

Issue:  
January  
2024



# KNIGHT INSIGHT



*Save the Date:*

TES presents the musical **FINDING NEMO, Jr!** Feb 2 @ 7 pm & Feb 3 @ 2 pm 

## Fall-ing Into Fairy Tales

A Grimm Night Full of Laughs



The JSHS presented the *Brothers Grimm: A Spectaculathon* before the holiday break, leaving their audience in stitches. By narrating a montage of classical fairy tales, this witty and charismatic play gave the original tales a modern day spin. With a small cast (only twelve students), several students played more than one part. Between the on-stage costume change between four different characters, including accents, and a flock of birds, one student really showcased their talent while cracking the audience up.

Another character got up close and personal with an audience member, putting them on the spot and earning themselves a not-so-grim spotlight. No matter the character, the laughs kept coming. Senior Night was Friday evening where Ms. Fowler-Conner and Ms. Oliver gave their three seniors, Hannah Brenchley (tech coordinator), Sarah Kutty, and Carina Scalza, a farewell gift. This Grimm night turned out to be one for the books and full of laughter.



## Red Riding Hood Stops at TES



All students at the elementary school were treated to a special visit from Red Riding Hood in November. This tale as old as time was performed by Syracuse Stage in the newly renovated TES auditorium. The story was a spinoff from the original tale of *Red Riding Hood* with the characters switching roles due to a magic red cap.

Students enjoyed scenes depicting an Amazon delivery, a chase through the woods, and the characters of Red and Granny rowing through the wolf's belly to find the exit. Curious students were able to ask questions about the actors and props afterward. With a little humor and lots of interaction from the audience, Red Riding Hood's stop at TES was a fun one. A special thanks goes out to the PTO for sponsoring this event!



## Principal's Message



**Edward Kupiec**

315-696-6212 if you have any questions about pre-K or kindergarten.

It's hard to believe that at the end of January we will already be halfway through the school year! December was a big month for our 5th and 6th grade students. On December 1st, we held an "ugly sweater" dance where there was some spectacular fashion on display. Our Band and Chorus musicians wowed audiences with their talent at the annual winter concert evening performance and again during our school assembly. Finally, on the day before the winter break, they headed to the JMA Wireless Dome for the SU Women's Basketball Education Day to experience a high-level Division I Women's basketball game.

In P2, 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

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

## Ice, Ice, Crunch



The 5th and 6th grade chorus was invited to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" opening a Syracuse Crunch game. Students were led onto the ice with another school's chorus and each took a turn showing off their vocal talent. This has been a long-standing tradition; one in which TES hopes will continue for years to come. Students who voluntarily attend are invited to stay with their families and enjoy the game, and many do! It's a great night on the ice for TES chorus students and the hockey players!

## Allegro Honors Band



Ten TES band students were selected to participate in the Allegro Honors Band: David Adams (bari-saxophone), June Adams (percussion), Christopher Coon (percussion), Jackson Coon (flute), Reese Danega (bass clarinet), Carter Dodd (trombone), Sophia Guo (flute), Matthew Kolodziejczyk (alto-saxophone), Charlotte Lamoureux (clarinet), and Kenzie Woodcock (percussion). These students performed a concert with other students around the county in November. Congratulations to these students on their musical accomplishments!

## Ugly Sweaters Amped Up



Students in 5th and 6th grade got together at the beginning of December for their Ugly Sweater dance. Ugly Sweater parties have become a big hit in the past few years with many stores now selling silly, and sometimes outrageous, sweaters with pom poms, shiny adornments, and funny messages. This year, in addition to the ugly sweaters, some students went above and beyond, donning tutus, colored gems, fun holiday-themed glasses and hats, and even entire suits! With this new spin on the attire, we can foresee students amping up their holiday outfits, trying to have the most festive and creative holiday spirit!

## Friendsgiving

Collaboration between several TES teachers and the high school Psychology class has been taking place so the older students can study the stages of growth. Mrs. Hendricks, Mrs. Rauber, and Mrs. Hoke all welcomed the Psychology students into their classroom to read stories to their youngest peers during the month of November. The high school students



were then invited back for a Friendsgiving where they were able to model table manners and etiquette to Mrs. Hendricks' class.

The pre-K students and high school students enjoyed each other's company over a Thanksgiving themed table that was adorned with placemats that the pre-K students made themselves. Over cupcakes, cookies, and fruit, pre-K and high school students held their very own Friendsgiving that was sure to give warm memories to all involved.

## PTO News

We hope you are all enjoying the beautiful winter weather here in CNY and that your holiday season was plentiful. TES PTO would like to thank everyone for their participation in the winter Scholastic Book Fair. We hope everyone found something they are excited to read! We will be hosting an activity night in the near future for students and families to enjoy. More details will be sent out via ParentSquare once that date has been set. We will be planning for our largest fundraiser, the Read-A-Thon, over the next several months. Please remember that we meet virtually on the second Wednesday of each month via Zoom. Our next meeting will be January 10, 2024. 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.

## Coding for Dino Run

Computer Science Club has always been one that draws the attention of students that like to spend time on their computers and



know more about how programming works. Before break, TES students were working on recreating the Chrome Dino Runner game. Chunks of coding for the

game were provided but then students had to correct, change, or modify the rest. Students bounced ideas off each other and showed one another what they produced. This activity was in anticipation of them creating their own project, which could include games, interactive stories, or other things they thought of, using the tools at their disposal. Some of these coding concepts have been integrated into classroom curriculum and others are newly learned during club time, but Mr. DuVall, the Computer Science advisor, stated, "I started learning programming in 3rd grade here at Tully and I'm happy we're giving the next generations that same chance." This club also gives students the opportunity to see if they would be interested in working in fields such as computer engineering, computer programming, or network infrastructure. Coding for Dino Run could easily give students the building blocks for a future in the IT world.

## JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL

### Art News

Congratulations to Michael Walker for his photograph entitled "Work" being chosen as one of 23 finalists in the Bousquet Holstein 2023 Photography Contest. This year's theme was "Americana." Over 120 images were submitted to this year's competition. What a great photograph!



## Principal's Message



Michael O'Brien

Happy 2024! 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 26th. We would like to remind all families that we have Monday, January 15th off from school in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and students have a half day in the morning of Friday, January 26th. That morning, the Junior-Senior High School will have a building-wide Wellness Day! During Wellness Day, all students will have the opportunity to listen to speakers, attend fun group activities, and focus on their overall well-being for the day!

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 transcript information such as the types of courses, level of course rigor, and how a student performs throughout each course.

When students meet with their counselors, teacher recommendations are reviewed to facilitate conversations as we build next year's schedule for each student. Students who participate in honors, accelerated, Advanced Placement (AP), and college courses will be required to complete more work independently; engage in a higher level of critical thinking and problem solving; and be willing to write not only more frequently, but also longer pieces in styles that are new and/or unfamiliar. Depending on the course, there may be additional requirements such as labs, research projects, standardized tests, and lengthy writing assignments. Colleges offering courses at our school may require their own prerequisites and/or testing requirements that are beyond our control.

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 and every-other Wednesday.

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

**★ congratulations to BETH TUCKER, JSHS science Teacher, for becoming a NYS Master Teacher!**

## Honor Society Inductions



Both the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society held their induction ceremonies in November, honoring those who have excelled in their academics, leadership, service, and character. These students have much to be proud of! National Honor Society inducted four new members including Ella Hall, Garrett Lyon, Grace McKenna, and Colin Widrick. Spanish National Honor Society inducted nine new members including Lily Darling, Ben Fleckenstein, Lila Greczyn, Sarah Kutty, Nicholas Marinich, Carina Scalza, Alex Shaffer, Gabriella Tordel, and Colin Widrick. Congratulations to all of the new members for their hard work and dedication!

## Senior Spotlight - LILYTH DARLING



**People/Pets in your family:** Pati (mom), Barry (dad), Jesse (brother), Wishes (dog), Rudy (cat), Walter and Bruce (roosters)

**What has been the best part of your high school career and why?** The best part of my high school career has been all the clubs and activities I've been a part of. Participating in them has provided me with so many amazing opportunities and lifelong friend-

ships. I also had a lot of fun hanging out with friends after school during the meetings and events.

**What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school?** I learned time management is very important. I have been involved in so many clubs, activities, and dance throughout my high school experience. It took me a long time to realize that I can't be everywhere at once and I had to prioritize how I spend my time. I learned how to balance going to meetings, taking responsibility for officer positions, and making sure that school comes first.

**Who's your hero and why?** My hero is my grandmother, Harriet (Stella) Bonfe. She was the first generation born in the U.S and to attend college out of all seven of her siblings. Later on she became one of the first nurse practitioners in New York State and ran the medical clinic at SDC all while raising a family of six. She was always taking care of others until the day she died. My grandmother inspires me to never give up even when times are tough, to rise above, and to always give a helping hand to those in need.

## Senior Spotlight - MEGAN WEISBRODT



**People/Pets in your family:** Tammy Bean (mom), Elaina Weisbrodt, Hannah Weisbrodt, Emma Weisbrodt, Madelynn Bean (sisters), Matthew, Kevin, Josh, Erik Bean (step-brothers), Molly (dog), Mel and Del (horses)

**What has been the best part of your high school career and why?** Joining FFA has been the best part of my high school career. It is because of FFA that I have gained the knowledge and experience that I have. It has

given me numerous opportunities for success and friendships. Not many other clubs will have you traveling the country and meeting as many people as I have. If it weren't for FFA, I would not have the public speaking and leadership skills I have now.

**What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school?** I have learned the most from participating in FFA. It has taught me what a good leader looks like, and the vast opportunities and experiences that come from agriculture and FFA. I have learned a lot from all my years in FFA, either from contests or conventions and tours.

**What is your proudest moment in high school so far?** My proudest moment in high school is being part of a team that got first place in the state in the contest Quiz-Bowl. All of the practice that I put into it paid off by winning.

**What are your plans after high school?** I plan on attending a four year college and getting a degree in psychology.

**Where do you see yourself in ten years?** In ten years I see myself pursuing some sort of degree in psychology or agriculture.

## Engineering the Future



Students in Pre-Engineering are quickly becoming engineers of the future. Their latest project was designing and creating hovercrafts in which they attached a leaf blower to so they could hover over the floor. There was enough force that even a student was able to kneel on the hovercrafts and ride them in the hallway. With such a cool project underway, Mr. Longnecker's English class took a trip down

to the Tech hallway and watched each group deploy their hovercraft. Mr. Longnecker then had the students write articles on their observations. We enjoy seeing the collaboration between teachers on campus as well as all of the neat projects our students work on. These students are definitely engineering the future!

## No Bad Eggs Here!



The Physics class held their annual egg drop competition from the science wing stairwell in early November. This year, students had to create a safety capsule with a movie theme in mind. After creating their safety capsules, they had to successfully drop their eggs not once,

but twice, from the top of the staircase without their eggs cracking to fully succeed at the project. Mr. Locke was proud of his students' ingenuity as not one egg was broken this year! With all projects passing with flying colors, he asked the teachers to vote on their favorite design. Students used many types of materials including styrofoam, paper mache, and even a volleyball to portray a movie of their choice. The favorite among the staff was "Nuclear Eggspllosion" based off of *Oppenheimer*. Closely following was "Up, Up, and Eggway" from *Up* and "Shregg" from *Shrek*; however, all projects were creative and we can safely say that there were no bad eggs here!

Open Monday - Friday from 10 AM - 7 PM  
Saturdays 10 AM - 2 PM • Closed Sundays

## Tully Free Library

tullyfreelibrary.org  
12 State Street • 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; we have many resources to help with homework and research, as well as offering access to books, movies, games, and more if you want to chill out with some entertainment!

The library was recently awarded grant money by the American Library Association, which we will use to help support the neurodivergent population in our area. We are holding a community conversation later this month where we invite everyone interested to give us feedback on how we can spend the money to best support you in the use of our library. Please see our website for the date and time of this event, as plans were still being finalized when this newsletter went to print.

We hope to see you at the library soon!

## Teen Institute Conference



Four Teen Institute (TI) students represented Tully at the four-day annual TI Conference in Penn Yan in early November where they learned about leadership skills, coping skills, and media literacy.

Back in May, we shared that Elaina Iozzo applied and was chosen to be a TI youth staff member for this conference. She attended a training at the end of summer to prepare for the conference and then helped lead discussions and "family group time" while there. In addition, three new members, Bryce Keller, Rowan Usherwood, and Molly Verbanic, signed up to attend as youth members.

While there, Bryce was awarded the Paul Noyd Award. Noyd was a Tully alumni and long-time adult TI staff member. After his passing, two students have been chosen for this award each year in his honor, representing someone with the same caring qualities.

We are proud of these students as they all represented Tully well in their endeavors to become peer leaders.

## DISTRICT NEWS

### Emergency School Closings

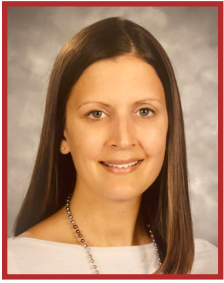
During the school year, there may arise emergency situations when school may close, be delayed, or dismiss early. Local radio stations and local news channels provide school-related closing information. This information is also posted on our website ([www.tullyschools.org](http://www.tullyschools.org)). 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.

### Clothing Our Community

The district held a clothing giveaway for families in the district during the November Parent/Teacher Conference Day and it was a huge success. Items such as coats, snow pants, and baby clothes were donated aplenty. Families that came in were able to choose from all sizes and a variety of styles. Some even brought their children so they could choose what they liked the most. Over half of the clothes donated found new homes for the winter. It is the district's hope to hold this event again. If you are a family in need, you can always contact the nurse's office of your child's school. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who donated to make this event a successful one, and to Jacklyn Vassallo who led the task to help clothe our community!



## From the Superintendent



Happy New Year! I hope the holiday season was relaxing and enjoyable. As we navigate through the academic year, I am pleased to share two significant updates regarding initiatives aimed at enhancing the educational experience within our schools.

First, we are proud to announce the establishment of a comprehensive District Mental Health Team, consisting of dedicated professionals committed to supporting the well-being of our students. This interdisciplinary team is composed of our social workers, school counselors, school psychologist, nurses, and administrators.

Together, these individuals bring a wealth of experience and expertise to address the diverse mental health needs of our students from prekindergarten through twelfth grade. Recognizing the importance of mental health in the overall development of our learners, the development of this team will provide a holistic and proactive approach to supporting the well-being of our school community.

Second, in our ongoing efforts to ensure academic excellence, we are in the process of unpacking priority standards across grade levels. This detailed analysis of NYS learning standards will guide our curriculum development and instructional strategies. Additionally, we are excited to inform you that a new Curriculum and Instruction section will be introduced on our website soon. This platform will serve as a valuable resource for parents, guardians, and educators, offering insights into our curriculum framework, instructional methodologies, and ways to support student learning at home.

We believe these updates reflect our commitment to fostering a positive and thriving learning environment for all students. Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement in the Tully Central School District. Together, we can continue to provide an excellent education for our students.

**Darcy Woodcock, Superintendent • Phone: 315.696.6204**  
**Email: [darcy.woodcock@tullyschools.org](mailto:darcy.woodcock@tullyschools.org)**

## Culture Corner Turkey



Did you know that the country of Turkey is located in Asia and in Europe? Istanbul, Turkey's largest city, connects these two continents like a bridge. If you are a fan of shopping, hazelnuts, tea, or tulips, this might be a country you may want to put on your travel list. Turkey is home to the world's oldest and largest market with over 4,000 stores called the Grand Bazaar - surely every shopper could find something here! Maybe you could find Nutella - something that many of us love. How amazing is it that over 75% of the world's hazelnut export comes from Turkey! While many people may like the market, they may also love to visit the tulip fields. Turkey actually introduced the tulip to Holland, which is known for their tulip fields, but Turkey is just as plentiful and it is Turkey's national flower. After a day of shopping and tulips, you could warm up with a cup of tea. Tea is a most beloved drink in Turkey and can be found on every corner and in almost every home. Talking of Turkey may make you reminisce about your Thanksgiving dinner not too long ago, but how about reminiscing on Christmas a bit? Turkey is where Santa Claus (St. Nicholas) was born! With long, luxurious scenic coastlines, grand mountainous ranges, and fun cultural aspects, it is no wonder that Turkey is the sixth most visited destination worldwide! With student connections to Turkey here at Tully and Turkey's many interesting cultural aspects, it would be worth your while learning about this amazing country!

## Board of Education Meetings

The planned schedule for Board of Education meetings for the 2023-2024 school year is as follows:

January 16, 2024	May 7, 2024 ( <i>Public Budget Hearing</i> )
February 13, 2024	
March 5, 2024	May 21, 2024 ( <i>Budget Vote &amp; Elections</i> )
March 26, 2024	
April 17, 2024	June 11, 2024

## 2023/24 Board Members

2025	Mrs. Ryan Chatfield	<a href="mailto:boe.rchatfield@tullyschools.org">boe.rchatfield@tullyschools.org</a>
2026	Ms. Jessica McAnaney	<a href="mailto:boe.jmcananey@tullyschools.org">boe.jmcananey@tullyschools.org</a>
2024	Dr. Andrea Mourey	<a href="mailto:boe.amourey@tullyschools.org">boe.amourey@tullyschools.org</a>
2025	Mrs. Bettemae Russell	<a href="mailto:boe.brussell@tullyschools.org">boe.brussell@tullyschools.org</a>
2026	Ms. Cheryl Wayne	<a href="mailto:boe.cwayne@tullyschools.org">boe.cwayne@tullyschools.org</a>
2024	Mr. Edward Wortley, II	<a href="mailto:boe.ewortley@tullyschools.org">boe.ewortley@tullyschools.org</a>
2024	Vacancy	

**TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOLS**  
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## TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS



### JANUARY

- 5 District Holiday - Martin Luther King Day
- 8 JH/Mod. Winter II Sports Begin
- 10 No Late Buses
- 12 SH Student Council Event, 7:00 p.m.
- 16 BOE Meeting, 6:00 p.m.  
Winter II Sports Pictures
- 23-26 Regents
- 24 No Late Buses
- 26 JSHS MP2 Ends/Half Day for Students

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



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Tully Central  
School District



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