



Table of Contents

Tully Elementary	2
Tully Junior/Senior High School	4
District News	6
Community News	7
Calendar	8

Alumni News

Hannah Holland, Class of 2011 and NTID/RIT class of 2015, is currently spending a semester in Dubai, UAE, working at RIT's Dubai campus as an American Sign Language interpreter. In January, 2018, Hannah joins the RIT faculty as a staff interpreter. Hannah developed her love of ASL in her Junior year at Tully, when a distance learning ASL course was offered for the first time.

Communities Kickin' Cancer



On October 1st two great communities came together to raise money in support of the fight against cancer. The Varsity Boys Soccer teams for both Tully and Fabius, and their coaches, had the second annual Communities Kickin' Cancer Soccer game. This year the event was dedicated to Donna Vogel; a founding parent of the Tully Boys Soccer Club, a dedicated community member, outstanding employee of the Tully CSD and loving parent. Donna was also one of the parents who worked with the coaches to bring this amazing fundraiser to our communities.

Last year \$7,000 were raised and donated to the Carol Baldwin Foundation. This year \$11,000 were raised for Cancer Connects and \$1,000 for Braiden, a Tully student who is fighting cancer right now. In order to raise the funds, t-shirts and memory soccer balls were sold weeks before the game, and the community and area businesses were asked for donations for the night of **...continued on page 2**

Black Knight Athletics

Tully saw a tremendous amount of athletic success in the fall of 2016. Varsity Girls Soccer finished the season with a 16-2-1 record, eventually losing in the Sectional semi-finals to Watertown IHC 2-1 in overtime. The girls had impressive wins in sectionals over Cato-Meridian (7-0) and Beaver River (2-1). The Tully Varsity Boys Soccer team took an 8-5-3 record



into the sectional tournament. The boys beat Beaver River 1-0 in overtime in the first round, then lost to Thousand Islands in penalty kicks 5-4, in the Sectional Quarter Finals, to finish 9-6-3 this fall. Varsity Football was taken out of the NFF division and put back in the State Tournament division. Heavy graduation from the 2015 team left many holes and questions for Coach Keysor and his staff. The team had a difficult 2016 schedule, having to play several state ranked teams, but was able to finish with an overall 3-4 record and qualified for the Sectional Tournament. The team's first round game was against General Brown who was ranked #1 in NYS. The boys played a great game, but lost the game to finish 3-5. The fall cheerleaders had one of the biggest teams in recent memory on the sidelines of the boys' football games. The girls were enthusiastic, well-choreographed and supportive of the boys all season! The fall of 2017 will birth a new chapter of high school football, as Tully, Lafayette, and Fabius-Pompey plan to combine teams together to form *Southern Hills* football. More information and details about this combination will be coming later this year. Our Boys and Girls Cross Country teams had highly successful seasons once again. Both teams won Patriot League Championships and both **...continued on page 4**

From the Desk of the Elementary School Principal



Edward Kupiec

Last month, I wrote briefly about parent-teacher conferences and suggested an online search to help parents make the most of this opportunity. Parent-teacher conferences are one example of home & school partnerships. Parent/Guardian involvement in their child's education is an important contributor to student success. It is more difficult for students to succeed if home and school are working in isolation. While there are 24 hours in a day, students are only in school for 6-7 hours of that time. Neither of us can accomplish alone what we can do together. When adults are partners with the school in education:

- Student academic achievement and daily attendance in school is increased.
- Communication between home and school is more positive, frequent, and focused on student achievement.
- Parents and Guardians become more familiar with the school curriculum and academic expectations.

Here are some ways that parents/guardians can partner with the school to help their student maximize success:

- For students in 5th and 6th grade, you can log in to SchoolTool and stay up to date on assignments and student grades.
- Contact teachers through email to ask questions or share information that may be helpful to them in providing instruction to your student. Please share the positives and successful strategies too! Don't be afraid to ask for a parent conference or a phone call if you would prefer.
- Join the PTO and if possible, sign-up to be a parent volunteer in the classroom.
- Ask your student(s) about their day at school everyday. One strategy to avoid the common replies of "I don't know" or "Nothing" is to ask them to identify the highlight of their day, the low part of their day, and something that they would like to change. If students would prefer to write about it, let them do so; non-fiction writing is one of the best ways to boost critical thinking. If it's worth doing, it's worth writing about it.
- Help students with homework and/or check their work. If they struggle, don't make them suffer for hours. Instead, ask them what they were having difficulty with and then let the teacher know so they can help out.
- Consistency. Differing expectations between home and school can be difficult for our young students to navigate. The more closely aligned we are together, the easier it is for all of us to help them succeed.

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Communities Kickin' Cancer

...continued from page 1 the event. In addition to the soccer match, the National Anthem was sung by choirs representing both schools, the teams did t-shirt dedications to people important to them who have been touched by cancer, the 5th and 6th grade teams played games prior to the match, face and portrait painting was done by talented students, concessions were sold, and various other activities were enjoyed by the fans the night of the game. This event could not have happened without the incredible support and donations from students, the Tully and Fabius-Pompey CSD staff and teachers, parents and the communities. Thank you to all those who helped the Tully and Fabius Varsity Boys teams surpass their expectations. Everyone is looking forward to next year's event, to see soccer at its finest when the Tully varsity boys take on Fabius-Pompey in the hopes to capture the ROUTE 80 CUP back from FP, who won the Cup this year.

Black Knight Athletics



...continued from page 1 teams won their OHSL Patriot League Meet championship races as well. Coach Rauber and Coach Paccia have their teams peaking at the right time, as they are currently preparing for the Class D Sectional Tournament on Saturday November 5, 2016 at Chittenango HS.



Winter Coaching Staff

Volleyball Staff

Head Varsity - Denise Abbott

Head JV - Ashley Morabito

8th Grade - Michelle Gazdik

7th Grade - Sue Hardy

Girls' Basketball Staff

Head Varsity - Jeff Russell

Head JV - Jayne Morse

8th Grade - Bill Donald

7th Grade - Tim Villhauer

Indoor Track Staff

Head B/G Varsity - Jim Paccia

Assistant Coach - Emily Paccia

Boys' Basketball Staff

Head Varsity - Ryan Dando

Head JV - Don McClure

8th Grade - DJ Charles

7th Grade - Charlie Locke

Winter Cheer - Paula Harty

Top Ten Ways to Be the Best Math Student One Can Be



Tully Middle Schoolers recently spent some time during math class brainstorming how to be successful math students. Mrs. Schult, Mrs. Leuze, Mrs. Edinger and Mrs. Hardy compiled their suggestions and created the following top ten list:

1. Be an Active Learner - Asking questions, taking notes, sharing their answers and giving explanations helps students take ownership of learning.
2. Listen and Learn from Each Other - Listening to teachers and other students allows students to learn from each other, even when others make mistakes. Some of the best learning comes from working through misunderstandings of math concepts, "Profit from others," one 5th grade student remarked.
3. Be a Close Reader and Carefully Follow Directions - Students learn to "close read" by underlining important math information to ensure they complete the task at hand.
4. Ask for Help when Needed - Students recognize that math skills build on one another through the years. They suggest asking teachers for extra help either during class, study hall, or after school. As a student said, "It never hurts to ask." Another idea is to find creative ways to remember math skills by either making a poster or using sayings or other memorization strategies.
5. Practice, Practice, Practice - Students know spending more time practicing math skills improves understanding. Completing homework, using Castle Learning or other math fact practice programs were suggested as ways to attain mastery of math skills.
6. Take Pride in Your Work - Math work especially has to be neat and organized in order for students to come to a complete and accurate solution or answer. Students emphasized caring about how you do in school and carefully checking your work. "Make sure you are on your 'A' game," suggested a 6th grade student.
7. Stay Positive - Having a positive attitude allows students to "keep an open mind" and not let anything get in the way of success in math.
8. Be Prepared - Students emphasized the importance of having the materials needed for math class/homework (math journal, pencil etc.).
9. Take Risks in Your Learning - Students talked about the importance of "just getting started." They believe that once you take that first step it will help you move forward especially when you apply strategies such as drawing what you know.
10. Persevere in Your Learning - Students realize that some math will be challenging and mastering a skill doesn't always happen right away. "Keep working and you will get there!" Pride comes from hard work and accomplishment, which leads to success.

In reviewing this list, one can see all students can benefit from these suggestions, leading to improvement in their understanding of math. Additionally, many of the suggestions these middle schoolers attribute to math success are good recommendations that can be applied not only to all academic subjects, but to life in general. Be the best person you can be everywhere!

Tully Elementary School - PTO

PTO meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of every month at 7pm in the faculty lounge. You can join the PTO Facebook page @ Tully Elementary PTO. You can join the PTO email list @ pto@k12.tullyschools.org

Mission Statement: The purpose of this organization is to promote cooperation between parents and teachers for the good of the students and to provide enrichment activities and programs for the students in Tully Elementary School.

Tully Elementary Library

Collaboration is not just a buzz word in education today. It is a reality at Tully Elementary School. Students are encouraged and taught how to properly complete tasks together, in an effective and efficient manner. In the library, fourth graders recently



completed a map of New York State, requiring a great deal of collaboration. They will probably admit, it was not easy. However, the result was astounding. Students researched landforms, cities, and the chief products of New York State. Then, they came together to create a map for display. This has been a work in progress as we moved through our Social Studies and ELA units.



From the Desk of the JSHS Principal



Mary Ann Murphy

Communication between home and school is crucial to the success of every child. When students enter junior high and then high school, there are critical transitions that occur where guidance from parents is just as important as guidance from teachers. This is a time when parents' involvement also transitions. Sometimes parents are relieved that their child is old enough to navigate the waters of school without a lot of assistance. While educators at the secondary level agree that there needs to be increased independence on the students' part, we also believe that parents must help to foster and guide that independence.

School-to-home communication takes place in numerous ways: calendars, emails, parent portal access to grades, websites, social media apps, newsletters, etc. Although these things may make it seem easier to stay on top of school-to-home communication, we acknowledge that it can also be difficult for busy parents. To complicate things, sometimes adolescents don't want to communicate about what is happening in classes at school, but it is very important for parents to ask anyway. Wait for an answer. Read their essays. Read the same books that are being read for school. Check homework for completion. Even if parents don't know the subject matter, many times just reading the directions of an assignment can say a lot about what is going on in school.

On occasion, problems may occur that need to be addressed either by teachers or parents and making sure that each side is working towards an amicable conclusion is best for the student. Neither parents nor teachers want to be blind-sided by lack of communication. This is where students need help. At the junior and senior high levels, they are learning how to advocate for themselves and to interact with their teachers on their own behalf. Parents can help their child by giving tips on the best way to approach a subject or by role playing a conversation at home. Secondary teachers appreciate it when adolescents attempt to handle things on their own. Parents know their children best and should step in when they feel it is necessary.

Mary Ann Murphy, Jr/Sr High School Principal
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STAR Club Tackles Bullying Awareness

STAR Club, Students Taking an Active Role, has been off to a great start. Students in grades 7 and 8 can still join this club, which is promoting positive behaviors, service, character building, and prevention of drug and alcohol use. Please see Mrs. Newton if you would like to join.

Throughout the beginning of the school year, members of STAR club met to get ready for Unity Day, which was on October 19th. The theme of Unity Day was Unite Together to Stop Bullying. Faculty and students were encouraged to wear Orange on Unity Day. Members of STAR Club created posters regarding bullying and placed them throughout the school, created a bulletin board in the Junior High Wing, and helped make announcements regarding bullying to be shared with all students. Additionally, on Unity Day, STAR club members talked with students about bullying, encouraged students to sign a pledge to not bully, support those who are bullied, and gave each student an orange ribbon to wear.

Faculty Spotlight



Name: Mónica Abrams
Subject/Area: Spanish Teacher
Family: Tom, husband; Helene, daughter; Walter, son; and Woody, dog
Favorite Quote: "The world is at your feet"
Known for: Greeting students en español, always, no matter where I see them.

What is one thing you want people to know about you?

I am from Quito, Ecuador, as a result what I teach my students is not just my subject but also an important part of who I am and where I come from. I am very proud of my heritage. I strive to instill in my students curiosity, acceptance and respect for people of other countries and cultures.

What has been the best part of your experience at Tully Central School District?

Getting to know the students very well because often I teach them for many consecutive years. Year after year I am lucky to see them grow not only in Spanish, but also as young men and women. There is a special relationship that many times continues even after they graduate. I always ask them to come back after they graduate from Tully HS and visit me in order to tell me the great things they are doing.

Other than being actively involved in the school district, what other hobbies and activities do you have or participate in?

I participated in the wonderful fundraiser Communities Kickin' Cancer, I am the Central New York representative for the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. I love to spend time with my family, read, garden and watch movies. I can't read too much during the school year because once I get hooked, I can't put the book down! I have a passion for traveling which I think I have passed on to my two amazing children.

Who/What is your biggest inspiration?

My mother is my biggest inspiration. She was the first person in my family to come to the United States. Now that I have my own children, I can't imagine how hard it must have been for her to leave me (five years old) and my brother (nine years old) for eight years. That's how long it took for her to get her residence card and it was only because she got help from a very influential family. She taught my brother and I to value our education, work hard and to be proud of who we were. No matter how hard our life was sometimes, she always looked ahead to the future. My parents, my brother and I have come a long way from those early beginnings. We are very proud of what we have done with our lives and thankful for the opportunities we've had in this country.

Tully Drama Club

The 2nd Annual Tully Follies, sponsored by the Tully High School Drama Club and hosted by Ms. and Mr. Paccia, was a huge success. The event brought together, and highlighted, the talents and good spirits of our staff, athletes, musicians, actors, and anyone else who wanted a chance to get on stage. The Mega Food Challenge was a big hit again this year and new events, such as "Pie-in-the-Eye" and "Mythbusters" added to the fun. Well over 200 parents, students, and faculty members came out in support of the show. In case you missed this year's Follies, stay tuned for next year's and don't forget to check out Little Shop of Horrors, which runs from March 2nd through March 4th.

Thank you for supporting Tully's Drama Club: we hope to see you soon!

TTA Scholarship - Save the Date - Trunk and Treasure Sale

Each year the Tully Teachers' Association provides a \$4,000 scholarship to a graduating senior. Recipients of the scholarship receive \$1,000 annually for up to four years of full time study at an accredited college. In an effort to fundraise for this scholarship, we will be hosting our Second Annual Trunk and Treasure Sale in the Parking Loop and Lot of the Junior-Senior High. This year's event will be held on Saturday, May 13th from 9am-1pm.

Community members will pay one fee to the TTA Scholarship Program to reserve a space, and then may keep all of their earnings. Individuals who register for a spot by March 13 will pay only \$10 for a spot.

Please contact Jennifer Newton at 696-6238 or jnewton@tullyschools.org for more information.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: YING CHEN



Family: Mom, Xiaobao; Dad, Jikun; and Brother, Joel.

What has been the best part of your high school career and why? The best part of my high school career was interacting with people everyday and learning new things.

What have you learned by the activities you have participated in outside of school? You will only be successful if you work hard with optimism and perse-

verance.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far? My proudest moment was probably doing well in APUSH (Advanced Placement United States History) because I do not do well in social studies. It was surprising that I actually understood it.

What are your plans after high school? I plan to enroll in a college for art and begin my path to a career. But before I go, I would love to go back to Georgia and visit my family.

What do you hope to achieve by the time you're 30 years old? I hope that I have become successful and finally being able to do something I love.

If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be and what would you talk about? First, I would invite Barack Obama because I would love to become acquainted with the President. Second, I would invite Oprah because she has been my idol since childhood. I guess we would talk about politics and the key to success.

What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them? I have faced the challenges of procrastination and laziness which I have yet to overcome.

Who's your hero and why? My hero is Kimberly Welch because she always tells me to follow my dreams against all opposition.

Skylar Kays was highlighted in an article in the November Knight Insight. In that issue, her name was spelled incorrectly. We apologize for this error.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: TROY PHILLIPS



Family: Mom, Loretta Edinger; Stepdad, James Edinger; Dad, Tom Phillips, Sister, Chelsea Phillips.

What has been the best part of your high school career and why? The best part of my high school career has been meeting amazing people through all different sorts of ways.

What have you learned by the activities you have participated in outside of school? I have learned how to be a fair

leader and how to really bond with people I wouldn't normally bond with.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far? Every time I step on the starting line in cross country and believe in myself and my team.

What are your plans after high school? I hope to attend Wells College and study political science and history. After that I plan on getting into politics.

What do you hope to achieve by the time you're 30 years old? Hopefully, I will have a good career with plenty of opportunity. I hope to run after college as well.

If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be and what would you talk about? I would invite Bill Clinton and Barack Obama to dinner. We would talk about politics and the country. I would try to make a difference and make the world a better place.

What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them? When I was a freshman, I broke my leg and fought hard to make it back to where I am today. It took hard work, but it was worth it.

Who's your hero and why? My hero is Willem Rebergen, a Dutch music producer. Apart from being a music producer, Rebergen acts as an activist and a spiritual mentor. He has been a very big part of my life for a few years now. He indirectly pushed me into finding my spiritual and social beliefs.

Letter from the Board

Dear District Residents:

Over the course of the past few years, through sound financial management and planning, school board members past and present have worked with our superintendent of schools to enhance educational opportunities for our students, and to improve our students' learning environment. This has been accomplished despite a very difficult fiscal climate. Specifically:

- We have reinstated teaching, advisory, and coaching positions eliminated during the financial downturn.
- We have added an activity period to the end of the school day, allowing students to receive additional academic support, and providing increased opportunity to participate in co-curricular clubs and activities.
- We have added the position of Director of Security and Safety, creating a safer school environment.
- We have reopened the JSHS fitness center for community usage, and have resurrected a print version of the Knight Insight, both at a lower cost than had been done in the past.
- We anticipate offering driver education to our students beginning in the spring or summer of 2017.
- We have replaced our fleet of buses through an innovative new leasing program, improving bus safety for our students, while reducing ongoing annual maintenance costs and minimizing repair costs.
- We have implemented an energy savings program, creating a healthier learning environment for our students, and reducing annual energy costs by approximately \$170,000.
- We have refinanced debt, resulting in an annual savings of approximately \$10,000.
- We have replaced several of our maintenance vehicles, enabling us to improve the conditions of our playing fields for our students, and allowing us to better maintain our parking lots in the winter. The district secured grants of approximately \$175,000 to offset these expenses.
- We have replaced our video surveillance system, allowing us to better monitor common spaces across the school campus. We did so using SmartBond funds, thus not adding to the local tax burden.
- We have replaced our old phone system with a VoIP phone system, allowing for easier communication within the district and enhanced communication between our schools and local fire/police agencies. This VoIP phone system will also reduce our annual phone expenses.
- We have restructured our food service department, providing better service for our students, in spite of current nutritional mandates. Additionally, our food service program has gone from incurring annual losses, to becoming financially self-sustaining.

Looking to the future, we will continue to explore cost-effective ways to meet the educational needs of our students. One of our biggest challenges in doing so will be making sure that our school buildings provide safe, clean, and comfortable learning environments for our students. Toward this goal, we will be holding a referendum on December 13th, during which we will be asking district residents to vote on a \$12.3 million capital project. The primary objectives of this proposed capital project are to repair our aging infrastructure and to enhance school security and safety. Because of many of the cost saving initiatives listed above, we will be able to make these capital improvements at little additional cost to the local taxpayer.

Sincerely,
Tully Board of Education

BOARD of EDUCATION

Meeting Dates

Location: JSHS Conference Room or JSHS Library. Time: 6:00 pm

Dates, time and location subject to change and additional special meetings to be scheduled on an as needed basis. Check the school website for updates:

www.tullyschools.org

December 19	Monday
January 23	Monday
February 13	Monday
March 7	Tuesday
March 21	Tuesday
April 4	Tuesday
April 24	Monday
May 9	Tuesday
May 16	Tuesday
June 20	Tuesday



Board Members

**Term expires June 30 of year listed*

2019	Mr. Mark Drumm , President (315) 696-5958
2017	Mr. James Bertolo , Vice President (315) 696-8786
2019	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

Tully Regional Enrichment Program



Tully TREP learners explore the concept of community with their Syracuse University graduate student teachers. Students in fourth grade explore community through art and science with Kristin Kent and Stephanie VanDusen. Here they show off their tie-dyed art aprons. Students in second and third grade are learning about the history of their community at a visit to Tully Area Historical Society. Their student teachers are Jennifer Palmer and Alissa Main.



Community Volunteer Hours Opportunity!!

**Relay For Life is coming
to your community at Beak & Skiff in 2017!**

Your American Cancer Society is seeking volunteers to be part of the NEW local Relay For Life celebration! This fun, family friendly event is a perfect way for YOU to be involved in the fight against cancer in your community.

Please contact us to find out the many different ways you can be involved. Call or email Ashley Johnson at 315-433-5633 or ashley.johnson@cancer.org.

Learn more about Relay For Life by visiting our website at relayforlife.org/applecountryny.

Tully Parks and Recreation News

1st and 2nd Grade Basketball for Boys & Girls begins Saturday January 7, 2017 at Tully High School Gymnasiums. The time is yet to be decided.

You can register by visiting our website at www.tullyschools.org on the Community Page; send an email - tulyparksrec@gmail.com, or we will be sending flyers home "Back Pack Express" in early December.

Tully Parks and Rec needs Volunteer Coaches!!!!

Experience not necessary! Parents, grandparents, high school students or community members interested in volunteering their time to coach or assist a Rec Sport please email: tulyparksrec@gmail.com (Ryan Dando-Parks & Rec Supervisor)



Article Submission Guidelines

Welcome to the return of the printed Knight Insight. We will also continue to post the newsletter on the school website.

There is no issue scheduled for the month of January 2017. Articles are due to the district by December 20 for the February issue.

We must adhere to the deadline in order to publish each issue in a timely manner. All material is subject to editing. The district has the final decision whether or not to publish an article.

If you would like to submit an article, please email articles to Mary Fisher at the Tully Central School District Office at mfisher@tullyschools.org. If you have any questions, please call (315) 696-6204.

It is requested that all articles be emailed in Word format whenever possible. Please do not capitalize all the words in the article. Please do not insert or embed a picture within the actual Word article. **Pictures should be emailed in JPG format at 300 dpi.**

TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOLS
20 State Street, Tully NY 13159

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TO: LOCAL POST OFFICE BOXHOLDER
OR RURAL ROUTE PATRON

TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS

December

Tues	6	JSHS Band Concert, 7pm Proposed Capital Improvement Project Community Forum, JSHS Library, 6pm
Tue	13	JSHS Chorus Concert, 7pm Capital Project Vote, ES conference room 6am – 9pm
Thurs	15	Grades 5 and 6 Holiday Concert, 7pm

Mon	19	BOE Meeting, 6pm
Mon	26 thru	Holiday Recess - No classes
Mon	Jan 2	

