

# THE FALCON

## FALCONER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

### IN THIS EDITION

- 2 Administrative Letter
- 3 District News
- 4-8 MS/HS News
- 9-11 Elementary News
- 12 Reminders/Announcements



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### November

- 17 1/2 Day Parent/Teacher Conferences (Elementary) NYSSMA Sr. High All State (SUNY Fredonia)
- 21 BOE Mtg. @ 5:30 p.m.
- 22-24 Thanksgiving Recess (No School)
- 27 Elem. PTO Mtg @ 6:30p.m.
- 30 MS/HS Progress Reports

#### December

- 1 Superintendent's Conference Day (No School)
- 5 BOE Mtg. @ 5:30 p.m.
- 7 Grade 5 Winter Concert @ 6 p.m. (HS Aud)
- 8 1/2 Day Parent/Teacher Conferences (Elementary) End of 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester (Elementary)
- 12 Grades 9-12 Winter Concert @7p.m.(HS Aud)
- 14 Grade 6 Winter Concert @ 6:30 p.m. (HS Aud)  
Grade 7-8 Winter Concert @ 7:30 p.m. (HS Aud)
- 19 Grade 1 Winter Concert @ 5:30 p.m. (HS Aud)  
Grade 2 Winter Concert @ 6 p.m. (HS Aud)
- 22 Honor Society Induction @ 8 a.m. (Aud)
- 25-1/2 Winter Recess (No School)

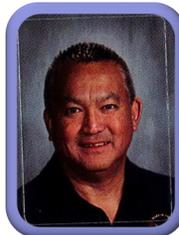
#### January

- 2 BOE Mtg. @ 5:30 p.m.

**DISTRICT**



Lori Buchanan,  
Safety & Security Officer



Robert Buchanan,  
Safety & Security Officer



Brad Widen,  
Safety & Security Officer



Not Pictured: Elizabeth Case,  
MS/HS Cleaner

**MIDDLE/HIGH**



Ann Crossley,  
Literacy Teacher



Kelsey Edwards,  
Spanish Teacher



Edward Garner III,  
Technology Education Teacher



Rhonda Rasmusson,  
Music Teacher



Lacie Schimek,  
Guidance Secretary

**FENNER ELEM.**



Raegan Augustino,  
AIS Math Teacher  
(MS/Fenner)



Lauren Kimball,  
Art Teacher  
(Fenner/Temple)

**FCS WELCOMES OUR NEW FALCONS!**

**TEMPLE ELEM.**



Elizabeth Cleland,  
Aide



Jennifer Diate,  
UPK Teacher



Tina Duliba,  
School Counselor



Kirsten Gorman,  
UPK Teacher





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



**Board of Education**

- President  
Tracy Schrader
- Vice President  
Tom Frederes
- Members  
Heather Cardot  
Robert Carpenter  
Marcella Centi  
Mark Wilcox  
Ro Woodard

**Administration & Supervision**

- Superintendent  
Stephen Penhollow
- High School Principal  
Jeffrey Jordan
- Middle School Principal  
Terry English
- Fenner Elementary Principal  
Gary Gilbert
- Temple Elementary Principal  
Holly Hannon
- Director of Special Education  
Julie Widen
- Director of Instruction & Staff Development  
Judith Roach
- School Psychologist  
Ashly Warner
- School District Business Leader  
Sara Kennison
- Director of Facilities  
David Micek
- Transportation Supervisor  
Scott Peterson
- STEM Coordinator  
Mary Plumb
- Coordinator of District Data  
Judith Roach



[www.FalconerCSD.org](http://www.FalconerCSD.org)

Follow us on Facebook:  
 @FCSGoldenFalcons

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

Welcome back, FCS!!! We're truly excited to be back to school with our students and staff! Our teachers, administrators, and support staff started their school year on August 29 with three days of professional learning to jumpstart the education of over 1,100 growing minds that pass through our doors daily. Our Back-to-School Bash at the MS/HS was an amazing success! Representatives from colleges and universities were present along with a variety of FCS clubs and local organizations outside by the track to meet with our kids and families. We also had a great in-person turnout at both Harvey C. Fenner and Paul D. Temple Elementary schools that same evening. Our FCS Homecoming parade and bonfire were also a great success that brought our community out to cheer on our students and teams.



As we enter this new school year, we hope to build on the many successes we had across the District last year while continuing to build toward our new goals. We are a great community that rises to challenges and supports our schools. Our strength, diversity, and dedication have made Falconer a great place to educate our children.

We are pleased to announce the addition of three new Safety Officers, Bob Buchanan (Fenner), Brad Widen (Temple), and Lori Buchanan (District) who are now at Temple and Fenner full-time. They've been added to provide additional support for our students and staff in all of our District buildings. We've also made some changes to our drop-off and pick-up areas at the MS/HS to make student crossings safer. Please go to our website "Site Shortcuts" to see the updated maps to provide additional directions for each of our school buildings. Please also take the time to view our website in the coming months as we share our school's accomplishments and activities with our FCS community. You can find many pictures and news updates on our site at [www.falconercsd.org](http://www.falconercsd.org)

We certainly have a lot of work to do, but we are a great District with great teachers and a great support staff. Together, we will achieve great things. On behalf of the Board of Education, we wish the entire Falconer family an exciting and successful 2023-2024 school year!

Stay Falcon Strong!

Stephen M. Penhollow, Superintendent  
[spenhollow@falconerschools.org](mailto:spenhollow@falconerschools.org)

**New Teacher Orientation**

Administration joined some of the new teachers this past August for lunch at a local favorite restaurant, Tasta Pizza.





### FCS Earns 5<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Title

Falconer participated this year in the Jamestown YMCA's 35<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Businesses for the 10<sup>th</sup> year and was able to clench their fifth consecutive title of Large Division Champions. This is the sixth time in the past seven years Falconer was crowned. All faculty and staff are invited to participate in this 22- event competition. This year FCS placed second in men's golf, co-ed volleyball, pickleball, 2-mile run/walk, Sur"Y"vor, and the mystery event (flip cup). The team placed third in men's bowling and fourth in women's bowling, curling, soccer shoot 'n' score and the scavenger hunt events. Pictured above are participants from Temple Elementary, the run/walk event, women's golf, lip sync battle, scavenger hunt, and volleyball.

### October Inservice

During the October inservice day, Falconer faculty not only participated in workshops and curriculum work, but were also challenged in a team-building STEAM activity.

The randomly created teams were asked to create a creative haunted house with only the materials provided. The teams had a strict time limit and two of the members were not able to utilize their dominate hands. Creations were judged based on a rubric and the winning team (pictured above) were crowned.



## Library Receives Grant

The middle/high school library has received a grant from the Western New York Library Resources Council's Diverse Collections Development program. The focus of our grant application was accessibility and the inclusion of materials that show the experiences of living with physical and cognitive disabilities. The titles purchased with the grant money will help support students with disabilities seeking materials that relate to their experiences. Independent readers will have access to materials with characters that provide realistic representation of a wide range of human experiences including autism spectrum disorder, ADD, physical disabilities, anxiety and mental health diagnoses, learning disabilities, and sensory impairments. This will also add value to our biography collection by including more memoirs from disabled or neurodiverse authors.



## Seal of Civic Readiness Service Learning Project Creates Natural Play Area at Temple Elementary

Sophomore Peyton W. has been working since spring 2023 on her Seal of Civic Readiness Service Learning Project at Temple Elementary. Peyton is working with the District, the Jamestown Community Audubon Center, and many organizations and individuals to create a natural play area at Temple for students and teachers to enjoy throughout the school year. Peyton designed an L-shaped area that includes a "floor is lava" interactive play space, a round seating area for story time and class discussions, two birdhouses, multiple different native plant species and an eventual butterfly garden. There are mowed pathways throughout the space so students can explore. This project could not have been completed without the support of the Village of Falconer, the Jamestown Community Audubon Center, the Falconer Key Club, the Falconer Regional Fund at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, the FCS summer student work crew, the high school CDOS class, and the donations involving preparation and delivery of wood from so many of our faculty and staff. Peyton and the Audubon have made a concerted effort to use native species and environmentally friendly materials in this design. We are all excited to watch this interactive learning space grow.





**Back to School Bash**

The Bash was held on Thursday, August 31, at the Falconer MS/HS. Students and families had the opportunity to navigate the building, meet their teachers, and interact with representatives from various colleges and universities, FCS clubs, and local organizations. It was a great welcome back celebration!



**Western New York College Consortium**

The WNY College Consortium took place on Thursday, September 14, in the Media Center. Falconer high school students had the opportunity to do a walk-through and meet with various college representatives.



**Guidance Calendar**

Be sure to check out the Guidance calendar on the Falconer website under Counseling, for visits with colleges and universities, military recruiters, as well as community organizations. College representatives will be visiting us during lunches in the mezzanine. Military recruiters will be in the lobby every Wednesday.

**College-Bound Seniors Reminders**

Begin the Common Application and/or /SUNY Application  
 FAFSA Available in December 2023: Please be advised that the 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will launch in December. Every college-bound senior must file a FAFSA form. The FAFSA is the first step in applying for aid to help pay college expenses. Students may visit <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> and get started on this process. Keep in mind that you will be using the tax return filed in 2022. It's recommended you file the FAFSA as soon as it's available so you don't miss out on anything!

2023-2024 SAT Test Dates

Registration Due Date

Late Registration Date

**S  
A  
T**

December 2, 2023  
 March 9, 2024 (Digital)  
 May 4, 2024 (Digital)  
 June 1, 2024 (Digital)

November 3, 2023  
 February 23, 2024  
 April 19, 2024  
 May 17, 2024

November 21, 2023  
 February 27, 2024  
 April 23, 2024  
 May 21, 2024

Register for SAT at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

**A  
C  
T**

December 9, 2023  
 February 10, 2024  
 April 13, 2024  
 June 8, 2024

November 3, 2023  
 January 5, 2024  
 March 8, 2024  
 May 3, 2024

November 17, 2023  
 January 19, 2024  
 March 22, 2024  
 May 17, 2024

Register for ACT at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

### Falconer Esports!

The Falconer Esports team is currently preparing for their second season. The team had a successful inaugural season last year finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place during the regional *Smash Brothers* tournament. Matches start in early October and continue through June with a chance to compete at High School Nationals in Walt Disney World in Florida. Currently, Falconer competes in *Smash Brothers*, *Rocket League* and chess with more games expected for the 2023-2024 season. These games are being played on Xboxes, Nintendo Switches and brand new gaming computers. The Esports team is open to all students in 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. If you or a student you know is interested in joining the team please see Ms. Pekrul or Mr. Spry for more details.



Matisonn D. from drawing and painting class with Ms. Foulk - *Glass and Candy*



Advanced art student with Ms. Foulk - *Collage by Kayla P.*



Tyler W. from advanced art

### Talented Artistic Falcons!

*Candy and Glass* - Addison C. from drawing and painting



Nazariah N. from advanced art

**Falconer FBLA... The Road to Atlanta Georgia**

For the first time in the past four years, Falconer FBLA members had the honor of traveling to the national leadership conference to compete against members from across the USA, Europe, China, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. The event was held the last week of June in Atlanta, Georgia.

Four high school members and two middle school members traveled with Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Braley to this exciting event after qualifying for national competition at the state level. High school competitors included Garrett C. (Future Business Leader), Alix S. (Word Processing), and Brason F. and Hanna H. (Publication Design). Our middle school chapter qualified for the first time with the expertise of Patrick B. (Elevator Speech) and Carson B. (Career Research).

With over 13,000 members and advisors in attendance, the competition was tough. Despite Falconer members not advancing beyond the preliminary round of competition, it was a great learning experience for them all. While in attendance, members enjoyed keynote speakers, skill-building workshops, social activities, and a visit to the Georgia Aquarium. One of their favorite memories is using their networking skills to exchange state pins to add to their lanyard.

Middle School FBLA meets each Tuesday and High School FBLA meets each Wednesday in Room 131 from 2:35 – 3:00. Encourage your student to reach out and see what great things these organizations have to offer. New members are always welcome!



**Varsity Girls Tennis**

The Falconer girls' tennis team won their 6<sup>th</sup> league title in a row by finishing the season 6-0 in the league and 11-1 overall. Angelina F. and Riley F. both qualified for the sectional tournament by taking first and second place respectively in the county tournament. Both Angelina and Riley lost in the first round of the sectional tournament in three set matches. Myla B. just missed qualifying for sectionals. The doubles teams of Jerzie S./Rachael S. and Emily G./Mia V. played well in the county tournament winning their first round matches before getting knocked out.



**Senior Recognized with National Soap Box Derby Youth Volunteer Service Award**

Damen V. has been racing in the local Soap Box Derby since 2013, volunteering locally with the derby since 2018 and has been a race committee member since 2022. Damen is the director of the local derby's 9 pin no-tap bowling tournament, the groups largest fundraising event.

Damen is one of four young volunteers nationwide who received this prestigious award, recognizing volunteers under the age of 21 who have made a positive impact on the Soap Box Derby through their leadership on the local, regional, and national levels.

Congratulations, Damen!



**Three Students Receive College Board National Recognition**

Hard work in high school to prepare for college has paid off. The following students have been given academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs for their strong performance on assessments and in their classrooms. Congratulations to Declan L. (senior), Aidan M. (senior), and Isabella A. (junior)! At a time when it's becoming increasingly hard for students to be "seen" during the college



**BigFuture**

Our school has **College Board National Recognition Program Awardees!**



recruitment process, we're celebrating our students who are at times overlooked but have shown outstanding academic abilities. They are three of 72,000 students from across the country who earned academic honors from College Board's National Recognition Programs! They have a GPA of 3.5 or higher. They're the top 10% of PSAT/NMSQT® or PSAT™ 10 assessment takers in each state for each program or have earned a score of three or higher on two or more AP® Exams.

**Students of the Month**

September  
**Mae G.**  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade



October  
**Reagan T.**  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade

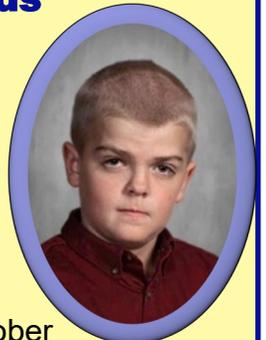


**Kiwanis Terrific Kids**

September  
**Anthony S.**  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade



October  
**Laine C.**  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade



## Temple's Summer Learning Challenge

Temple students were invited to participate in a summer learning challenge. Research shows that students who engage in educational activities throughout the summer return to school ready to learn skills at a higher level. Students were given calendars with various educational activities on them. The students were challenged to complete 25 tasks per month over the summer.

Some of the activities included reading outside, finding five things that start with the letter s, and writing the alphabet. The activities were selected to support early childhood development.

The students who completed the summer learning challenge celebrated by having a popsicle party and extra playground time! Each student received a water bottle and a certificate. Each year participation continues to increase thanks to the support of parents, caregivers, and teachers. A special thank you to the Falconer Elementary PTO for supporting this challenge.



## Fenner's Summer Reading Challenge

The Fenner Summer Reading Challenge was announced, once again, at the end of June, in an effort to help students continue to develop the habit of daily reading! Students were incentivized to “race into summer with reading” by joining a track-themed reading challenge titled Get Ready, Get Set, Read! A celebration on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> capped off the reading challenge. Fifty students in grades 3-6, who completed a minimum of 15 minutes of reading on at least 50 separate days throughout the summer, were recognized and rewarded amidst their peers. These “Summer Reading Champions” donned their hard-earned gold medals as they made a grand entrance into the first assembly of the school year! Meeting the reading challenge earned them several rewards as well as chances to win special prize giveaways and extra time outside to participate in some wacky relay races. We are very proud of the summer readers and hope to see even more students complete next summer’s challenge! It is a great opportunity for students to set a goal, put in the time and effort to achieve it, and enjoy the rewards of their hard work!



**April Harvey C. Fenner Elementary Soaring Students**

Eden A.,  
Logan L.,  
August C.,  
Camerson T.,  
Jayce S.,  
Skyler S.,  
Roman M.



3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

4<sup>th</sup> Grade



Alyse C.,  
Craig F-D.,  
Jazelle C.,  
Chloe G.,  
Susann G.,  
Eliana J.,  
Macynn R.,  
Andrew Y.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Darci C.,  
Savannah H.,  
Carter B.,  
Zoey Y.,  
Braylee M.,  
Savannah D.,  
Nevaeh W.,  
Avery Y.



**Fire Safety**

Local first-responders led fire prevention sessions with the students at Temple Elementary.



**Fourth Grade Trip to Allegany State Park**

On October 17, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes went on a field trip to Allegany State Park. It was a rainy day, but they made the most of it. They hiked around Thunder Rocks, learned about camping and survival, and examined animal tracks. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers applied for the NYS Connect Kids grant in order to make this trip possible.

## UPK Orientation

UPK orientation took place on Wednesday, August 30, at Temple Elementary. Over 50 families participated in the orientation. Four year olds had the opportunity to ride the bus with their parent. Everyone participated in a whole group presentation in the cafeteria then visited their UPK classroom. Orientation concluded with bus safety in the bus loop with the bus drivers!

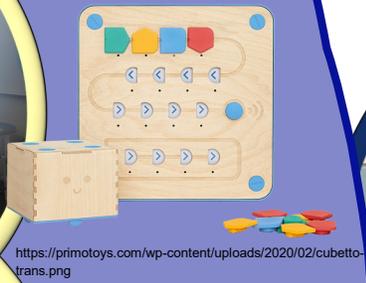
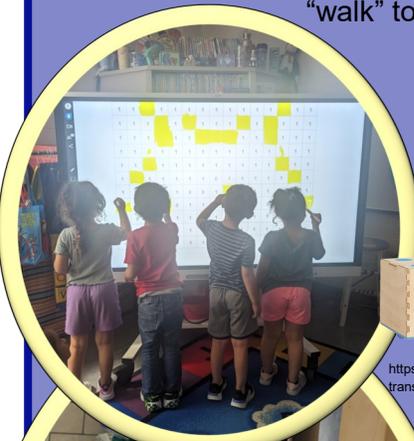


## Road/Street Crossing

Officer Widen conducted crossing safety at Temple Elementary.

## Kindergarteners Learn Code

Kindergarteners at Temple Elementary have been learning computer terms like pixels and algorithms and basic coding. Students have created pixel art and programmed a robot to "walk" to a desired point.



<https://primotoys.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/cubetto-trans.png>



## Students of the Month

Congratulations to Temple's Students of the Month! UPK- Mia W., K- Ivy C. and Alexandria W., 1- Hannah N. and Easton S., 2—Eleanor C. and Jenna Y.



### 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.falconerscsd.org](http://www.falconerscsd.org)
- ⇒ District Home Page
- ⇒ Our District
- ⇒ Board of Education
- ⇒ Board Meetings 2023-24
- ⇒ Select what you want to look at (ex: *Agendas*, or *Minutes*)
- ⇒ Click on meeting date



[www.FalconerCSD.org](http://www.FalconerCSD.org)

Follow us on Facebook:  
[@FCSGoldenFalcons](https://www.facebook.com/FCSGoldenFalcons)

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

### Little Library at Temple

The little library was recently added to Temple Elementary. It is located by the bus entrance doors. It will be stocked with books for students to take and they can leave them as well! The little library can be used as a positive enforcer! The library was lovingly built by Mrs. Whitacre's grandfather, Gil Lindahl. Thank you, Gil! The library looks great, even Evelyn approves!!



### Congratulations to the Cast and Crew!

Under the direction of Mrs. Binkley and Mrs. Sigular, the cast and crew of Falcon Productions presented the 2023 middle school play, *Order Up!* at the beginning of November. *Order Up!* took place in a fast food restaurant with an array of crazy customers and situations. The audience left laughing from this fun play and the cast and crew would like to thank all the local businesses and patrons who support drama at FCS.



### The Class of 1973 Visits Temple Elementary

The class of 1973 celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion with a building tour of Temple!



Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union is excited to be opening its fourth school-based branch in Falconer High School at the beginning of December 2023. The Falconer school-based branch will join our other high school branches located at Southwestern, Jamestown, and Frewsburg.