



THE FALCON

Winter 2025

Falconer
Central School
District Newsletter

CSEd Week Lights Up the Media Center

From December 9 - 13, students at Falconer Middle and High Schools celebrated Computer Science Education Week with a variety of fun, hands-on activities in the Media Center. Organized by Mr. Caruso and Mrs. Binkley, the event showcased how computer science fuels creativity and problem-solving

across disciplines.

Throughout the week, students immersed themselves in activities that blended art, coding, and design. Highlights included:

- **Community Pixel Art:** Students used binary encoding to create a collaborative pixel art masterpiece.



- **Algorithmic Face Creation:** Following a step-by-step process, students designed unique faces, highlighting the connection between coding and creativity.

- **Robot Design Challenge:**

Teams competed

to build the ultimate robot to hold up their grade's letter of FCS, earning points for their grade in the Battle of the Classes.

- **Digital Breakout:** Students tested their logical thinking and perseverance by cracking codes in a challenging escape-room-style puzzle.



- **Holiday Coding Fun:** Participants programmed dazzling Christmas tree light displays, with trees built and designed by our own STEM Club.

- **Robot Art Station:** Robots added shapes to a collective artwork, or students used them to design their own take-home creations.

The Media Center buzzed with excitement as students explored the possibilities of computer science in engaging and meaningful ways. Activities encouraged teamwork, creativity, and critical thinking, while demonstrating how computational skills can bring ideas to life. Thank you to everyone who participated, and a special shout-out to our STEM Club for their beautifully designed LED Christmas trees.



Upcoming Events

January - - - - -

- 20 MLK Jr. Day (No School)
- 21 Board of Education Mtg.
5:30 p.m. (MS/HS)
- 21-24 NYS Regents Exams
- 24 End of 2nd Quarter (MS/HS)
1/2 Day (District Wide)
- 27 Elementary PTO Mtg.
6:30 p.m. Fenner
- 29 Lunar New Year (No School)
- 31 3B's Day (Temple Elem.)

February - - - - -

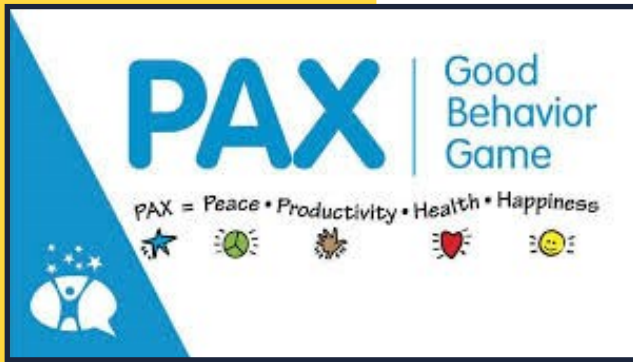
- 1 FBLA Spring District Mtg.
CCMTA Solo Festival
(Fredonia HS)
- 4 Board of Education Mtg.
5:30 p.m. (Temple)
- 8 CCMTA All-County Winter
Festival
(Chautauqua Lake CSD)
- 13 MS/HS Progress Reports
- 17-21 Mid-Winter Break
(No School)
- 24 Elementary PTO Mtg.
6:30 p.m. (Fenner)

March - - - - -

- 4 Board of Education Mtg.
5:30 p.m. (MS/HS)
- 13 MS/HS Progress Reports
- 14 Pi (3.14) Day Celebration
- 17 Elementary PTO Mtg.
6:30 p.m. (Fenner)
- 18 Board of Education Mtg.
5:30 p.m. (Fenner)
- 21-23 HS Musical: *Guys & Dolls*
(Auditorium)

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Fostering Positive Behavior at Paul B.D. Temple and Harvey C. Fenner Elementary: The PAX Good Behavior Game

We are pleased to announce the implementation of the PAX Good Behavior Game at Paul B.D. Temple Elementary and Harvey C. Fenner Elementary. This innovative program is designed to support students' social and emotional development by fostering self-regulation and positive behaviors throughout the school day.

What is PAX?

The PAX Good Behavior Game is a classroom-based strategy that helps students build essential behavioral skills. Rather than a series of lessons, PAX offers educators evidence-based tools to create a supportive, collaborative classroom environment. By introducing a shared language for behavior expectations, the program helps students and staff work together to establish a culture of respect, cooperation, and community.

How Does PAX Work?

At the heart of PAX are tools grounded in decades of research. These strategies teach students self-regulation, self-control, and teamwork. Teachers and students collaborate to create a vision of their "ideal classroom," identifying behaviors they want to see more of and ones they want to see less of. This shared understanding builds clarity around expectations and encourages a positive atmosphere where every student feels included.

Creating a Positive Classroom Environment

PAX enables students to work together in teams to achieve shared goals. Through engaging and interactive activities, students learn to stay focused, manage distractions, and collaborate effectively with peers. As they take on the role of "PAX Leaders," they develop pride in their contributions and strengthen their sense of belonging within the classroom.

Teacher Training and Support

Our educators participated in six hours of comprehensive training to learn how to integrate PAX strategies into their daily teaching routines. With the ongoing support of Prevention Works, our schools are equipped to guide students in developing the social and emotional skills essential for success.

Looking Ahead

We are excited about the positive changes the PAX Good Behavior Game will bring to our school communities. By fostering both academic and emotional growth, this program empowers our students to build skills that will benefit them for a lifetime.



Gary Gilbert,
Fenner Principal
ggibert@falconschools.org





Community Field Trip

Mrs. Stanton, Mr. Ohl, and Mr. Fiasco's special education classes went on their annual Christmas shopping trip to Walmart and the Mall. Students came with a list of family members to shop for, they chose gifts and then made the purchases. This is always a fun outing for all.



Falconer Honor Society Gains 28 New Members

Senior members of the Falconer Honor Society tapped the incoming members on Wednesday, December 11, during homeroom. Incoming member's lockers were also decorated. During the induction ceremony on December 20, the 28 students were officially inducted into Falconer Honor Society. Congratulations to all!





Gracie M.



Every S.



Molly K.



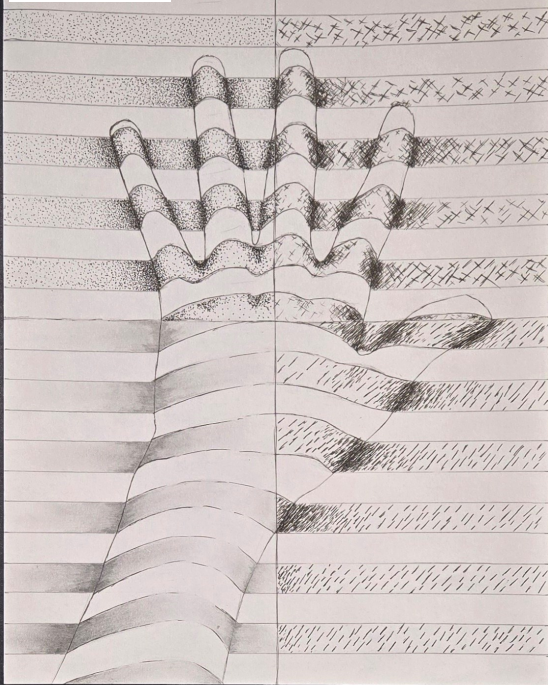
Adaline L.

Middle School & High School Falcons' Art Work!

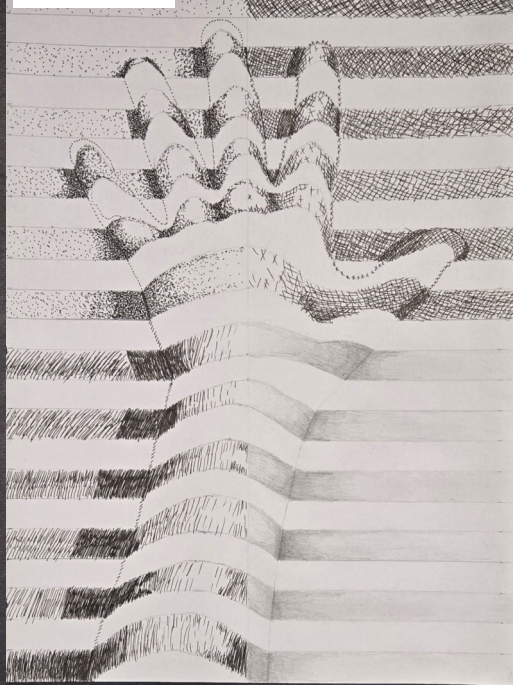
Gia M.



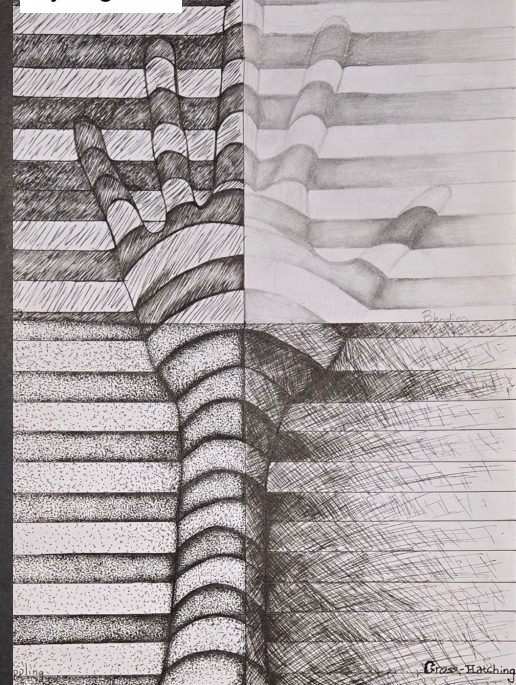
Marlaina R.



Hannah S.



MyLeigh J.



Zone 1 NYSSMA Area All-State

Two Falconer students represented Falconer Central School with pride and distinction at this year's New York State School Music Association Area All-State. Senior Isabella A. was selected for the Senior High Symphony Orchestra on violin and freshman, James M. was selected for the Junior High Concert Band on trumpet. To be selected for this honor students must perform a NYSSMA solo grade four and higher and then be ranked among all students from the Western NY Zone 1 schools. This is a prestigious honor to have as a high school student. Bravo to each of them on their accomplishment.



Middle School Students of the Month



September
Savannah H.
6th grade



October
Gia M.
7th grade



November
Colton R.
8th grade



December
Lauren Y.
6th grade

Middle School Kiwanis Terrific Kids



September
Gaebriel L.
6th grade



October
Kelly H.
7th grade



November
Moya C.
8th grade



December
Owen C.
6th grade



Lessons in Nutrition

Students in Mrs. Scholeno's health class cooked together to learn about nutrition under the direction of special visitor, Mary Ryder, a SNAP-ED Nutritionist from Cornell Cooperative Extension.



Reality Check Spells Out Important Message

Falconer Reality Check's focus for this year's Great American Smokeout was to build awareness that even if you are using a product that has no tobacco, such as e-cigarettes and nicotine pouches, they are still addictive and many contain more nicotine than a cigarette. The new generation of e-cigarettes includes screens and "pulse", "boost", or "beast" modes, which give the user a stronger hit of flavor, but also of nicotine. These new e-cigarettes may be the perfect storm for young people and nicotine addiction. With all this in mind, our club's phrase this year for the front fence is, "Nicotine is addictive in any product!"



9th Grade Gets “Grinch-y”

Mrs. Gunnell’s students were assigned to work individually or as partners to write an additional stanza (or more) for the song! In their directions, they were asked to follow the rhythm of the song and the rhyme scheme pattern. They could continue with Grinch’s bad qualities or his “goodness” at the end of the book. Some students added in the random line that goes after the stanzas per the song. Teachers were then asked to vote on the top student entries. Voting was difficult and close! Good job to all!

1st Place by Natalie P. and Ellie K.:

You’re a cynic, Mr. Grinch!
You really are a crook.
You’re as sussy as a sausage,
You’ve never opened a book, Mr. Grinch.

You’re really off the hook!

You’re a hunchback, Mr. Grinch,
You’re about to be in cuffs!
Your head is full of nonsense,
You’ve taken everyone’s stuff, Mr. Grinch.

Your diet consists of gugelhupf!!!!
(gugelhupf is a bundt cake!)

2nd Place by Marissa S. and Zoie C.:

You infuriate me, Mr. Grinch.
You’re green, you’re gross, you ghoul!
You stole from all those children,
You slimy, stinky soul, Mr. Grinch

3rd Place Tie by Jeyli E.:

You appall me, Mr. Grinch
You’re as callous as they come.
Your heart is as black as charcoal
And you’re clearly more cheap than some, Mr. Grinch.

3rd Place Tie by Jyxie W.:

You’re a crude one, Mr. Grinch,
You wear the slimiest of shoes.
You speak like mucky maggots
Being drowned inside of ooze, Mr. Grinch



Homecoming Family Fun

Mrs. Gunnell and Mrs. Spry (Mr. Spry's wife) took a break from chasing their big kids around the Homecoming Festival and posed for a photo with their youngest kids. Mrs. Gunnell's boys had a great time on the bounce house!

Falcons Give to Toys For Tots

Middle School Builder's Club would like to thank the Falconer Middle School for their generous support of Toys for Tots. Altogether, the middle school homerooms filled almost two full bins of new, unwrapped toys for local families this holiday season. Builder's Club members worked hard to organize and encourage their fellow students to help those in need. Thank you again for all of your support!



Looking Ahead to Next Year: Course Scheduling

As we round the corner into the second half of the school year, it is time to begin planning and scheduling classes for the next school year! Throughout the spring, students will meet with their School Counselor to explore coursework offered for the upcoming school year, review NYS credit requirements and anticipated Regents examinations, discuss plans for after graduation, and much more. We encourage students to be daring and embrace the challenge of higher-level coursework and take up opportunities to engage in classes that may fit their interests!

Who is your student's counselor?

Ms. Odell - Grades 6 & 7

Mrs. Sollenne - Grades 8 & 9

Mrs. Warren - Grades 10-12 students with last names beginning with A-J

Mrs. Barber - Grades 10-12 students with last names beginning with K-Z

Career Exploration Through the ASVAB

In January, the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) was offered at FCS. This test measures one's skills and abilities as they relate to numerous occupations both within and outside of the military. This test is a resource and opportunity for students to explore where they may fit in the world of work. Through taking this test, students can gain a better understanding of which careers may be a good fit for their interests, skills, personality style, and strengths. Whether a student is interested in the military or not, the ASVAB is a great career exploration tool to help students determine their career goals!

Falconer School Presents

ASVAB: Career Exploration Program

The ASVAB will be offered at Falconer School on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

Who: 10th, 11th, and 12th

Time: 8:00 am to 10:45 am

Location: Media Center



A career exploration workshop will follow the exam at 10:00 am - 10:45 am

This test is a great resource for career planning and there is no obligation to the military by taking this test



Completion Night

Open December 1st, 2024

2023 Tax Information

- You and your family's 2023 Tax Information
- Social Security Numbers
- Records of Child Support received
- Current balances of cash, savings and checking accounts

All students should file a FAFSA

- Determines need-based financial aid from the Federal Government
- Determines eligibility for Federally funded scholarships, grants, and loans
- Information is used by the college to award private scholarships
- Qualifies students for loans
- Qualifies students for work-study opportunities

Students/Families who decide NOT to complete the FAFSA

- must sign a Waiver Form indicating that the student understands what the FAFSA is and has chosen not to file

Wednesday

January 22, 2025
6pm - 8pm
Falconer High School
Media Center

Questions

Contact JCC's
Financial Aid
Office

(716) 338-1009



Or the
college/university
you plan to attend

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

☎ (716) 665-6624

✉ twarren@falconerschools.org

✉ cbarber@falconerschools.org

🌐 www.fafsa.gov

FAFSA Completion Night

The FAFSA for the 2025-2026 academic year is now open! If your student plans to attend college between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, you can now complete the form to apply for financial aid to help pay for college attendance. FCS will be hosting a FAFSA Completion Night on January 22, 2025, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Middle/High School. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and work through the FAFSA form! For more information, contact your student's School Counselor or refer to <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> for more information and assistance with the FAFSA form!

Falcons on Campus

Recently, high school students had the opportunity to take a trip to Canisius University to explore their campus and get more information about the academic programs offered! Visiting college campuses is a great way for students to see if a college is the right fit. Throughout the spring, keep an eye out for more college visit opportunities that will be posted on Schoology.

Upcoming Falcons on Campus Tours

January

- St. Bonaventure University

February

- Gannon University

March

- Buffalo State
- Mercyhurst University
- Alfred State
- Alfred University

April

- Houghton University

May

- Jamestown Community College
- Northland Workforce Training Center



Reminders for Seniors

- ⇒ Complete the FAFSA form & college applications.
- ⇒ Attending college can be costly, so start looking for scholarships for additional financial support! Talk to your student's School Counselor and check out the College Information page on the FCS counseling website for scholarship opportunities: <https://www.falconercsd.org/domain/151>
- ⇒ Create and/or update your resume. Keep track of your achievements, volunteer work, leadership roles, extracurricular activities, and awards. Colleges and employers look for well-rounded applicants!

Obtaining College Credits in High School at FCS

At FCS, there are a number of classes students can choose to take to obtain both high school and college credits! Typically during a student's junior and senior years, there are various course options taught that would give a student the opportunity to earn college credit through Jamestown Community College and, a new addition, Houghton University. In order to begin accruing college credits in high school, students must take the **Accuplacer Exam** and obtain a passing score. During the spring of their sophomore year, students have their first opportunity to take the Accuplacer. If students pass the Accuplacer, they are eligible to obtain both high school and college credit for certain classes as long as a passing grade is achieved and all other course requirements are fulfilled. There will be opportunities to retake the Accuplacer in the fall and spring of each school year to maximize the chances of passing. Getting some college credit completed during high school can help to save both time and money for college-bound students!



Sophomores Visit Hewes BOCES Center



On December 12, the sophomores had the opportunity to take a trip to the Hewes Educational Center, home of Erie 2 Chautauqua Cattaraugus BOCES career and technical education programs. During this trip, students had the chance to tour the classrooms and obtain more information on career/technical education programs offered at Hewes. These programs include Automotive Body Repair, Automotive Technology, Conservation, Construction, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Culinary, Health Careers, Information Technology/Computer Information Systems, and Small Animal Science. If a student decides to pursue one of the BOCES programs, they will complete the career/technical program of their choosing during their junior and senior years in conjunction with completing remaining coursework at FCS. From the education at Hewes, students graduate with career-ready skills in a particular field that would allow them to enter the workforce or continue their education within that field.

Future Business Leaders of America ~ Leading Beyond Limits

On October 17, the Falconer High School Future Business Leaders of America hosted the Fall District 13 meeting of FBLA HS and Middle-Level chapters from Catt-Little Valley, Clymer, Randolph, and Falconer. This day-long event gave attendees a chance to really get to know the FBLA organization, with ice breakers and team activities. Members were presented with details related to the NYS Program of Work, national Champion Chapter challenges and Business Achievement Awards, competitive events, and state and national conference opportunities.

Ethan Swanson, a Focus Improvement Team member at the Dunkirk location of Nestle Purina, Inc., served as the keynote speaker. Mr. Swanson highlighted details about the company and the many employment opportunities that the company has to offer nationwide. In addition to detailed activity highlights as to what project management is, he added an interactive workshop to the mix. Members were grouped into teams and presented with a related problem-solving activity. Each team chose a leader and they were responsible for reporting to the stage to present their team decisions. Mr. Swanson discussed the decisions that were made and explained "best practices" in each situation.

This event is always a great way for our members to learn more about all of the great opportunities that the FBLA organization has to offer, and, hear from people in the business sector who have knowledge to share.

If you are interested in learning more about FBLA (grades 9-12) and FBLA-Middle Level (grades 5-8), please contact Mrs.

Michelle Johnson at mjohnson@falconerschools.org.





Lady Falcons Volleyball

Emily Z. (#9) was named 1st team All-WNY and 6th team All-State.



Hannah M. (#12) was named 1st team All-WNY and 5th team All-State.



Falconer volleyball finished out a strong season by finishing runner up in Section VI Class C volleyball falling to eventual state champion Portville in the finals. The team finished 18-4 overall and 11-3 in their league. Hannah M. and Emily Z. were 1st team all-stars in the league. Mylie Z., Augustine K., and Nylah S. were 2nd team all-stars. Hannah M. was also named the sportsmanship player of the entire league.

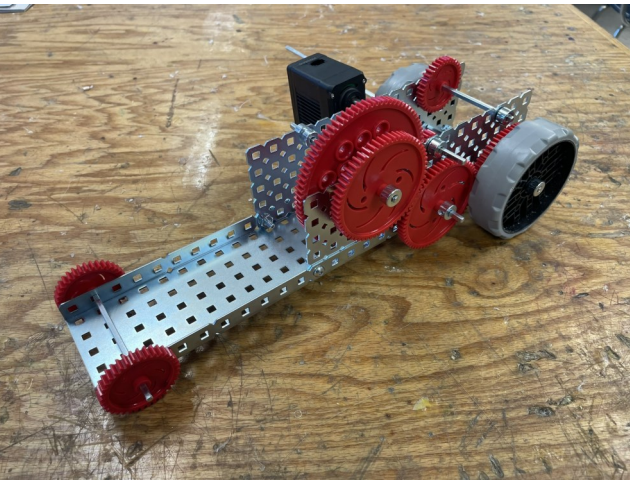
Girls Varsity Soccer

Brett Johnson was named 2024 Post-Journal/Observer Girls' Soccer Coach of the Year, leading us to our first section title in ten years! We were 17-4 -0 on the year ending with a loss to Hornell in the Far West regional game. We were also blessed with a multitude of all-stars. **First team:** Julianna R., Kylie K. (MG) and Natalie D. **Second team:** Ellyson B., Mary L. and Madilyn S. (MG). **Honorable mention:** Alex C. (MG), Giada S. and Sydnee S. Kylie K. (MG) was selected to the **All-Western NY Girls Small School Team**, and **Second-Team All-State in Class B**. Julianna R was selected **All-Western NY Small School team**, and **First-Team All-State in Class B**.

All in all, this was a season to remember thanks to this wonderful group of girls!! We will miss our three seniors (Natalie D., Alex C. (MG) and Ashlynn Smith (Cass.)), but look forward to the future with such a talented and young group!



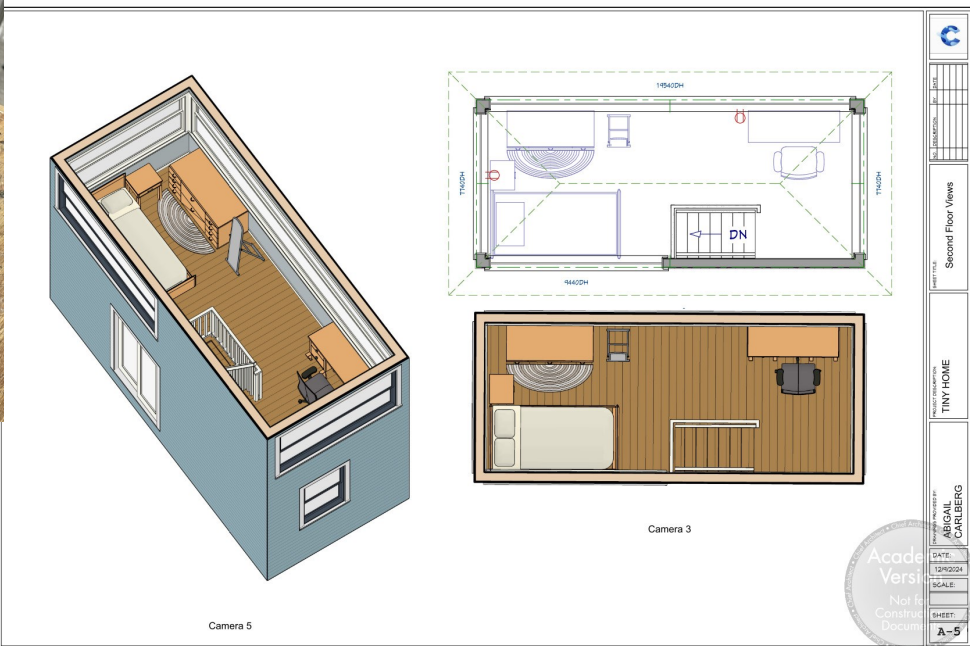
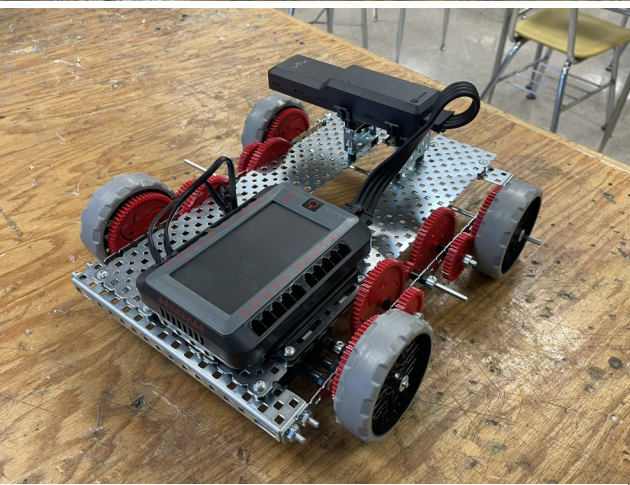
Engineering and Architecture Students Showcase Creativity



This semester, students in Mr. Garner's technology and engineering courses are putting their skills to the test. Two hands-on projects below showcase the skills, techniques, problem-solving ability, and creativity by students this semester.

Robots Take on Tug-of-War

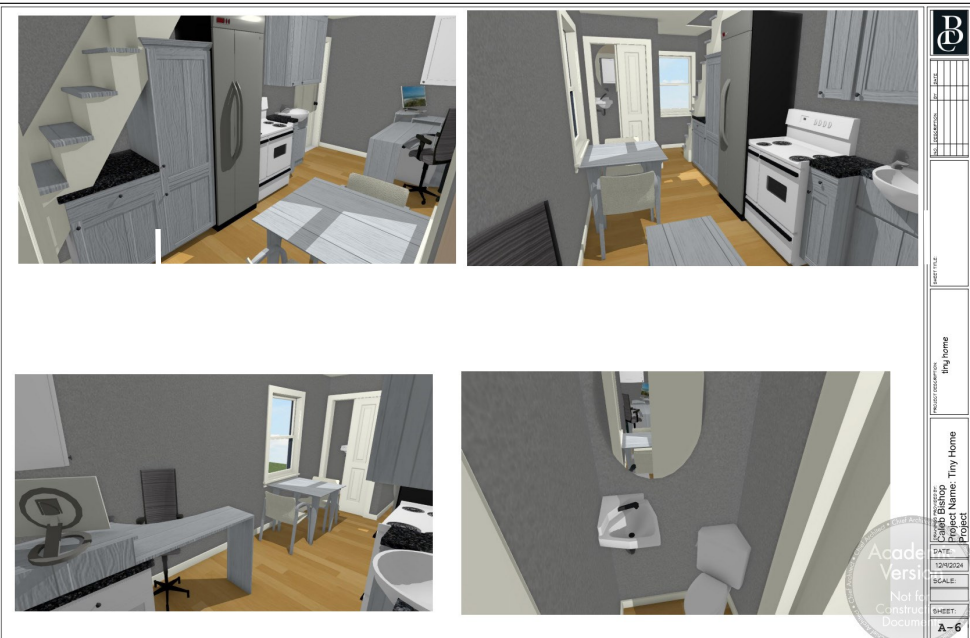
In PLTW Engineering, students are building custom robots to compete in a tug-of-war challenge. Using VEX Robotics kits, they're learning how to design and assemble robots while experimenting with gear ratios, motor strength, and structural stability. Coding also plays a big role, as students program their robots to perform at peak efficiency during competition. This project isn't just about building strong robots—it's also about teamwork, trial and error, and finding the right balance between power and strategy.



Designing Tiny Homes

Over in the Architecture class, students are busy designing two-story tiny homes with the Chief Architect software. The challenge? Fit all the necessities of modern living into a compact 8' x 20' layout. From drawing floor plans to designing stylish interiors and exteriors, students are learning how to balance functionality with creativity. Whether it's maximizing storage space or creating a minimalistic, efficient interior design, each project reflects the unique vision of its designer.

Both projects highlight the incredible creativity and ingenuity of our students as they tackle real-world challenges. Whether it's a robot pulling its way to victory or a tiny home ready to inspire future architects, these projects are great examples of the skills and imagination being developed in our classrooms.



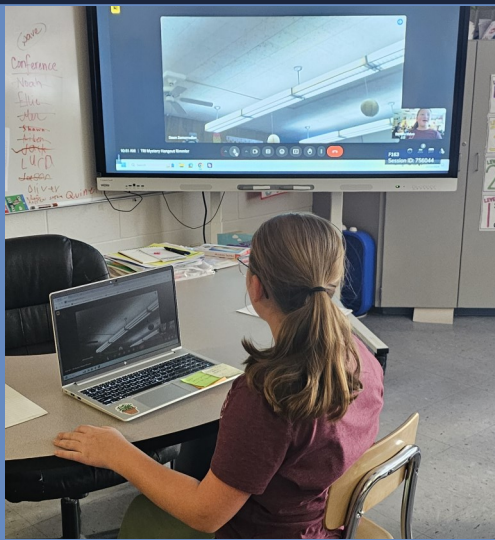
'Snowman Selfie'

Fifth-grade students in Mrs. Valvo's class completed 'Snowman Selfie' projects throughout the month of December. Each student wrote a fantasy story about a day when they were turned into a snowperson. Their projects corresponded with their stories, which were read and presented before the holiday break.



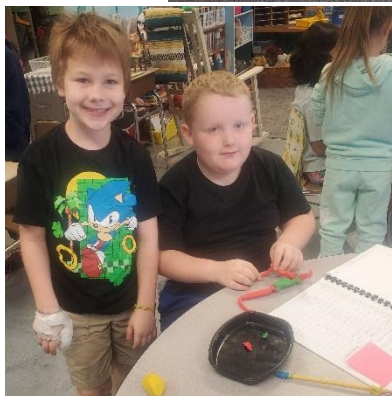
Mystery Zoom in Mrs. Valvo's Room

Students in Mrs. Valvo's class took part in their second "Mystery Zoom" with another elementary school. Using a map of the United States, the classes asked each other "yes" or "no" questions to figure out where the school was located. This time, they discovered the school was in New Jersey, about an hour from New York City!



Third-graders explored the world of genetics, looking at how traits are passed down from parents to offspring. Each student received a random "gene code" slip representing contributions from parent one and parent two. Using a detailed chart, they determined traits such as eye color and tail length, bringing science to life in an engaging and hands-on way.

3rd Graders "Break" Gene Code



Virtual Field Trip

Third-graders recently embarked on an exciting virtual field trip to a tree farm in Naples, NY, as part of the Cornell Education Program. In preparation for the trip, teachers received a special package filled with items like sawdust, a pine bough, a bag of bunny food (since the farm also raises animals), and a cross-section of a pine trunk. The forty-five minute virtual experience gave students an inside look at how the farm is managed and how wreaths and other holiday decorations are created. Students were encouraged to ask questions, and the presenter answered as many as possible. The farm animals stole the show, becoming a favorite highlight of the experience for the kids.



Field Trip

The fourth-grade classes have been studying Iroquois history and culture. On November 13, they had the opportunity to visit the Seneca Iroquois National Museum in Salamanca. After the museum tour, the students were invited to partake in the Harvest Luncheon, and they sampled freshly cooked traditional foods.



Iroquois Projects

This year, the fourth-graders learned a great deal during our unit on the Iroquois. Each student was required to complete a Native American project with their families and present what they had learned to the class and their teacher. Students had the option to choose from a variety of projects, such as building a longhouse, making a dreamcatcher, creating a wampum belt, or crafting a corn husk doll, among others.

The pictures included showcase just a glimpse of the amazing projects that were completed.





**PAX
Leader
Lunches**

Deer Decoration Contest

The Krenzer Family Tree Farm shared a box of wooden deer parts with the staff at Temple. Nine teams were assembled to design a deer for a school-wide contest. The deer are being displayed in the cafeteria and the result of the vote for fan favorite will be released in January. Thank you for your generosity, Krenzer family!



Kindergarten Students Thankful

Kindergarten students presented their thankful plates. Each student presented their plate using the document camera. They explained to the other students what they were thankful for. They did an awesome job!



Fire Prevention

Students at both Fenner and Temple participated in fire prevention assemblies this fall. Thank you to our local volunteer fire companies that made this possible!



Mrs. Swanson's kindergarten class learned all about apples.



Second Grade Winter Concert

On Tuesday, December 17 the second graders and their families met at the high school auditorium for the 2nd grade winter concert. Under the direction of Mrs. Peterson, students sang a variety of songs that included *Frosty the Snowman* and *Marshmallow World*. It was a festive evening listening to some of FCS' youngest singers.



1st Grade Thanks Veterans

Mrs. Penhollow's class learned about Veterans Day. They made a craft and wrote a letter to our Veterans! Thank you, Veterans, for serving our country!



Falconer CSD

2 East Avenue, North
Falconer, NY 14733
www.falconerschools.org

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Jeffrey Jordan, High School Principal
Terry English, Middle School Principal
Gary Gilbert, Fenner Elem. Principal
Holly Hannon, Temple Elem. Principal

ECRWSS

Non-Profit
Organization

U.S. Postage
Paid

Permit #30
Jamestown,
NY 14701



Thank you, Falconer Kiwanis

With the help of
Ashley and Rosie
Digirolamo, thirty-five
children from nine
families had a special
Christmas.



Save the Date!

Falcon Productions' presentation of *Guys and Dolls* will occur on March 21-22 at 7:30 p.m. and on March 23 at 2:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The Artistic Director for the show will be Mrs. Heather Young. This will be Mrs. Mogenhan's last show as Music Director at FCS as she is planning on retiring this June after more than 30 years of teaching. Come support drama at FCS.



The Falcon's Nest Re-Opens

Our student-led Falcons Nest community clothing and hygiene closet is now open and free of charge to all students at FCS. We are again accepting clothing and product donations in the lobby of the high school. Maddie W., Morgan R., Zoe S.-W., and Olivia S. are ninth-grade students at Falconer. They have done an exceptional job collecting and organizing the donations to benefit all 6-12 students at FCS. The closet is located in the Southern Chautauqua Credit Union Office and is open during school hours. All items located



in the closet have been donated by FCS students, families, and staff. Thank you for your donations and to the Kiwanis Club for donating two clothing racks to the closet. Great job, Golden Falcons!

