



# FALCONER CENTRAL SCHOOL

## DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

November 2017

Home of the Golden Falcons

### November

21 Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.

22-24 Thanksgiving Recess (No School)

### December

1 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester Ends (Elem)

4 Photos: Temple Retakes

5 Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.

7 Photos: Underclassmen Retakes  
Winter Concert: Grades 9-12 @ 7 p.m. in Aud.

8 1/2 Day (Elementary)

11-15 Book Fair (MS/HS)

Holiday Programs  
Grade 1 @ 2 p.m.  
14 Grade 5 @ 6 p.m. (Aud)  
Grade 6 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Grades 7-8 @ 7:30 p.m.

15 Falconer Honor Society Induction (Aud)

19 Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.

25-31 Winter Recess (No School)

### January

1 Winter Recess (No School)

2 Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.

10 Photos: Winter Sports, Superlatives, Music



### Congratulations to the Cast and Crew of the Middle School Play



Under the direction of April Binkley and Jen Mikula, about 40 Middle School students and less than 10 High School students worked through giggles, sprained ankles, laryngitis, and more to produce an outstanding performance during the first weekend in November. The cast and crew would like to thank all who supported them in this performance, especially all the community members and businesses who generously donated to Falcon Productions! Without continued support we would not be able to maintain and improve drama productions such as these at FCS. Thank you!





**Falconer Central School**  
2 East Avenue North  
Falconer, NY 14733  
(716)665-6624

#### Board of Education

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##### Vice President

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Jennifer Olson  
Jennifer Ribauda  
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Development

Judith Roach

##### School Psychologist

Ashly Warner

##### Business Executive &

Purchasing Agent

Brent Agett

##### General Maintenance Mechanic

David Micek

##### Transportation Supervisor

Scott Peterson

##### Coordinator of District Data

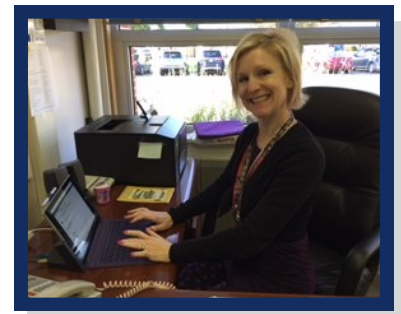
Judith Roach



Clipart obtained through FCS' subscription to [clipart.com](http://clipart.com)

## Greetings from Paul B. D. Temple Elementary!

This is the second year we are implementing the Second Step curriculum into our classrooms at Temple. The Second Step program works on teaching students foundational social-emotional and self-regulation skills in order to promote school success, school connectedness and a safe and respectful school climate. It has also been shown to decrease problem behaviors. (<http://www.secondstep.org/>)



**Mrs. Holly Hannon**  
Paul B.D. Temple  
Elementary Principal

Our Universal Pre-Kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Long and Mrs. Robinson, are teaching Second Step as part of their Social Emotional Curriculum. In the fall of UPK, they focus much of their attention on gaining the social skills necessary for being successful in a preschool environment. Since the beginning of the 2016-17 school year, they have been using the Second Step Social-Emotional curriculum. The areas they have spent the most time on include:

- Listening to learn (eyes watching, ears listening, voice quiet, body calm)
- Focusing attention
- Using self-talk
- Following directions
- Asking for what you need or want in a strong respectful voice
- Identifying emotions

They reinforce these lessons throughout the school day and lay the foundation for our district.

In grades Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade, the Second Step lessons are being taught by our new School Counselor, Mrs. Samantha Whippo. These classes just wrapped up the first unit which went over the skills for learning. These lessons included listening, focusing attention, using self-talk, and being assertive. Next up is the unit on empathy, followed by emotion management, and then problem-solving.

Many of the skills taught in the program can be used with our social skills groups. It is really exciting to see the carry-over of the Second Step



Pictured are Mrs. Whippo, Temple Elementary School Counselor & the October Students of the Month in front of the Second Step Display.

program into the classrooms, lunch room, hallways, and bus lines. Here at Temple the goal is to set the foundation of these Second Step skills so that our students continue to grow and build upon them as they continue the program at Fenner and the Middle School.



### Faculty Explore Learning Strategies

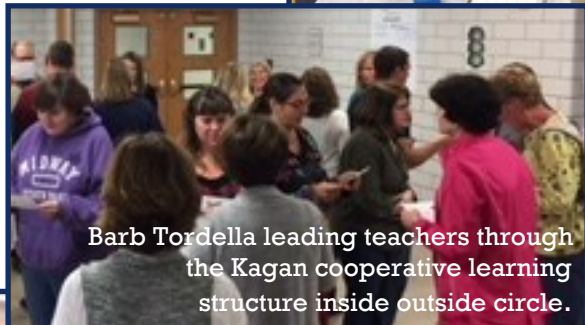
Team 4 during the Kagan cooperative learning training.



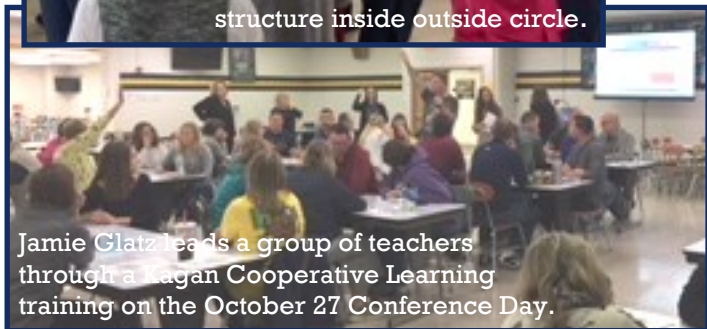
imagine  
how  
the  
monster  
could  
live  
between  
spirit  
and  
human

### Frankenstein Fiesta

Students, faculty, and staff at the MS/ HS have the opportunity to participate in Big Reads throughout the school year. The goal of a Big Read is to have as many people as possible read the same book and then come together to talk about it. In October, over 80 copies of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein were borrowed from Boces. The Frankenstein Fiesta on Halloween was a blast! The next Big Read is C.S. Lewis's The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Come pick up a copy in the library and join the Big Read!



Barb Tordella leading teachers through the Kagan cooperative learning structure inside outside circle.



Jamie Glatz leads a group of teachers through a Kagan Cooperative Learning training on the October 27 Conference Day.



### Students and Families Visit Martz Observatory

The weather on November 1 was true to most fall evenings in western NY; cold and blustery. However, for a group of tough Earth Science students and their families, it was a great night to head out to the Martz Observatory in Frewsburg.

Mrs. Pitts' Earth Science students were welcomed to a night at the Observatory where they learned about different types of telescopes, exciting happenings in space and were granted a tour of the facility.

Although the weather didn't cooperate for stargazing that evening, they learned quite a bit of how the Observatory runs, what equipment they have and the exciting research that Martz is involved in.

We will be planning a spring star party either at JCC or the Martz. We look forward to having our Earth Science students and families, as well as the community, participate!





### Elevate Your Future

Emily J., Chloe J., Jacob T., Spencer B., and Olivia B. traveled to Buffalo with their advisor, Michelle Johnson, in the beginning of November to attend the Future Business Leaders of America's National Fall Leadership Conference. This year's theme, Elevate Your Future, served as the challenge for the members in attendance.

Chapter President and NYS District 13 Vice President, Emily J, was selected from the auditioners to sing the National Anthem at the opening ceremony.

The conference offered more than thirty workshops designed to motivate and improve the skills of each attendee. Such topics as "Networking in Action," "Improv Your Way to a Brighter Future," and "Empowering Yourself" were just a few of the opportunities available. Our Falconer chapter agreed that the 2017 NFLC proved to be a great learning, networking, and socializing experience.

Falconer FBLA meets every Wednesday in Room 131 with Mrs. Johnson. New members are always welcome, so mark your calendars and join us at our next meeting.



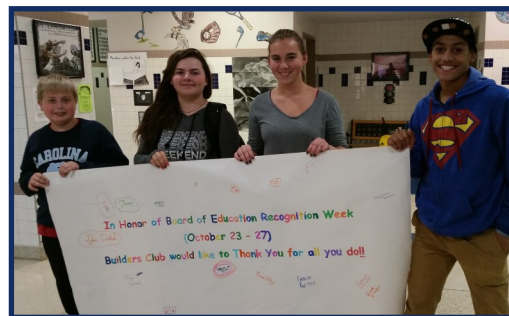
### FCS Key Club is Busy

Members served up chicken BBQ at the annual Kiwanis fundraiser and provided daycare for the October PTO meeting. In November, we will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at the Falconer Tops, leading a collection of donations for the Blue Star Mothers, volunteering to usher at the Reg Lenna, and face painting after the Santa Parade. We are planning a Parents' Night Out for December, a fundraiser for a local charity and a great opportunity for elementary school students to play games, do arts and crafts and have fun in a safe setting while parents have a few hours to themselves. Look for information to come home in folders after Thanksgiving.

### Builders' Club

Builders Club members recently elected officers to serve for the 2017-18 school year. Builders Club is a Kiwanis sponsored, student-led club for middle school students. It promotes the development of leadership skills through service to School, Community and Nation. This year's officers include, Kaydance P. as President, Addison P. as Vice-President, Tyler W. as Secretary and Renae S. as Treasurer. In honor of Board of

Education Recognition Week, the Club created a poster for Falconer's Board, thanking them for all their hard work.



### Senior Lady Falcons

Taylor (#13) and Olivia (#3) were honored at the Varsity Volleyball Senior Night on October 18 prior to their home game against Southwestern. Taylor has played for six years, while Olivia has played for 5 years. They served as Team Captains this season. Congratulations on a great volleyball career ladies!



### Falcon Swimming with Bears and Breaking Records

Maddy K. competed in sectionals recently. She has received multiple place patches and has broken 2 pool records. She was .3 seconds away from the New York State Competition cut time. Great job Maddy!





## Annual Middle School Pumpkin Decorating Contest

The Middle School Student Council sponsors an annual pumpkin decorating contest. The homeroom winners this year were Mrs. Russell's 6<sup>th</sup> grade (UFO), Mrs. Rhinehart's 7<sup>th</sup> grade (fish bowl), and Mrs. Arnone's 8<sup>th</sup> grade (Pinocchio). Each winning homeroom got cider and donuts, compliments of student council!!!



## Pumpkin Workshop

Mrs. Cheney held a Paper Pumpkin Workshop in October. Middle School students were invited to create a paper pumpkin to serve as fall decor. Students used a template to trace half of a



pumpkin shape onto paper that they had accordion folded. Four sections of paper were glued together and allowed to fan out into the pumpkin shape.



## Great Start to STEM Class

The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade STEM class had a great start to the year! This new course is offering students an opportunity to be inventors, robotic engineers, chemists and field biologists. The course started with learning about how our human brains work and grow. Students made brain hats showing the four lobes, while learning about the functions of each. We moved from human brains to robotics and focused on how robots are different from regular machines in that robots respond to external stimuli. Students built Cubelet robots and designed 100 cm long race tracks for Ozobots using a code written in color. Throughout September and October, the class ventured out to the Nature Place behind Fenner and conducted



quadrat observations over two week-periods. We are currently growing crystals of potassium aluminum sulfate, hoping to grow a large, clear crystal that can compete in the U.S. Crystal Growing Competition, sponsored locally by the University of Buffalo. In November and December, we will be learning about coding and hope to write our own programs. We will wrap up the semester with some non-traditional explorations in mathematics and learning about amazing inventions that change the course of history.





### Flag Football Leadership Awards



These 3<sup>rd</sup> graders each received the Leadership Award for his flag football team:

- Erik S. – Team 1
- Chase B. – Team 2
- Zavy M. – Team 3



### Teaching Empathy at Fenner Elementary

Overview of the concept and meaning of empathy expressed with chalk art by 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.







3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Recipients



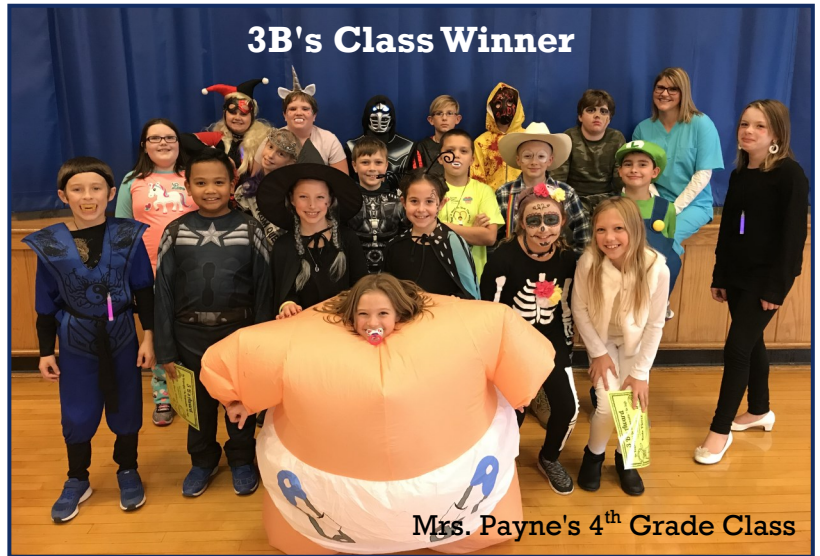
October  
3B's  
Awards



4<sup>th</sup> Grade Recipients



5<sup>th</sup> Grade Recipients



3B's Class Winner

Mrs. Payne's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class



**Rewarding Perfect Attendance**

Fenner is rewarding perfect attendance every 8 weeks. Students have the opportunity to join an ice cream party! Lots of great things happen here, and we do not want our students to miss out. Our first event was November 1 and everyone enjoyed their ice cream!





### And the Winner is...

Mr. Fredrick's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class at Fenner Elementary School was one of the winning classrooms in the 2017 "William Mattar Buckle Your Belt Classroom Contest." William Mattar's Law Office in Buffalo, NY, wants to keep New York drivers, as well as pedestrians, safe on the road. Students within his classroom took the pledge to always wear a seat belt. Mr. Fredrick's classroom won a gift certificate for a pizza party from Tasta Pizza in Falconer. This was a great way to teach safety in the car, as well as put Falconer Central School District on the map. All of the winning classrooms other than Falconer came out of the Buffalo area!



### "Winn Dixie" Party

Fenner 4<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed a "Winn Dixie" party this month to wrap up their study of the book Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo. The teachers and students recreated the party that Opal had in the story. Students are now working on a compare and contrast essay on the similarities and differences between the book and the movie. And we are doing this all . . . "Because of Winn Dixie."



### "Winn Dixie" Mistake Tree

Forth Grade students had the opportunity to leave their mistakes in the past, similar to the characters in the novel Because of Winn Dixie. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade "Mistake Tree" represents the valuable life lesson that everyone makes mistakes, but the important thing is to learn from them.





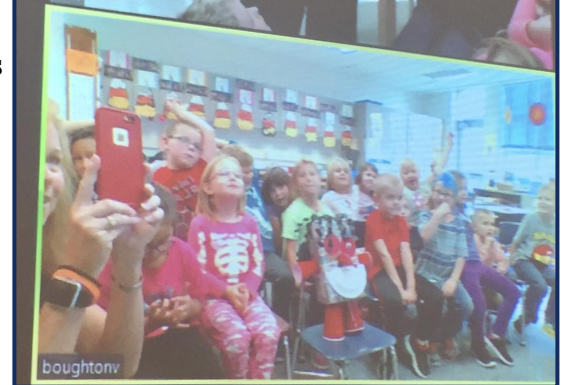
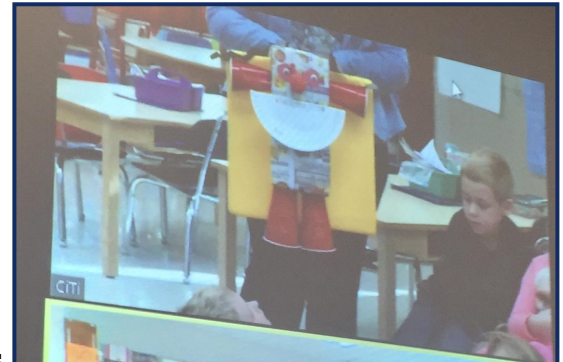
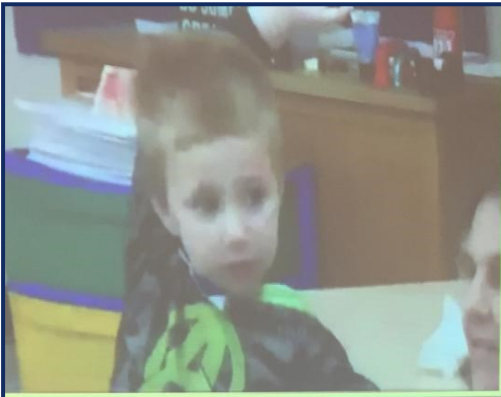
## First Grade Students utilize Distance Learning Technology to Learn about Giving and Following Directions

During October, Mrs. Boughton's First Grade class at Temple Elementary participated in a Distance Learning collaboration through a BOCES network program called Monster Match. Students in each of two classes were given a materials list and asked to create a monster using just the materials listed. After assembling their monster, each class had to then write down the directions to make their monster, step

by step, so the partner class could follow them and recreate the monster that their partner class had made. Materials included shoeboxes, construction paper, balloons, string, and glue. The students had so much fun making their monsters!

The most exciting part came on the day the classes linked up through the Smartboard. Mrs. Boughton's Class met their partner Kindergarten class from Pulaski Elementary School in Oswego, NY. The students got to know a little about each other and talked about their monsters and the fun had in creating them. Each class then revealed the monsters to each other to see how well the students followed directions. It was a great learning experience about giving concise, rather than unclear, directions. Both classes did a wonderful job in giving specific directions because their monsters really did look alike.

Mrs. Boughton hopes to do another collaboration in the spring!



## Kiwanis Donates Books

The Falconer Kiwanis donated books to UPK and Kindergarten students at Temple Elementary. Pictured are members of the Falconer Kiwanis, Temple Students of the Month, and Temple Principal, Holly Hannon.









### October Cheer Bear Winners



Miss Digirolamo's Kindergarten Class



Mrs. Boughton's 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Class



Mrs. Perry's 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class



### October 3B's Award Winners



### October Students of the Month



Carter ate lunch in the cafeteria with his mom.



Eric ate lunch with Mrs. Collins and his friend, Chris, in Mrs. Collins' classroom.



Zoie ate lunch in Mrs. Hannon's office with her Mom and her friend, Sydnee.



Skyler ate lunch in Mrs. Penhollow's classroom with her friends, Kolton and Eliana.



Alivia ate lunch with her friend, Grace, in Mrs. Hannon's office.



Mr. Scott joined Everly and her friend, Jacob, in Mrs. Hannon's office and they enjoyed Juice Rush from the cafeteria.





### Mission Statement

The Board of Education, collective staff, and community of the Falconer School District are committed to preparing our children to be productive members of society. Through continuous evaluation and improvement, this partnership will provide a quality educational environment for students to meet the graduation requirements.

### Alma Mater

Falconer High School here's to you best in the land. 'Neath the old gold and blue, we will proudly take our stand. In classroom study, field, or track with you dear as our guide, no honor ever shall you lack. I'll win your pride.

### Board of Education Agendas, Additions, Deletions, & Minutes

To access any of the above documents, go to:

- [www.falconercsd.org](http://www.falconercsd.org)
- ⇒ District Home Page
- ⇒ Our District
- ⇒ Board of Education
- ⇒ Board Meetings 2017-18
  - ⇒ Select what you want to look at (ex: *Agendas, Additions/ Deletions, or Minutes*)
- ⇒ Click on Meeting Date

Clipart obtained through FCS'

### AIS Hosted Parent Meeting



The Falconer K-12 AIS teachers hosted an AIS parent meeting on Monday, October 23, at Fenner Elementary. They provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation and offered an assortment of cookies and orange drink.

### After-Prom Information

Have **cans or bottles**? Take them over to Don't Trash it on Work Street and mention Falconer After-Prom and they will add them to our account.



It takes many people to make this party a success and many man power hours so please try to attend our meetings and help out in any way you can! **Contact** Rosie Digirolamo at 665-6624 and push 1.

### From the Nurse's Office:



If your child is ill, please be sure to call the Health Office in the morning. You can also leave a message prior to school hours if you know your child has an appointment or is going to be late.

Also, please be sure to update contact information, including phone numbers. If there is an emergency, we need to be able to get in touch with all parents.

### Reminder:



Most students need a pair of headphones to use while at school. PLEASE send in a set with your student.

### Donations Being Accepted!

If you are interested in donating to the Blue Star Mothers' Care Packages for members of our Armed Forces, please consider sending in baby wipes, hand sanitizer, sunscreen, lip balm, crossword puzzle books, playing cards, dental floss, toothpaste, toothbrushes, solid deodorant, q-tips, eye drops, shampoo, foot powder, pocket tissues, lotion, mints, gum, candy, protein bars or Zip Lock brand bags. Key Club will gather up donations and coordinate with the Blue Star Mothers. We will also accept cash donations or checks (made out to FCS Key Club), and we will use 100% of that donation to purchase the needed items. All donations must be made by November 25 so we can deliver by November 30. Thank you for your support!

