies to hear what fluid reading sounds like. Little buddies can make real-world connections and ask questions. The younger buddies seemed to really enjoy this activity and it's safe to say that the best buddies are reading buddies!



PTO News

Throughout the school year, TES PTO offers funding to various student clubs and activities, as well as teacher/classroom support. Some of the funding this past school year went to the following groups/activities: the fifth and sixth grade picnics, field trips for each grade level, teacher and teaching assistant allotments (for extra items that they may need in their classrooms), clothing and undergarments for the nurse's office, a Staff Appreciation luncheon and stocking the break room with snacks and beverages at the beginning of the school year, dual senior awards (two separate students), Maker Lab items, Summer Reading/Read-A-Thon prizes, snacks for summer learning, funding for the Literacy Club, Field Days dunk tank and popsicles, and much more!

In order to continue supporting the students and teachers at TES, the PTO holds fundraisers throughout the school year. The largest fundraiser is the upcoming Read-A-Thon, which is always a huge success! These will help fund all of the amazing things mentioned above. Please stay tuned for more details on how your family can get involved.

Did you know the TES PTO is also a 501(c)(3) organization? We accept tax-exempt donations year-round. Please inquire if you would like to make a donation.

If you would like to learn more about the PTO, become involved (various levels of volunteering available), or just listen to a meeting, please join us on Zoom! At this time, we are holding our monthly meetings virtually on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Please also join our Facebook page, Tully Elementary PTO. You can reach out via email at pto@k12.tullyschools.org.

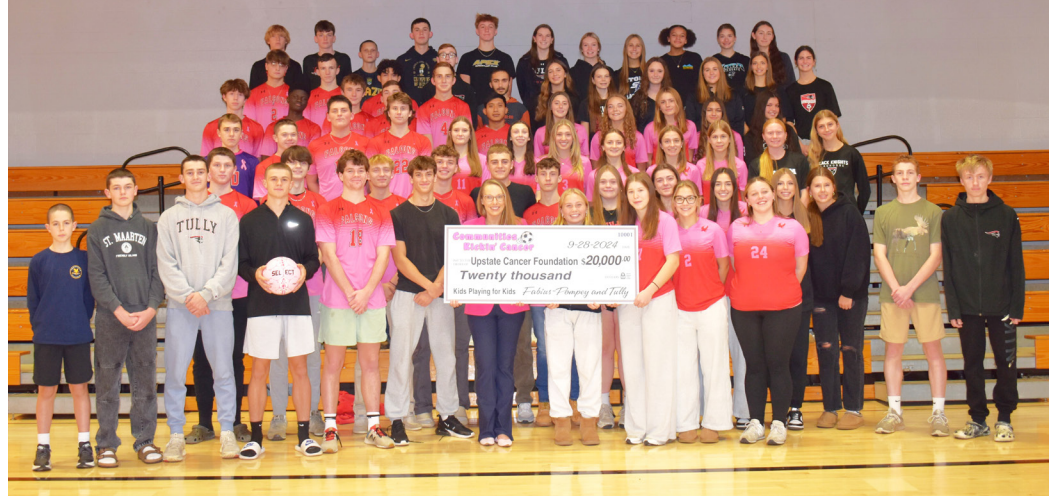
Athletic Participation

In fall 2024, 58% of students participated on an athletic team. During the winter 2024-25 season, 54% of students participated on an athletic team.

Our goal is to get over 60% of our students involved in athletics!

Spring Sports Dates

JV & Varsity Start date - March 17th;
Modified Start date - April 7th. Family ID will open one month prior to the start date.



Fabius and Tully players present the proceeds check from Kickin' Cancer.

Transportation

Athlete transportation home from an away contest with someone besides a legal parent or guardian: Written email/note must be presented to the Head Coach and Athletic Director 24 hours in advance. Athletes are allowed to ride home with another parent, guardian, or grandparent.

Sports Physicals

All athletes need an updated physical to participate in athletics. Tully Central School offers "free" sports physicals in the spring that will cover the entire athletic school year. Please be on the lookout for the date and time for this year's sports physicals.

TULLY JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Message



The first semester is in the rearview mirror and we are speeding towards the spring and graduation! Seniors should be focused on graduation and finishing their last semester at Tully. Also, this is an important time for these students to plan for what comes next after graduation. We encourage our seniors to meet with counselors and discuss work plans, military opportunities, or the final steps in the college process. Currently, the graduation committee, composed of student leaders, volunteers, and staff members, is hard at work planning all of the details for the Class of 2025 commencement ceremony which will occur on Friday, June 20th.

For the rest of our student body, they should have their attention on both their academics and extracurricular activities. With the exception of Winter Break, from February 17th until February 21st, and the Superintendent's Conference day on March 31st, we are in session every day until the end of the third marking period on April 4th. Now is a wonderful time when every student has the opportunity to make great academic and extracurricular gains.

The second semester is the time when students sit down with their counselors and begin making their schedules for next year. The Tully Junior-Senior High School Counseling and Career Center will begin this process and register students for classes for the 2025-2026 school year. This past January, we held our first Electives Fair. During the Electives Fair, students were able to see displays created by the elective teachers to learn more about the course and see first hand the electives that interest them. Mrs. Newton is the counselor for students with last names that begin with A-K and Mrs. Davin is the counselor for students with last names that begin with L-Z. They will be holding presentations on transitioning to high school for eighth grade students and their parents at a later date. Also, eleventh grade students and their parents will meet individually with the counselors to work on schedules and discuss post graduation plans.

I encourage all families to sit down and discuss with their student/s the courses that they plan to take next year. The full Program of Studies that we offer at the Junior-Senior High School can be found on the Junior-Senior High School webpage by clicking on the Counseling and Careers tab and then scrolling down to Documents and clicking on the Program of Studies link. Please call the office at 315.696.6235 if you have any questions and Happy February!

Michael O'Brien, JSHS Principal • Phone: 315.696.6235 • Email: mike.obrien@tullyschools.org

Model UN

Tully's Model United Nations participated in the 42nd annual CNYMUN event at Syracuse University, which is a two-day Harvard style Model United Nations conference. This conference hosts over 750 students bringing schools from all over CNY. Over the course of the two days, delegates solve global issues through debate. This year, our students served as ambassadors for Hungary, Venezuela, Ghana, as well as a US representative in labor.

Senior Lucy Wright took on the role of Google CEO Kent Walker in a US labor summit. While not technically a UN committee, Model UN sometimes does specialized simulations where students can still tackle issues outside the UN's limited executive authority.

Senior Gavin Burrell was the Hungarian ambassador to the UN in the committee for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The goal of the IAEA is to limit the production and spread of nuclear arms throughout the world. As ambassador for Hungary, Gavin had strategic interests in nuclear arms proliferation left over from the Cold War.

Seniors Isaac Stoogenke and Wes Chambala were ambassadors to Hungary and Ghana, respectively, in the commission on crime prevention and criminal justice. Their topics were on limiting the illegal trafficking of firearms and weapons, and the efficacy of capital punishment as a means of crime prevention.

Seniors Cameron Morey and Quinzi Williams were "Double Delegates" in their committee, the Organization of American States (OAS). This committee is similar to the EU or African Union in that its goal is to improve life and encourage commerce and economic opportunity among the Americas (North, Central, and South). As a double delegation, they act as a "team." While one person is speaking, the other person should be taking notes and preparing responses from other delegates. Their topics were on addressing inhumane labor practices and combating the influence of drug cartels on regional governments.

What a great way for our students to develop invaluable debate and speaking skills while solving the world's most prevalent issues!



Showing Loretto Love

The seventh grade annual trip to Loretto for pie making and caroling was once again a positive endeavor for both students and residents alike. With several parent volunteers in tow, the seventh graders worked together with the residents to make over forty pies for their holiday festivities. Conversation starters were handed out to students, helping them create easy conversation where they learned some fun tidbits about the residents they were paired with. Joy and laughter was palpable throughout the process. This year, we even had a student that got some extra time with her grandmother who is also a resident. A few students and residents were featured on syracuse.com, sharing why they love this activity and what the day means to them. Many residents look forward to this tradition as it offers camaraderie among the two generations and others love seeing the enthusiasm of the kids.

Students use invaluable skills during this time including math and measuring, multitasking, and speaking and listening skills. This long-standing tradition saw its silver anniversary this year and is definitely a tradition worth keeping!



Senior Spotlight - OSCAR BREITZKA



People/Pets in your family: Sarah (mom), Steve (dad), and Jack (brother). I have a cat named Bob and an Oscar fish named Sushi.

What has been the best part of your high school career and why? Being able to play soccer and baseball with my teammates and friends since the beginning of elementary school. Also, the fact that I can play at a high level and win trophies, banners, and awards is pretty cool.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far? Being the first soccer team in Tully history to go all the way to the state semifinal. At the beginning of the year, even before we started pre-season in August, I had no idea if we were even going to have enough people for the team. I was very glad to hear that Mr. Donald was going to be bringing up a bunch of 8th graders.

What are your plans after high school? I am going to play soccer at Monroe Community College and study Sports Management.

Where do you see yourself in ten years? In ten years, I hope to have a great job in the sports world and have been able to travel everywhere with good experiences.

If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be, and what would you talk about? I would invite my great grandpa and his brothers because I would love to talk about sports and play games with them. They loved playing board games, sports, fishing, and sitting at Tully Lake, which are all things I like to do.

Who's your hero and why? My parents because they are great people and I hope to grow up to be as great as they are.

Senior Spotlight - KARISSA OLENDER



People/Pets in your family: Jason Olender (uncle), Hailey Olender (sister), King, Queen, Smokey, and Phineas.

What has been the best part of your high school career and why? I'd say the best part of my high school career has been the friends I've made along the way. I know that I've made lifelong friends that will be with me forever.

What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school? I've learned to get out of my comfort zone. Through some of the clubs and activities I've done, I've gotten more comfortable doing random things that I wouldn't typically do. I've also made new friends and even new hobbies.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far? My proudest moments would have to be the awards that I've gotten for my academics because it proves all my hard work paid off. I'm proud of my scholarships I've gotten and my college acceptances.

What are your plans after high school? I plan on attending a four year university to major in biochemistry or animal science on the pre-veterinary track.

Where do you see yourself in ten years? I see myself married and living in a cute little house with two dogs and two cats. I want to be living in a place like Vermont - somewhere beautiful. I hope to be thriving in my career and in life.

Who's your hero and why? My hero is my uncle, Jay. He is constantly pushing me to become the best version of myself. I know that I can go to him with anything and that he'll support me. I can look up to him in so many different ways. He's the most selfless person I know and constantly puts others before himself.



Character Call Out

Here at Tully, we are proud of all our students. They make strides every day to learn and grow. We spotlight them for making the honor roll, earning Student of the Month awards, winning various academic awards, making the teams in athletics, participating in extracurricular activities, and joining clubs. Some students, however, are quieter in their day-to-day activities. They go about their day, completing their tasks with what seems to be little acknowledgment. We want students to know this is not the case. *We see you.* We see the hard work and effort all students put into their everyday educational and social growth. We see the small things that students do when they think no one is looking. Because of this, we want to acknowledge these students that have been seen doing something extraordinary for themselves, their classmates, or another person while on campus whether it was stepping out of their comfort zone or going out of their way to help one another. We are proud of you!

TES

Kennedy Chilcoat
Lyla Delles
Jocelynn Kent
Jackson Kowalewski
Mason Moriarty
Alaric Parker
Zechariah Trumble, Jr.
Maggie Salvador
Jackson Seymour
Oliver Sporman
Emma Storm
Eric Vanbuskirk
Laelynn Warner
Addison Williams

JSHS

Zoey Abernatha
David Adams
Lawson Allen
Gina Bennett
Mehdi Dursun
Kylie McAdam
Autumn Peterson
Max Smith
Griffin Von Uderitz

A special callout goes to the fourth graders and Mrs. Biggar. Mrs. Biggar coordinated a Secret Santa where participating fourth graders brought small gifts that were secretly given to the pre-k and SKATE room students during the holiday season. The fourth graders were so excited to make their younger peers smile. What a wonderful act of kindness!

Private Transportation Requests Due by April 1st

NYS 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 must be made annually and 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: Jamie Wortley, Tully Central School District, Business Office, 20 State St, Tully, NY 13159 no later than April 1, 2025.

From Your School Resource Officers

- Due to the time of year, please be aware of the daily temperature and dress accordingly.
- Even if snow is not present, be aware that roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks may still be icy.
- Drivers on campus need to make sure that ALL windows are clear of snow and ice to see clearly. Driving with snow or ice blocking your view is very dangerous and could be considered reckless.
- The maximum speed limit on campus is 15 mph unless roadway conditions dictate slower speeds. New York State's Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) § 1180(a) defines imprudent speed as driving a vehicle at a speed that is not reasonable or prudent under the current conditions.
- Elementary parents should make every effort to unload/load children from the passenger side of the vehicle when dropping off and picking up. This may require you to adjust seating with boosters/car seats/etc. Also, please say your good-byes at the vehicle – do not leave your vehicle unattended to walk children to the door at any time.

School District Nominating Petitions Available for Board of Education Positions

Two terms of office on the Tully Central School District Board of Education will expire on June 30, 2025. Each winner will be elected for three-year terms from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 at the annual school district election to be held on May 20, 2025.

Board of Education vacancies are not considered to be separate specific offices. The 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.

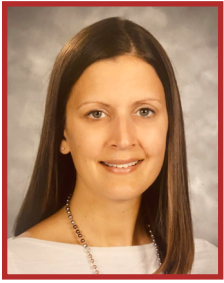
Candidates may be nominated only by petition. Each nominating petition must be filed with the School District Clerk, Tully CSD, District Office, 20 State St, Tully, NY 13159 no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 21, 2025. Each nominating petition must state the name and residence of the candidate and be signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the school district. Each person signing must also state his or her residence. It is good practice to obtain more than 25 signatures.

General eligibility requirements for school board candidates under the law are:

- a citizen of the United States
- at least eighteen years of age
- a qualified voter in the school district

Prospective Board Member Candidate packets will be available beginning on February 3, 2025. If you would like a Prospective Board Member Candidate packet, please contact the district office at (315) 696-6204 or email jeanette.neadom@k12.tullyschools.org.

From the Superintendent



As we embark on this new year together, I want to take a moment to address some important topics and upcoming opportunities that directly impact our students, staff, and families.

Regionalization Conversations

The New York State Education Department is initiating conversations around regionalization, a process aimed at ensuring equitable access to opportunities for all students across districts. While the term may sound complex, it simply means exploring ways to collaborate with neighboring districts to share resources and expand opportunities for students.

For Tully, this could mean continuing to provide the robust programs we are proud of, while also exploring what neighboring districts offer that we could take advantage of to enhance student experiences. Our focus remains on ensuring all students have access to the tools and resources they need to succeed, and regionalization conversations are just another way to strengthen that commitment. We will keep you informed as these discussions progress and ensure that our district's priorities and values are always at the forefront.

Superintendent's Conference Day: Focusing on Student Safety

Our final Superintendent's Conference Day for the year will take place at the end of March and will focus on a critically important topic: suicide prevention. In the morning, our staff will join a countywide collaborative workshop through Onondaga, Cortland, and Madison counties. This training underscores our shared goal of ensuring that all students feel safe, supported, and valued in our schools.

This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of our students. By equipping our staff with the tools and resources to recognize and respond to mental health concerns, we are working together to foster a safe and nurturing environment for every child.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources

We understand that mental health and wellness are integral to the success and happiness of our students, staff, and families. As such, we want to remind you of several resources available to support our community:

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: A free and confidential resource available 24/7 for anyone experiencing a mental health crisis or needing support.

- Wellness Section of Our Website: The Tully Central School District website provides a wealth of information, tools, and resources for students and families. Please visit the Wellness section for additional support.

Additionally, our school counselors, psychologists, and social workers are always available to assist students and families. We encourage you to reach out if you or someone you know needs help. Together, we can ensure that Tully continues to be a district where students thrive, families feel supported, and staff is empowered to make a difference.

Darcy Woodcock, Superintendent • Phone: 315.696.6204

Email: darcy.woodcock@tullyschools.org

Culture Corner Scotland



Did you know that the unicorn is the national animal of Scotland? These mythical creatures are not the only mysterious beliefs of the people that live there; many myths and legends are believed by the natives. It's no wonder that this country has so much folklore as the beauty of this country revolves much around the historic castles that can be viewed in the Highlands and the rich history that accompanies them. Edinburgh Castle, one of the most known and visited castles, is known to be built on an extinct volcano - how interesting!

Many of Scotland's myths revolve around Nessie, the notorious Loch Ness monster, but have you heard of her little brother, Morag? The mysteries aren't just in the castles and water but also in its literature. J.K. Rowling, author of the *Harry Potter* series, resides here, and JM Barrie, the author of *Peter Pan*, as well as *Sherlock Holmes's* author, Sir Conan Doyle, originated here. With all of the folklore and culture of this country, one would be amiss not to learn about all the fun and interesting facts that make this country so unique.

Tully Free Library

tullyfreelibrary.org • 315-696-8606

It's February, and that means the days are getting longer, and we are excited to be in the homestretch of our renovation project! **We hope to be back in our building next month and back to offering our full services.** In the meantime, we still have many items available for check out at our temporary space: chapter books and picture books for kids, fiction and nonfiction for teens and adults, as well as books on CD, Switch games, and DVDs. We will be open on Presidents Day, February 17th, so stop in and check out a book to read or a movie to watch during winter recess!

TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOLS
20 State Street, Tully NY 13159

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TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS



FEBRUARY

- 5 8th Grade Parent Night, 6pm
- 6 PTO Meeting, 7pm
- 7 TES Musical, 6:30pm
- 8 TES Musical, 2pm
ACT off-site
- 11 BOE Meeting, 6pm
- 13 JSHS Talent Show, 6:30pm
- 14 No Late Buses
- 17-21 Winter Recess, No School**
- 28 JSHS Mid-MP3 Ends

Dates are subject to change. Please check our website for the most up-to-date information.

