



Tully Hosts Kickin' Cancer for the First Time



For the past nine years, the Kickin' Cancer soccer games have been hosted by Fabius-Pompey, but this year it was agreed upon that Tully would host the games for the first time. Faculty, parents, and students pulled together to make the day fun for spectators and memorable for those they were honoring. The concession stand was open with lots of goodies, milkshakes were handed out, raffles were won, and respect was given to those honored by the teams.

The ceremony before the games where each player gifted a t-shirt to a cancer survivor or a family member in honor of their battle was documented with lots of hugs. The weather was bright and beautiful as the players took the field and both games were played well. Both the Tully girls and boys teams won the Route 80 cup, making the event even more memorable for the Tully spectators; but the best takeaway was that \$17,500 was raised to be donated to the Upstate Cancer Center - the second largest grossing amount donated by the event. Both the Fabius-Pompey and Tully communities should be proud of the difference that they are making for those in need! Special thanks to EDL Photography, Deb Putnam, and Lisa Salisbury Hackley for capturing the moments!



Fall Inductions



The National Honor Society (NHS) and the Spanish National Honor Society (Spanish NHS) held their fall induction ceremonies in the JSHS auditorium in November. This special night honored students that have gone above and beyond in their academics and service. The Spanish NHS welcomed quite a large group this year into the chapter. These students included Sydney Arnott, Kyla Campoy, Anna Congelli, Brennan Dilmore, Abbey Durbin, Lane Greczyn, Hannah Hazen, Nicholas Hobart, Bryce Keller, Jacob Kowalewski, Wyatt Lund, Sean Mize, Aurora Randall, Elise Spencer, Molly Verbanic, Gwyneth Wilbur, and Julia Wortley. Many of these students, who were inducted into the NHS last year, welcomed singular new member Elise Spencer into their chapter as well, making it a double induction night for her. The National Junior Honor Society will induct new members in the spring and the NHS will welcome juniors into their fold then as well. We are proud of all these students who put forth great effort and commitment into their education!

Principal's Message



The last three years of Halloween parades have seen extreme weather. Two years ago there was a snowstorm, last year we had record warmth, and this year students braved damp and windy conditions to put on a proud outdoor procession for their families in this annual tradition. The Class of 2026 also visited for the traditional senior parade.

By the time this issue is printed, we will already be about one-third of the way through the school year. On November 4th, parent-teacher conferences were held to provide parents an opportunity to discuss student progress to date. These conferences are an important way we try to work as partners in education with our families. On December 11th, our Band and Chorus will perform in the TES auditorium, which is the same day as the District Capital Project vote. Please make sure to take time to vote either before or after the concert.

We are seeing the typical increases in illnesses like cold, flu, and strep throat. Please make sure to keep students home if they have a fever or are not feeling well so we can try to limit the spread of all illnesses. Students who have a fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit and are sent home from school must stay home at least the next day. They must be fever free without the aid of fever-reducing medicine for at least twenty-four hours. There are a lot of exciting things happening in the District in 2026. Enjoy this time and the holiday season!

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

PTO News



Summer Read-a-Thon participants

Greetings from the Tully Elementary School PTO! We hope that you are enjoying this holiday season. Thank you to all the families that participated in the summer Read-a-Thon and our winter Scholastic Book Fair! Tully's students work hard at their reading and each book fair provides the PTO with a great opportunity to raise funds needed for field trips, classroom supplies, teacher appreciation gifts, and more!

Please check on the happenings of TES PTO by visiting and joining our Facebook Group "Tully Elementary PTO" or the PTO page on the Tully School website. Our meetings are typically held virtually on the first Thursday of the month, unless otherwise indicated. A link to the meeting will be sent out via ParentSquare as well as being posted on our Facebook page. All parents of TES students are welcome and encouraged to attend!

We are a 501(c)(3) organization and gladly accept tax exempt donations. A huge thank you to Jack McNerney Chevrolet for their generous donation! Please inquire if you wish to make a donation. Thank you for your continued support of the TES PTO!

PreK/K Registration

Tully Central School is starting the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration process for the 2026-2027 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 four years of age, but not yet reach age five, by December 1, 2026. Eligibility applies to students born between December 2, 2021 and December 1, 2022. For the 2026-2027 school year, Tully Elementary School is able to accommodate a maximum of thirty-six (36) students in pre-kindergarten. If more than thirty-six students have been registered for pre-kindergarten by January 31, 2026, the District will need to conduct a lottery to determine enrollment and organize a waiting list. Please note that Pre-K is a five-days-a-week, full-day program (8:00 - 2:30) and the District does not provide school bus transportation until a child is four years old.

To enter kindergarten, children must be at least five years of age and no older than six years of age by December 1, 2026. Unlike pre-kindergarten, there is no limit on the number of district-resident kindergarten students who can be enrolled at Tully Elementary. Students who are already enrolled in our Pre-K program do not need to register again for kindergarten; those students are automatically enrolled in kindergarten.

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 315-696-6213 if you have specific questions about the registration or screening process.

Racking Up Compliments

Mrs. Hudon's second grade class is racking up the compliments this year! So many, in fact, that they have earned themselves their very first compliment party. If you are wondering what a compliment party is, look no further. A compliment party is a celebration of good behavior and is earned by the entire class. Every time the class earns a compliment as a whole, such as being quiet in the halls or following directions, they earn a letter to spell out 'compliment.' Once they complete the word, it's party time!

Mrs. Hudon sees this as a positive way to teach working together as "we work as a community to make ourselves our best selves all around." For their first party, the students chose a movie and pajama party where they could bring a favorite stuffed animal and receive a treat from Mrs. Hudon. The students really enjoyed their reward and we can expect many more parties to come with how many compliments this class is racking up!



Extended Learning at the Pumpkin Patch

Students in kindergarten learned all about pumpkins including what type of pumpkins there are, the life cycle of pumpkins, and the age-old tradition of carving pumpkins. Then they got to extend their learning with some fun at the pumpkin patch. Students enjoyed the cool weather at Tim's Pumpkin Patch, soaking up the sun and playing.

They also took a wagon ride around the property, saw the animals in the barn, and found their way through the sunflower maze. A sweet treat of apple cider and apple donuts was on hand as well. After all the fun, the kindergarteners got back to business, each choosing a small pumpkin from the patch to bring back to the classroom. There, they conducted an experiment by measuring their pumpkins and seeing if they would sink or float.

At the end of the unit, students got to take their pumpkins home to disguise them to bring back to school to put on display. What a great way to extend the learning process!



Principal's Message



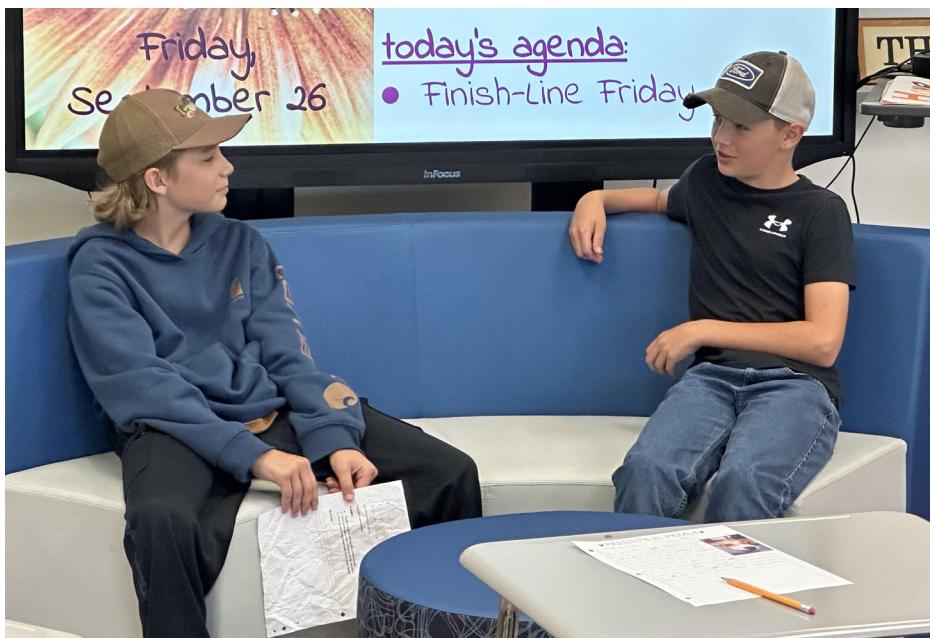
I hope that everyone had a wonderful and restful Thanksgiving holiday and enjoyed the company of friends and family! It's hard to believe that we are only a few weeks away from the winter holiday recess and the beginning of 2026!

As we wind down fall, seniors are extremely busy. They are engaged with their last year here in Tully while planning for what comes after their graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 18th. Some seniors have overwhelming feelings as they navigate their senior courses and plan their future. Parents and guardians play a crucial role when their student is a senior. Students must continue to engage in dialogue with their families and receive guidance, while also allowing themselves to become increasingly independent. We encourage every senior to work with their counselor and discuss future plans and use their calendars to ensure the successful completion of requirements for the next stage of their lives. If there is anything a senior or their family needs regarding future and career planning, please contact the Counseling and Career Center at 315-696-6240. We are here to help families navigate the transition from high school to whatever follows after high school.

A few weeks ago, all students received their first marking period grades. Teachers and parents alike may want to check in with each other about a student's performance. Parents can help their children excel in school by encouraging them to always give their best effort. Successful students are those who are active learners that participate in class activities and discussions, ask for help before feelings of being overwhelmed set in, and study between quizzes and tests, among other key strategies. Our school counselors, Mrs. Newton and Mrs. Davin can assist students with their concerns about academic performance by also providing them with tips and techniques that work for specific scenarios. The after-school Activity Period is an excellent time for students to take advantage of seeing their teachers in a less formal setting. Our teachers are almost always available and want to work with their students during Activity Period. During this time, instruction and support can easily be tailored to each student's individual needs. Throughout the year, parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher directly if they have any concerns. We wish everyone a safe and restful holiday season!

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

Room 205 Talk Show



Students in Mrs. Franke's 8th grade English class brought energy and creativity to the classroom as they practiced their speaking and listening skills with The Room 205 Talk Show!

Each student selected a personal topic to be interviewed about (fishing, tractors, sports, music, family, and future careers were just a few) while their partners stepped into the role of talk show host. Hosts introduced their guests, asked thoughtful and engaging questions, and wrapped up each segment with professionalism and flair.

The activity gave students a fun and meaningful way to build communication skills, confidence, and connection with one another. It's safe to say that Room 205 has some rising stars in the making!

SAVE THE DATE

**Tully Jr-Sr High School
will be hosting a
Community Craft Fair,
beginning
at 10 a.m.,
and
"A Christmas Carol"
by the
Tully Arts Council
at 6 p.m.
both on December 6!**

Welcome

Tully CSD would like to welcome Kristen Chapman, TES Nurse; Allison Dingman, TES Teaching Assistant; Brae Fuller, JSHS Special Education Teacher; and Traci Schuster, Library Teaching Assistant, to the district!

Physical Education Adventures



Students in high school physical education have enjoyed new lessons this fall including disc golf and archery. Students first participated in a disc golf course on campus learning how to keep score. Juniors and seniors were then given an opportunity to go to Greek Peak to test their skills out on a more challenging course that included elevation changes, narrow treeline fairways, and hilly terrain. There, Hunter Bennett and Kaleb Dodd were the winners of the golden disc for having the low round of the day.

After the disc golf unit, high school students then began working on the unit of archery. Before any shooting could take place, students learned safety, about the equipment, and certain directives that had to be adhered to. Once students began target practice, the gym was closed as a live archery range. Using compound bows, students took aim and let the arrows fly, calculating their scores after each round.

This was a popular activity in the physical education department and the teachers are hoping to open it to the junior high students in the spring.



Meet the 2025-26 Student Council

Students on the Student Council are chosen by their peers each year to help facilitate change at the JSHS. They make up the student population of several boards and take part in many of the leadership opportunities such as Teen Institute and the Daneli Program. They also help sponsor events such as dances, the Craft Fair, and Trivia Night. These students are invaluable to the school community and we thank them for their service!

Schoolwide President: Wyatt Lund

12th Grade

Molly Verbanic – President

Sean Mize – VP

Bryce Keller/Aurora Randall – Co-Secretary

Kyla Campoy – Treasurer

11th Grade

Mari Woodcock – President

Logan Schmidt – VP

Gabby Flatt – Secretary

Colton Walkup – Treasurer

10th Grade

Charleigh Mossow – President

Alexandra Dickson – VP

Allison Marinich – Secretary

Amanda O'Connell – Treasurer

9th Grade

Rylan Walkup – President

Ashlynn Lucas-Santos – VP

Clara Currie – Secretary

8th Grade

Kenzie Woodcock – President

June Adams – VP

Rebecca Netzel – Secretary

Charlotte Lamoureux – Treasurer

7th Grade

Allie Sheriff – President

Blake Schmidt – VP

Katelyn Yuckel – Secretary

Evie Strong – Treasurer

6th Grade

Caden Proulx – President

Rhett Shaw – VP

Landon Ryan – Secretary

Eli Blaney – Treasurer

Senior Spotlight - WYATT LUND



SCHOOLWIDE PRESIDENT

People/Pets in your family: My mom, my dad, my brother Will, and our dog Otis.

What has been the best part of your high school career and why? The best part of my high school career has simply been making so many memories with my peers, both inside the classroom and out. I will always cherish and remember these years

because of all the people I've had the pleasure of being around here at Tully.

What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school? I've learned that you have to prioritize living. You should always work hard, but if you become obsessed with one thing then you can never continue to explore unique and fresh experiences.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far? My proudest high school moment is yet to come. I believe my proudest moment will be in June when I receive my diploma.

What are your plans after high school? I hope to attend a 4-year university and find an area of study that suits me.

Where do you see yourself in ten years? Preferably at the top of a ski mountain in Austria.

If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be, and what would you talk about? I would invite Anthony Bourdain, Ibn Battuta, and St. Lawrence. I would try to talk about world view and personal experiences just because of the differing character and extremely unique lives that each person has had.

2025-26 Board of Education Meetings

Meetings are held in the Junior-Senior High School Library at 6:00 p.m. 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 or call the District Office at (315) 696-6204. *Note time change below.

December 16, 2025

January 20, 2026

February 10, 2026

March 3, 2026

March 24, 2026

April 20, 2026 (Monday)

May 5, 2026 (Budget Public Hearing ONLY)

May 19, 2026 (*Budget & Election Vote 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

June 16, 2026

Senior Spotlight - MOLLY VERBANIC



SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT

People/Pets in your family: My mom, my dad, my brother Jacob, and my dog Reeses.

What has been the best part of your high school career and why? The best part of my high school career so far has been being a part of the amazing sports teams and getting the chance to make amazing friendships with my teammates and classmates.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far? My proudest moment in high school was getting into the New Visions Medical program because it has helped me with earning an education that will help me in my future.

What are your plans after high school? My plans are to go to a 4-year college and major in nursing with a minor in Spanish. After that I plan to get my Doctorate and become either a Nurse Practitioner or a CRNA.

Where do you see yourself in ten years? In ten years I see myself working in a hospital somewhere south and beginning to create my own family - with a dog, of course.

What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them? The biggest challenge I have faced is being a perfectionist and realizing that I don't have to be perfect, especially in harder classes. There are going to be things out of my control and I just have to try my best in order to not stress myself out.

Who's your hero and why? My hero is my mom because she is always there for me whenever I need her. She is my biggest supporter and has taught me the most important lessons in life. She is the best person I know and somehow manages to put everyone before herself even if she has so many other things that need to be done. She is the best person I know and I am so grateful to have her in my life.

2025-26 Board Members

| | | |
|------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2028 | Mr. Shannon Brown | boe.sbrown@tullyschools.org |
| 2027 | Ms. Donna Doody | boe.ddoody@tullyschools.org |
| 2026 | Mr. Scott Haynes | boe.shaynes@tullyschools.org |
| 2027 | Mr. Jeffrey Phelps | boe.jphelps@tullyschools.org |
| 2028 | Mrs. Bettemae Russell | boe.brussell@tullyschools.org |
| 2026 | Ms. Cheryl Wayne | boe.cwayne@tullyschools.org |
| 2027 | Mr. Edward Wortley, II | boe.ewortley@tullyschools.org |

Tech News

The Materials Processing and Woodworking classes recently got to have an up close and personal account of what the lumber process entails. While visiting Mapleton Manor Farm in Marietta, students watched raw material being cut down and processed into lumber using industrial bandsaws. After watching this process, students had the opportunity to select materials for an upcoming project. This is what we call 'hands on' work and we can't wait to see what their finished projects are!



DISTRICT NEWS

Concert Season Kicked Off



Concert Season officially kicked off with the Junior-Senior High presenting their fall concert last month. The concert began with the junior high band students striking notes of fear as they played "The Headless Horseman." The junior high chorus then began with softer notes as they sang "Ah Poor Bird." Next was the Concert Choir and then the choirs combined, both having soloists.

The night ended on a high note with the Concert Band. We have many more musicians that are preparing for the upcoming holiday concerts and are eager to share their talent with the community. All are welcome!

Make sure to save the date of December 11th when the third grade recorder students and the 5th grade band and chorus students dazzle the audience with holiday notes. In addition, save the date of December 18th for an encore of both the JH and Concert musicians and a first look at the sixth grade musicians, our Chamber Choir, and our Jazz Band. Let's fill our auditoriums with holiday cheer!

From the Superintendent



As the first marking period has come to an end, that marks the first quarter of the school year complete. It truly is amazing how fast a school year can fly by. As I reflect on the first ten weeks or so, it is obvious that the school community is dedicated to the success of all, which includes students and staff alike. The support

that I witness on a daily basis is inspiring, for which I am thankful. How timely since November is a month that celebrates thankfulness as well as giving of ourselves to others. I hope that you were able to enjoy the company of those you love most during the Thanksgiving recess.

I trust you have been able to view the mailer that was sent home regarding our proposed capital project and hope that you were able to join us for the public forum that was held on November 18th in which we presented the highlights of the project and were able to answer questions from the community. You can find the overview on the next page as well.

Our concert season is in full swing and I highly recommend that members of the community see our bands and choruses at each of our buildings perform. We have an amazing teaching staff and our students will put on great performances. Let's fill those concert halls!

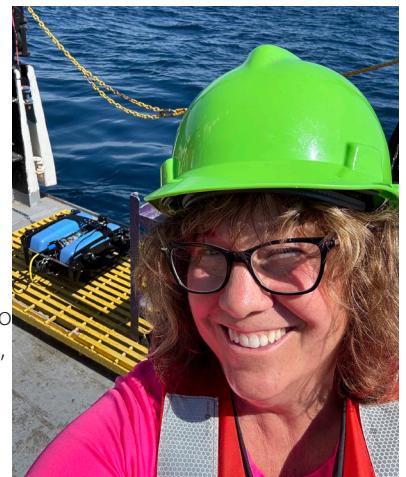
The holiday season is often hectic and there are many celebrations, representing different religions, that take place this time of year. My family celebrates Christmas and I am always thankful that I am able to spend that time with family and friends. When I married my wife, I also gained nine-year-old triplet girls. Christmas was always a special time as the girls wondered what Santa might bring them Christmas morning. I also welcomed new traditions. One of those traditions included my wife making the girls wait on our stairs Christmas morning. My wife would putter around the kitchen with cookies and brewing coffee, causing anticipation to build. The first sighting of presents around the tree was certainly magical. Those memories are special for sure. Now that they're 27 and living on their own, the tradition has changed. Although they sleep in our Tully home, without stairs, it's a different bit of magic.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Todd M. Freeman, Interim Superintendent
Email: todd.freeman@tullyschools.org
Phone: 315-696-6204

Setting Sail in the Name of Research

This past summer, Beth Tucker, one of Tully's JSHS science teachers was elected along fourteen other educators to join the Shipboard Science Immersion program and set sail on Lake Michigan aboard the EPA Lake Guardian for a week to conduct research. Tucker worked alongside scientists to conduct water quality testing, soil sampling, and scanning the lakebed with sonar for various reasons such as looking for invasive species and ancient hunting grounds. By working on the vessel, Tucker not only got to contribute to real-time research and propose future solutions, but she also got to work with Sea Grant literacy specialists to develop lessons for her classroom. Tucker stated in the Shipboard Science Immersion press release that, "Students benefit from analyzing real-world data, constructing conclusions, and discussing the effects on ecosystems" and is "looking forward to incorporating the scientific data collected on Lake Michigan into my water science curriculum." While Tucker used this experience to pass on knowledge to her students, she was grateful for the opportunity to learn so many things herself including how important fresh water lakes are to our planet.



Culture Corner: EL SALVADOR

All aboard the chicken bus! Did you ever wonder what happens to school buses once they are no longer used by a school here in America? Some of them are converted and sent

to places like El Salvador. There, they are brightly painted and called chicken buses. This is their main form of public transportation.

El Salvador is a small country (smaller than the state of Massachusetts) in Central America with a large population. People who live there are used to earthquakes and volcanic activity and know their home as the "Land of Volcanoes." In fact, you can see the image of volcanoes on their flag.

The main language is Spanish; however, most of the people are mestizo, descendants of Spanish and Indian ancestors. Half of the population lives rurally and are poor, not being able to afford meat and falling ill to malnutrition.

While this country is beautiful and is home to a rain forest full of plant and wildlife, El Salvador isn't a place that garners many tourists. You can learn more about El Salvador and its people on National Geographic. You can also get involved in community service that helps countries such as El Salvador.



CAPITAL PROJECT VOTE: Thursday, December 11, 7am - 8pm

Elementary School Gym, 20 State Street, Tully NY 13159

CAPITAL PROJECT OVERVIEW

This proposed project focuses on modernizing infrastructure and facilities to create an educational environment that supports student success. Enhancements to our schools will improve learning spaces, increase energy efficiency, and strengthen security, creating a safe and modern community for students.

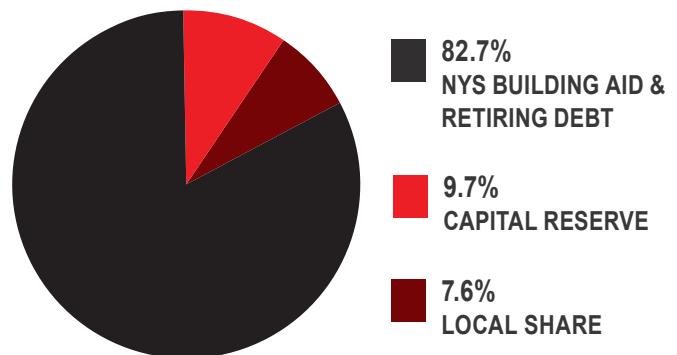
Project Scope

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Masonry Restoration / Repointing
- Exterior Window Replacement
- Interior / Exterior Door Security Hardware Replacement
- Elevator Modernization
- Plumbing Fixture and Piping Replacement
- HVAC Equipment Upgrades
- Gymnasium Refresh, including Ceiling Asbestos Abatement
- Library / Media Center Renovations
- Older Playground Structure Replacement

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- Masonry Restoration / Repointing
- Exterior Window Replacement
- Partial Roof Replacement
- Interior / Exterior Door Security Hardware Replacement
- Elevator Modernization
- Plumbing Fixture and Piping Replacement
- HVAC Equipment Upgrades
- Classroom Renovations
- Technology / Shop Renovations
- HVAC upgrades



Total Project Cost: \$24,250,000

The proposed project will carry no tax impact until the 2028-29 school year when taxes would increase approximately \$22.55 for a home with a full value of \$100,000.



Windows need replacing for efficiency and safety.



Playground equipment is deteriorating.



HVAC units are nearly 60 years old and are failing or obsolete.



Plumbing infrastructure is aging and deteriorating.

Halloween Creativity

While the weather was somewhat blustery for Halloween, students, staff, and parents made the best of it and continued the tradition of parading throughout the school and its grounds. Held in the afternoon this year, the elementary students worked with building anticipation until it was time to change into their costumes and brave the chill outside. After they finished their parade, they filled the halls to watch the seniors walk through. Both our younger students and our older students were so creative with their costumes this year. At the elementary school, we saw *Ghostbusters*, characters from *Ratatouille* and *The Lorax*, chickens, mummies, princesses, butterflies, and more! At the high school, we saw characters from *Inside Out*, *Despicable Me*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Curious George*, *Sesame Street*, and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. The most favorite senior group among the staff was the Founding Fathers. At both buildings we saw dinosaurs and gorillas, oh, my! Albeit a chilly, windy, and somewhat rainy day, the creativity of this year's Halloween was definitely a treat!





**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

As the days get shorter and colder, Tully Free Library has you covered! New fiction and non-fiction books are being added to our collections for adults, teens, and kids – come and check out your next fave read! Maybe plan a movie night with some films from our wall of DVDs (we have lots of holiday selections). And don't forget about our digital offerings – Libby for e-books and e-audiobooks, and Hoopla for the same, as well as movies, tv shows, and music albums!

Enjoy your holiday season and make sure to check out all that Tully Free Library has to offer!

TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOLS
20 State Street, Tully NY 13159

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Tully, NY
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TO: LOCAL POST OFFICE BOXHOLDER
OR RURAL ROUTE PATRON

TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS



DECEMBER

6 Craft Fair at JSHS; SAT off-site
11 TES Band/Chorus Concert and
Third Grade Recorders, 6 p.m.
District Capital Project Vote,
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
13 ACT off-site
16 BOE Meeting, 6 p.m.
18 JSHS Holiday Band/
Chorus Concert, 6 p.m.
22-31 **Holiday Recess - No School**

JANUARY

1-2 **Holiday Recess - No School**
5 Classes Resume

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