

Issue:  
January  
2025



# KNIGHT INSIGHT



## SAVE THE DATE

Tully Elementary School presents

**Pirates!**  
THE MUSICAL  
BY JOHN JACOBSON & ROGER EMERSON

on

**February 7, 6:30 p.m.**  
and **February 8, 2 p.m.**

## Art News

Congratulations to Ryan Rauber for two of his photographs entitled *Human Interference* and *Take Back* being chosen as finalists in the Bousquet Holstein PLLC 2024 Photography Contest. Over 200 images were submitted and Rauber scored two places in the top twenty. He eventually took third place for *Human Interference*. ➤



## First Grade Balloon Parade

The first grade got an inside look at how the Macy's Day Parade originated by reading *Balloons Over Broadway* by Melissa Sweet. They then started to gather information and inspiration for their own rendition of the Macy's Day parade. By watching informational videos, students learned that the original Macy's Day Parade balloons couldn't be seen over the city buildings so they were made even bigger. Today's balloons make humans look tiny in comparison. After gathering the information, students got to create their own Macy's Day Parade balloon. With only the 36 inch balloon, construction paper, and glue or tape, students had free range on what masterpiece they wanted to create. There were animals such as cats, axolotls, dogs, and of course a turkey. There were also Pokémon, dragons, Pete the Cat, minions, and Santa Claus. After inspecting their balloons, it was then time for their very own parade! Other grade levels filed into the hallways by their classrooms to watch the parade unfold. First graders held their balloons above their heads with the turkey in the lead as other students cheered them on. While the actual Macy's Day Parade uses around 300 pounds of glitter, the only sparkles seen were the pride and sense of accomplishment in the first graders' eyes.





## Principal's Message



At the end of this month, we will already be halfway through the school year! Last month, PTO hosted a very successful book fair. REV Theatre continued their series of visits, performing *Alice in Wonderland* for third grade and then returning the following week to host workshops in grades three through five on careers in the arts. Tully Rotary was scheduled to come to TES to do a brief presentation of their mission and to present each third grade student with their own atlas, but the weather had other plans. This will be rescheduled. Finally, our fifth grade performance ensembles were able to showcase their hard work during the annual December Band and Chorus Concert. They sounded fantastic!

In P2 this month, students will learn about Optimism, Prudence, Perseverance, and Social Intelligence. As a reminder, if you are interested in sending your child to pre-K or Kindergarten next fall, please be sure to pre-register your son/daughter in SchoolTool by January 31st. You can find the link on the District website. This will allow us to determine whether a lottery is needed for pre-K and how many sections of Kindergarten we will need next school year. Please call the school office at 315-696-6213 if you have any questions about pre-K or Kindergarten.

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

## Storyfest: An Amusing Day

Fourth grade worked hard leading up to what they called "Storyfest."

After reading a story that took place in an amusement park, students then created their own stories and designed covers set inside an amusement park. While being creative, they had to put their thinking caps on to include a problem that their main character had to overcome and learn from. Once they finished the unit, they would read their stories to the neighboring third graders and receive critique from their peers. Unfortunately, due to a weather delay and scheduling, Storyfest only took place among the fourth graders, but all was not lost. You could see the enjoyment on their faces as they read to other students in their grade level.

After rotating and listening to several of their peers' stories, games took place. Students had also repurposed materials to create carnival-like games for others to play. Rotating through three classrooms, students got to play each other's games and receive candy prizes. What a unit full of fun!



## PreK/K Registration

Tully Central School is starting the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration process for the 2025-2026 school year. If you have not already done so, please register your child(ren) online at <http://www.tullyschools.org>.

To be eligible for pre-kindergarten, children must be district residents and turn 4 years of age, but not yet reach age 5, by December 1, 2025. For the 2025-2026 school year, Tully Elementary School is able to accommodate a maximum of 36 students in pre-kindergarten. If more than 36 students have been registered for pre-kindergarten by January 31, 2025, the District will need to conduct a lottery to determine enrollment and organize a waiting list. Please note that Pre-K is a 5-days-a-week, full-day program (8:00 - 2:30) and the District cannot provide school bus transportation until a child is 4 years old.

To enter kindergarten, children must be at least 5 years of age, and no older than 6 years of age, by December 1, 2025. Unlike pre-kindergarten, there is no limit on the number of district-resident kindergarten students who can be enrolled at Tully Elementary.

Information about the screening process for both grade levels will be mailed out to enrolled students in the spring. Please don't hesitate to contact the elementary office at 696-6213 if you have specific questions about the registration or screening process.

## PTO News

We hope everyone had a wonderful Winter Break! TES PTO would like to thank everyone for their participation in the winter Scholastic Book Fair. We were able to use over \$1,000 in Scholastic Bucks earned from hosting the Book Fair to gift new books to each classroom!

We will be hosting an activity night on Tuesday, January 28th at 6:00 p.m. for students and families to enjoy. More details will be sent out via ParentSquare. We will also soon be planning for our largest fundraiser, the Read-A-Thon, which will take place in March this year.

Please remember that we meet virtually on the first Thursday of each month via Zoom. Everyone who has a student enrolled in the Tully Elementary School is automatically a member of the organization and all are invited to attend. We are a 501 c (3) organization that gladly accepts tax free donations.

If you are interested in donating, please feel free to ask one of our board members or someone at the school how you can donate.

## Principal's Message



Happy 2025! We wish all of our families a happy and healthy new year! We are now in the home stretch of the first semester with the second marking period ending on Friday, January 24th. We would like to remind all families that we have Monday, January 20th off of school in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and students have Wednesday, January 29th off for Asian Lunar New Year for the first time.

As we enter the coldest part of the school year, we would like to remind all families that if a student is not feeling well, please keep them home so that we can limit the spread of all illnesses. On the other hand, when students are well, it is of the utmost importance that they attend school all day, each and every day. We understand that at times there are conflicts with school, such as family emergencies and doctors' appointments, which are unavoidable; but consistent student attendance is one of the attributes of a successful student. Whenever possible, we request that families schedule planned appointments outside of the academic day. Students who are absent for unexcused reasons are not permitted to participate in extracurricular activities or sports, and we always want our students to be involved in the school community. Furthermore, students who are absent for any reason for more than ten percent of class are considered chronically absent by New York State. For chronically absent students, Tully JSHS may require a doctors' note, or other proof of reason, to consider the absence legally excused and/or for a student to participate in extracurricular activities that day. If there are extenuating circumstances regarding any student's attendance, we encourage families to reach out to the administration or counseling for support and/or strategies to improve overall attendance.

In the coming weeks, students in the Junior-Senior High School will begin working on their schedules for next year with their counselors. Decisions on courses for the next year need to be made for each student based on their current interests, future goals, and their aspirations following high school. Based on those goals, it is important that every student select the courses that fit their individual academic journey. While all students take courses and electives that will allow them to meet graduation requirements, students will also have the opportunity to take CTE coursework and other classes at an increased level of rigor. We encourage families to have extended conversations regarding what courses are most beneficial for their student(s). Colleges and future employers will look at the level of course rigor and the types of courses on a transcript and how a student performs throughout that course.

As always, we encourage all of our students to finish their semester-long courses strong and begin preparing for midterms and finals. Hopefully, students continue to take advantage of direct academic support offered by all of our teachers during activity period each day after school, except Tuesdays. Again, we wish all of our families a happy 2025 and a great end of the first semester!

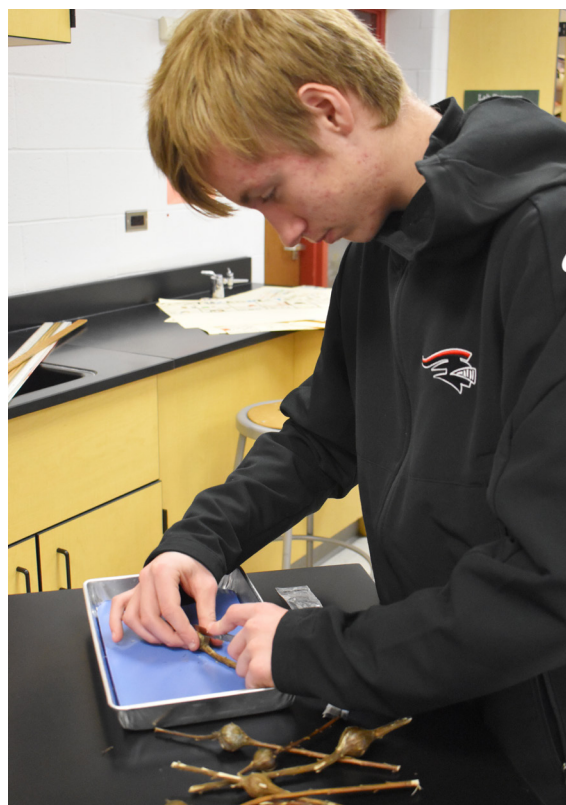
*Michael O'Brien, JSHS Principal • Phone: 315.696.6235 • Email: [mike.obrien@tullyschools.org](mailto:mike.obrien@tullyschools.org)*

## SAVE THE DATE

***Transition to HS for 8th Grade Parents  
February 5 at 6 p.m.***

## Backyard Science

Students in the Environmental Science class learned a little bit about what is in the field behind the school. Where the goldenrods grow, they collected several galls, or stalks, when the cold weather set in. On the galls, there were round tumors, some with holes in them, some without. Students learned that a fly lays eggs in the goldenrods and then their larvae travels down the gall, making itself at home and creating the tumor where they would live throughout the winter before maturing into a fly. The students analyzed and documented the state of the tumor and then cut into them to see what they could find. Many had live larvae in them, while others were empty due to predators. No matter what state they found their gall in, they were curious of the whole process. These students really learned that science is all around them, even in their very own (school) backyard!





## Leaving Their Mark Through Leadership



Several students at the JSHS have been taking advantage of opportunities afforded to them to become the best leaders they can be through Teen Institute and Daneli Leadership training. Teen Institute (TI) members help foster a community among the senior high and junior high students, but to do this, TI members must be reflective of themselves and their younger days at the JSHS. Three members attended the annual conference in Penn Yan this year, two being participants and one being a youth staff member. There, they learned how to lead by example, step out of their comfort zone, and focus on mental health. They attended workshops, listened to speakers, and performed a community service task. This four-day experience was well received by the students involved.



Students on the Student Council or who were nominated through their various leadership positions within the school attended a leadership conference here on campus with Paul Muench and the Daneli Partners. This is the third year of Daneli and it is expanding each year. Students learned about their leadership strengths and styles through a survey and then analyzed the data so they could use their strengths for the good of the school community. Later in the year, these same students will take a field trip to a few businesses to learn about leadership opportunities and how they pertain to the business world. We can't wait to see how these student leaders leave their mark!

## Speaking Spanish: Past, Present, and Future



Spanish III students have really been working on their Spanish speaking skills. During a unit focusing on childhood, Mrs. Stano got the JSHS staff involved. Short questionnaires were sent out and whomever wanted to participate, filled it out and returned it. Questions like "What was your favorite childhood memory?", "What show did you watch as a kid?", and "Did you have a favorite toy or item?" were on the form.



Thinking back was a fun endeavor for many. Spanish III students then received the information of one staff member and then interviewed another Spanish III student about it as part of an interpersonal task. They also compared their childhood to their assigned staff member for their presentational task. In the end, Spanish III students created a time capsule meant to be opened by another group of children fifty years from now.

Not only did students get to learn a little bit about the staff on campus, but they were able to share a little bit about themselves to our future students!



## Senior Spotlight - ANNA PIERCE



**People/Pets in your family:** Marnie (mom), Steve (dad), Shannon, Steven, Patrick, Dublin, Kruiser, Wanda.

**What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school?** I have learned how to be a part of a team and also how to lead a team. I have been extremely grateful to have been a part of many different sports teams and also teams inside the classroom. I also have learned how to work

with a lot of different people and how to use my strengths as well as others to find the best possible outcome for any situation.

**What is your proudest moment in high school so far?** My proudest moment in highschool so far is being a part of so many amazing and talented sports teams. They have taught me skills like leadership, teamwork, and sportsmanship, and I will continue to use these skills for the rest of my life. They have helped make me the person I am today and I am so grateful for that. I have made life-long friends and have made so many memories by being a part of Tully Athletics.

**What are your plans after high school?** I plan to attend college with the hopes of becoming a Physical Education teacher and also coach. I also hope to continue my softball career in college.

**Who's your hero and why?** My hero would have to be my dad. I look up to him in so many ways. He is always there to help me get over what I am going through and always gives his perspective on things to expand my view on the topic. While sometimes I am not a huge fan of what he is telling me after games, I know he is only there to help and is trying to make me the best I can be. He can always make me smile or laugh when he knows I am upset and never ceases to tell me he is proud of me. My dad is my hero because I want to be like him. I want to make people laugh and work hard to get things that I care about done.

## Senior Spotlight - CLAIRE ROBERTSON



**People/Pets in your family:** Becky Robertson (mom), Royce Robertson (dad), and Annabelle (dog).

**What has been the best part of your high school career and why?** The best part of high school would be going to BOCES for physical therapy and all of the clubs I have been able to be a part of.

**What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school?**

I have learned about hard work, friendships, and all of the traits to succeed in life.

**What is your proudest moment in high school so far?** My proudest moment in highschool was being accepted into my dream school for health professions. Along with that, also being accepted into the BOCES physical therapy program.

**What are your plans after high school?** I plan to attend Nazareth University to major in health sciences and later be accepted into a graduate program.

**Where do you see yourself in ten years?** In ten years, I see myself living in a new state or traveling as a physical therapist or a nurse. I see myself with a lot of animals, a loving family, and really close friends.

**Who's your hero and why?** I would say my hero is my mom because I see her persist through the most challenging times, not putting herself down, and giving everything to everyone else. She is my greatest role model and teaches me to be a better person.

## Community Wide Dialogue Exchange

Tully and the Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central (ITC) have been partnering for several years to facilitate the Community Wide Dialogue Exchange, an organization made up of students and adult allies to open up the discussion on perspective, environment, and equality. Each school hosts seminars throughout the year with different goals each time.

Tully welcomed ITC students in November, with stereotyping, perspective, and race up for discussion. Students and adult allies worked in both small groups and large groups, participating in activities to get the discussion rolling. ITC students then shadowed classes and had lunch with our students. When our students visit ITC, their day will look relatively similar. This program has been both insightful and engaging for all involved!



## Drama to the Fullest

Students in both buildings have been enjoying the finer things in life; that is, the fine arts. Drama is more than just an activity - it can be a lifestyle, which is why so many groups within the district promote the fine arts. Without the JH Student Council, the PTO, the administration's support, or other groups, these connections between the students and a world full of drama wouldn't happen.

Most recently, the seventh and eighth grade attended *Cinderella* at Syracuse Stage while the fourth graders enjoyed *Pandora's Suitcase* in house. While *Cinderella* is a tale as old as time, a creative spin with puppets was added. *Pandora's Suitcase*, a newer tale to the students, was about a girl who locked her fears and worries into a suitcase but carried them with her everywhere. Many students could relate to the main character as one of the many themes of the play was how friendships and families can change. Along with change can come big feelings and how to deal with them can be hard. *Pandora's Suitcase* was a great example of how to navigate these issues in a positive way.



Also this past semester, students in third grade enjoyed seeing the REV Theatre perform *Alice in Wonderland*, fourth grade was immersed in *Center of the Earth*, and fifth grade flew through *Amelia Earhart*. Third through fifth grade also welcomed REV Theatre into their classrooms for a workshop to learn about careers in the arts. Students learned that there are careers in design (wig, costume, makeup, set), construction, production, and advertising among others. Second semester will provide the kindergarten through second grade students with more entertainment from the REV Theatre.

What a wonderful thing for our students to experience! A big "Thank you!" to everyone who helps to make these opportunities happen!

## Internet Safety

Both the JSHS and TES welcomed Zach Warriner from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services for a presentation on internet safety. With the internet being at our students' fingertips consistently, this presentation was prevalent to all our students. He began at the JSHS explaining that he has worked in many different capacities as an officer and SRO but found that his experience was a great asset to helping in other ways. Warriner now works for the Missing Persons ClearingHouse and admitted that many missing people leave digital footprints which are clues to how they go missing. He let students know that they ought to be careful about oversharing information and that it is okay to say "no" and report anything that is inappropriate or bullying-like. He had students engage in his presentation and was able to keep their attention for the duration. He then took a trip over to the elementary and gave a similar presentation with age-appropriate videos and information. Parents then had an opportunity to attend a webinar later that evening to also gather information and resources regarding internet safety.

## Emergency School Closings

During the school year, there may arise emergency situations when school may close, be delayed, or dismiss early. Local radio stations and local news channels provide school-related closing information. This information is also posted on our website ([www.tullyschools.org](http://www.tullyschools.org)). Additionally, Tully Schools uses ParentSquare to send out emergency notifications. This notification system allows school administrators to contact all parents/guardians and staff by phone, email, and text, in order to communicate information about emergencies, school closings, delays, early dismissals, important school events, and reminders. This notification system uses the parent and staff contact information that we have on file in SchoolTool. Parents or guardians with questions regarding ParentSquare should contact Sherry Huggins at [sherry.huggins@tullyschools.org](mailto:sherry.huggins@tullyschools.org) or 315-696-6236.



## From the Superintendent



As we begin this exciting new year, we at Tully Central School District remain committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students. A secure learning environment is essential for students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

This commitment is strengthened by having two dedicated School Resource Officers (SROs) as part of our team: Officer Joe Lamoureux at the Junior-Senior High School and Officer Shannon Ray at the Elementary School. Their presence helps ensure a higher level of security and fosters strong, positive relationships between law enforcement and our school community.

In addition to our partnership with SROs, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has introduced important updates to the safety drills conducted throughout the school year. These changes are designed to make the drills more supportive and less stressful for students.

One significant update is the requirement for all drills to be trauma-informed. This approach prioritizes reducing stress and anxiety for students while maintaining the purpose of the drills: to prepare for potential emergencies. By adopting this method, we aim to ensure that students feel safe and supported during practice scenarios.

Another important change involves notifying parents/guardians in advance of upcoming drills. This new protocol allows families to prepare their children as they see fit, helping students approach these safety exercises with confidence and understanding.

We value the collaboration between our schools, families, and community partners in creating a secure and nurturing environment for all students. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding our safety initiatives, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we can ensure that Tully Central School District remains a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

**Darcy Woodcock, Superintendent • Phone: 315.696.6204**  
**Email: darcy.woodcock@tullyschools.org**

## Tully Free Library

**tullyfreelibrary.org • 315-696-8606**

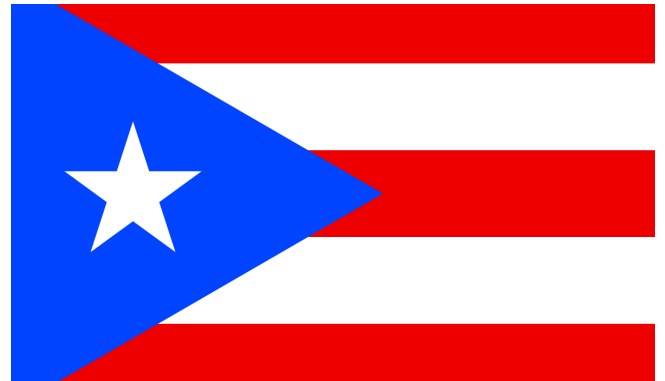
### Happy New Year!

We wish all students continued success in the second half of the school year!

Make sure to make the library part of your plans; our on-line resources can help with your homework and research. We have a small selection of books available for browsing, and you can order other items online and pick them up at our **temporary location at Tully United Community Church**.

Stop in and see us - winter is a great time to cozy up with a new book! Keep in mind that in just a couple months you'll be able to see us in our newly renovated building!

## Culture Corner Puerto Rico



Did you know that Puerto Rico is not actually a country but a US territory? This means that it has its own government and cannot vote in presidential elections but does have a representative to speak on Puerto Rico's behalf. And even though Puerto Rico is not a country, it still competes as an individual country in Miss Universe contests and the Olympics. Puerto Rico is located in the Caribbean and is not really an island but an archipelago, or string of islands. Puerto Rico is naturally warm and has the only tropical rainforest in the US. You will find many tree and animal species here, but the bird population is a sight to see. Another spectacular sight is the bioluminescent bays, which means they glow. If the natural wonders don't excite you, maybe the fine arts aspects will. Many famous people are indigenous to Puerto Rico such as Ricky Martin (singer), Benicio del Toro (actor), Roberto Clemente (baseball player), and Jennifer Lopez, aka JLo (singer/actress). For whatever reason you may want to go to Puerto Rico, you can visit this tropical paradise without a passport as technically it is part of the US.

## Board of Education Meetings

Meetings commence at 6:00 p.m. in the Junior-Senior High School Library unless otherwise specified.

Additional Special Meetings to be scheduled as needed. The planned schedule for Board of Education meetings for the 2024-2025 school year is as follows:

January 21, 2025  
 February 11, 2025  
 March 4, 2025  
 March 25, 2025  
 April 21, 2025  
 May 6, 2025  
 May 20, 2025  
 June 17, 2025



**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



Photo: Lt. Jackson Deal  
Visited 8th Grade English  
Classes

### JANUARY

- 6 JH/Mod. Winter II Sports Begin
- 17 SH Student Council Event, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 **Martin Luther King Day - No School**
- 21 BOE Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 21-24 Regents
- 24 JSHS MP2 Ends
- 29 **Asian Lunar New Year - No School**

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



@tully\_csd



Tully Central  
School District



tully\_csd