

# THE FALCON

## FALCONER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

**IN THIS EDITION**

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7	Capital Improvement Project
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16-23	Elementary News
24	Reminders/Announcements



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**May**

2	BOE Mtg. @ 6:30 p.m. Public Hearing @ 7 p.m. (MS/HS Media Center)
2-4	Gr. 3-8 NYS Math Test
3	CCMTA Scholarship Competition (CVCS MS/HS)
6	SAT Test Date junior/senior Prom
6-7	After Prom
8	FCS STEM Camp and Summer Boost Registration Opens
10	Spring Safety Day
11	MS/HS Progress Reports Gr. 9-12 Spring Concert @ 7:30 p.m. (HS Aud.)
12	Special Olympics (Athletic Complex)
12-13	NYSSMA Solo Festival
15	Elem. PTO Meeting
16	Fenner Art Show Budget Vote 2-8 p.m. (HS Gym Lobby) BOE Mtg. @ 6:30 p.m.
17	Temple Art Show
18	MS Spring Concert Gr. 6 @ 6:30 p.m. Gr. 7-8 @ 7:30 p.m.
25	Scholastic Fair (Fenner Elem)
26	Vacation Day (No School)
29	Memorial Day (No School)
31-June 1	UPK Screening

**Please remember to**

**May 16  
Budget Vote 2-8 p.m.  
(HS Gym Lobby)**



**District Vote**

- ⇒ Vote on Budget
- ⇒ Vote on Board of Education Positions
- ⇒ Vote on Capital Improvement Project

**Voter Qualifications**

- ⇒ 18 Years of Age
- ⇒ United States Citizen
- ⇒ District Resident (last 30 days)

For additional budget information, school calendars, and events please go to [www.falconercsd.org](http://www.falconercsd.org).



**You're Invited to..  
FCS After Prom Open House  
High School gym & café  
May 6, 7-8 p.m.**

- \*Light refreshments will be served.
- \*Sign the wall for the juniors/seniors!
- \*Parents/guardians, families, and community members are encouraged to attend to see the fun the juniors and seniors have in store!

**UPK enrollment is open at Temple School!**

Screening will be held on **May 31 and June 1** for those who enroll in the program.

**Eligibility:** Families who live in the Falconer School District that have children who will be 4 on, or before, December 1 are eligible. \*Children cannot ride the bus until they turn 4. Students who begin the school year at 3 years of age must have their own transportation until their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Spaces are limited!

**Please call Paul B.D. Temple  
Elementary School at (716) 267-3255  
for an enrollment packet.**



**Falconer  
Special Olympics**



Falconer's Special Olympics are set to be held on May 12, 2023, at the Falconer Athletic Complex. Spectators are welcome. Please support all our athletes!



**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**

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Our District has made considerations over the past several years to provide for the educational and financial stability of our community. Given the continued uncertainty of resources we receive from the state, we have had to work very hard to maintain staffing and programs without creating harmful cuts to student educational opportunities, all while living under the imposed tax levy cap. We continue to deal with the learning loss effects of COVID-19 for our students and staff. With our community's support, we've been able to provide those needed services and support for our students to help them adapt back to school. We're also focusing our efforts on providing a safe school environment by adding School Safety and Security Officers in all three buildings for 2023-2024.

We will continue to respect and stay below the allowed tax levy increase cap which will allow our taxpayers to be eligible for the state's tax rebate programs. We expect that the soon-to-be-enacted NYS budget will allow for no increase in the 2023-2024 tax levy for our community. Although the foundation aid formula has been fully restored this year, and aid projections have increased this year for FCS, we have, over the past 10 years, been shortchanged over \$42 million in foundation aid.

The Board of Education has also adopted a resolution to place a reconstruction project referendum on the ballot for \$18.65 million. Much of the project will address reconstruction and maintenance issues such as replacing "out-of-warranty" roofs, fire alarm replacement at MS/HS, complete renovation of our auditorium at the MS/HS, upgrading HVAC control systems, replacing air handling uni-vent systems, addressing bathroom renovations, boiler replacements at both Fenner and Temple, STEM lab renovations at Fenner, replacement of the backup generator at Fenner, renovations to our nursing suite, guidance, and business office spaces at the MS/HS, reconstructing the locker rooms and adding more outside access bathrooms at the MS/HS, upgrading district kitchens in all three buildings, as well as repairing/constructing other items addressed in our five-year building construction survey. New York state aid generated by the project, along with capital reserve money and available balances acquired through the prior year's fiscal balances, will enable the project to be completed without impacting district taxes.

We will continue to share services with our neighboring Districts and municipalities that will generate cost savings for all involved. Our area school district's consortium continues to provide our District with important savings through special education and distance learning programs. Falconer Central School will continue to investigate all areas of cost savings for our District taxpayers while still providing the highest quality of education for our students during an era of increased efficiencies. We truly believe that our two most important responsibilities are offering our students excellent educational opportunities while charting a financially sustainable long-term course for our schools.

As always, we thank you in advance for your support.  
 Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 16.  
 Stay Falcon Strong!

~Stephen Penhollow



**Board of Education Candidates:**

- ◇ Heather Cardot
- ◇ Mark Wilcox

**2023-2024 Proposed Budget**

The 2023-2024 Budget will provide the necessary resources for our students to attain the knowledge required to meet the standards necessary to reach higher education and work goals. Upon adoption of the New York State budget, we expect additional State Aid will provide the District adequate funding to levy a tax equal to the tax levied in the preceding year.

**Program Component**

The program component of the budget represents the cost of providing an appropriate education to all students of the District. It includes salaries and benefits of teachers and supervisors who spend the majority of their time teaching; instructional costs of supplies, equipment and textbooks; co-curricular activities; interscholastic athletics; and transportation operating costs.

	<b>Adopted Budget 2022-2023</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2023-2024</b>
<b>Legal</b>	\$71,673	\$71,994
<b>Instruction</b>	\$7,664,184	\$8,139,429
<b>Special Education</b>	\$2,959,205	\$3,326,858
<b>Program for ELL</b>	\$17,420	\$18,000
<b>Occupational Education</b>	\$690,900	\$775,900
<b>Summer School</b>	\$51,200	\$43,245
<b>Library/Audio Visual</b>	\$331,199	\$361,596
<b>Computer Assisted Instruction</b>	\$842,990	\$986,620
<b>Guidance, Health, Psychological, and Social Worker Services</b>	\$1,047,395	\$1,228,259
<b>Co-Curricular Activities</b>	\$64,000	\$66,000
<b>Interscholastic Athletics</b>	\$412,515	\$443,035
<b>Transportation</b>	\$999,310	\$1,061,710
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	\$5,079,392	\$5,625,772
<b>Interfund Transfer</b>	\$20,000	\$50,000
<b>Total Program Component</b>	<b>\$20,251,383</b>	<b>\$22,198,418</b>

### Administrative Component

The administrative component of the budget includes expenses for office and administrative costs; salaries and benefits for certified school administrators who spend 50 percent or more of their time performing supervisory duties, data processing; public information; legal fees; property insurance; and school board expenses.

	Adopted Budget 2022-2023	Proposed Budget 2023-2024
<b>Board of Education</b>	\$33,401	\$37,852
<b>Chief Administrators</b>	\$250,250	\$259,250
<b>Business Administration</b>	\$236,777	\$265,287
<b>Legal/Personnel/ Public Information</b>	\$90,178	\$86,829
<b>Central Services</b>	\$285,077	\$436,252
<b>Insurance</b>	\$54,600	\$54,600
<b>BOCES Admin and Capital Costs</b>	\$230,894	\$266,027
<b>Curriculum and Staff Development</b>	\$287,262	\$306,026
<b>Supervision</b>	\$630,500	\$651,500
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	\$635,455	\$682,141
<b>Total Administrative Component</b>	<b>\$2,734,394</b>	<b>\$3,045,764</b>

### Capital Component

The capital portion of the budget includes school bus purchases; debt service on buildings; proposed capital outlay and all facility costs including salaries and benefits of the custodial staff; service contracts, maintenance supplies and equipment; and utilities.

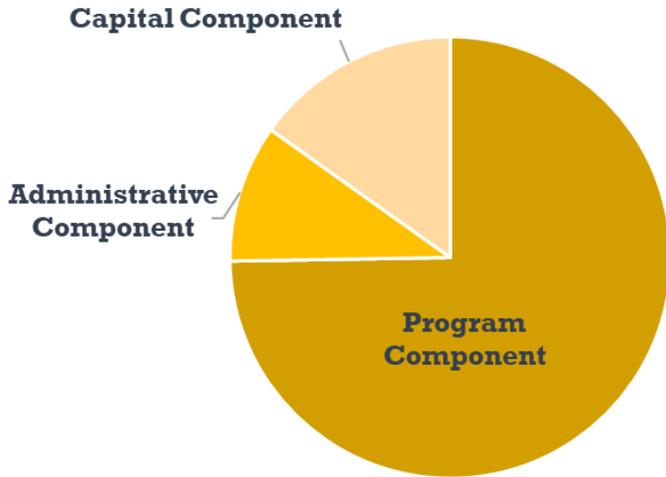
	Adopted Budget 2022-2023	Proposed Budget 2023-2024
<b>Operation and Custodial</b>	\$1,247,879	\$1,295,905
<b>Maintenance</b>	\$348,000	\$355,000
<b>Purchase of Buses</b>	\$330,000	\$380,000
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	\$426,154	\$457,087
<b>Debt Service</b>	\$1,657,190	\$1,683,244
<b>Capital Interfund Transfer</b>	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>Total Capital Component</b>	<b>\$4,109,223</b>	<b>\$4,271,236</b>

**TOTAL BUDGET:**

**\$27,095,000**

**\$29,515,418**

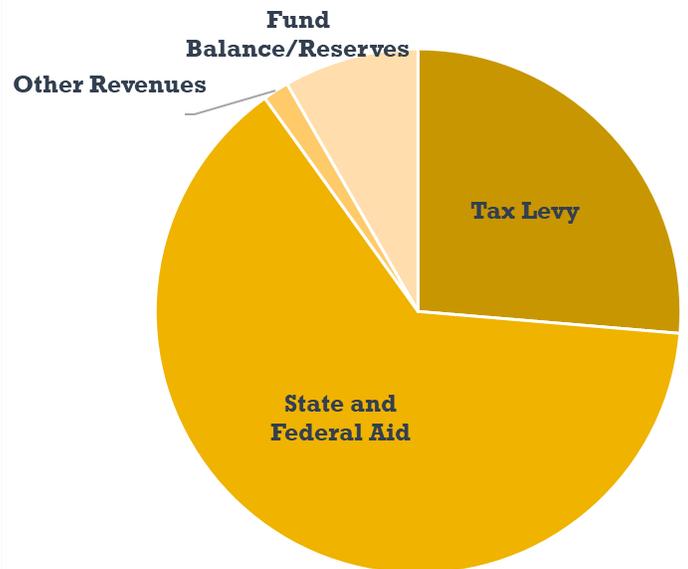
**Total Proposed Budget Expenditures**



	<b>Adopted Budget 2022-2023</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2023-2024</b>
<b>Program Component</b>	\$20,251,383	\$22,198,418
<b>Administrative Component</b>	\$2,734,394	\$3,045,764
<b>Capital Component</b>	\$4,109,223	\$4,271,236
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$27,095,000</b>	<b>\$29,515,418</b>

**Total Proposed Revenues**

	<b>Adopted Budget 2022-2023</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2023-2024</b>
<b>Tax Levy</b>	\$7,133,890	\$7,133,890
<b>State and Federal Aid</b>	\$17,276,940	\$19,803,093
<b>Other Revenues</b>	\$434,170	\$463,435
<b>Appropriated Fund Balance/ Use of Reserves</b>	\$2,250,000	\$2,115,000
<b>Total Proposed Revenue</b>	<b>\$27,095,000</b>	<b>\$29,515,418</b>



## School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Adopted Budget 2022-2023 School Year	Proposed Budget 2023-2024 School Year	Contingency Budget 2023-2024 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount	\$27,095,000	\$29,515,418	\$28,847,818
Increase (decrease) for the 2023-24 school year		2,420,418	1,752,018
Percentage increase (decrease) in proposed budget		8.93%	6.47%
Change in the consumer price index		8.00%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$7,133,890	\$7,133,890	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	\$7,133,890	\$7,133,890	\$7,133,890
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$7,365,569	\$7,374,983	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E-B-F+D)	\$7,133,890	\$7,133,890	
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$231,679	\$241,093	
Administrative component	\$2,734,394	\$3,045,764	\$3,034,164
Program component	\$20,251,383	\$22,198,418	\$22,102,418
Capital component	\$4,109,223	\$4,271,236	\$3,711,236

**\* Non-aidable equipment and nonessential maintenance may not be included in a contingency budget. Fees will be charged for community use of buildings and grounds except where there is no cost to the district.**

**\*\*List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount; (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements.**

Description	Amount
Capital Improvement Project, 2023	\$18,650,000

**Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-2024 School year**

Estimated Basic STAR<sup>1</sup> Exemption Savings: \$500

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-2024 by the qualified voters of the Falconer Central School District, Chautauqua County, New York, will be held at the gymnasium foyer in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. prevailing time in the Middle/High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine.

<sup>1</sup>The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



# FALCONER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT \$18.65 M

On May 16, 2023, Falconer Central School District residents will have an opportunity to vote on an \$18.65 M Capital Improvement Project that is designed to address District needs in the areas of building integrity, safety, instruction, and efficiency. Together, they consist of educational program improvements and prioritized building needs identified during the recent facilities assessment required by the State Education Department every five years.

LOCKER ROOM RENOVATIONS



### FENNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Backup Generator
- Restroom Renovations
- Replace Skylights
- Building Wide UV Replacement
- Roof Replacement
- Building Wide HVAC Controls
- Boiler Replacement
- - Allowance
- Multi-purpose room
- Air Handling Unit Replacement
- - STEAM Room Reno.

### TEMPLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Roof Replacement
- 4 RTU Replacement
- U.V. Replacement
- Boiler Replacement
- Air Handler Unit Replacement - Gym
- HVAC Building Controls - Allowance
- Exhaust Fan Unit Replacement
- Restroom Sink Replacement

### BUS GARAGE

- Masonry Repairs
- Overhead Door Replacement

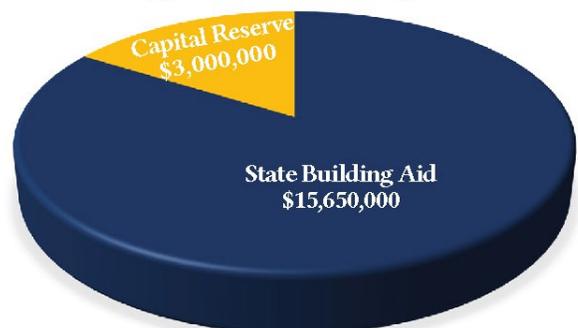
### MIDDLE/ HIGH SCHOOL

- Roof Replacement
- Air Handling Unit Replacement
- M.S. Wing UV Replacement
- M.S. School Wing Exhaust Ventilation
- 10 H.S. Restroom Renovations
- 6 M.S. Restroom Renovations
- HVAC renovations at Supts. Office
- Guidance & District Office Suite Renovations
- Nurse's Suite Renovation
- Locker Room Renovations
- Fire Alarm Replacement
- Auditorium - Theater Lighting & Sound Systems
- Auditorium Face Lift - Curtains, Carpet, Paint, Seating, Acoustic Treatment
- Exterior Road Sign Replacement



### PROJECT FUNDING

#### 0\$ TAX IMPACT



## NO PROJECT TAX IMPACT

### VOTE:

**MAY 16, 2023**

**2-8PM | MS/HS GYM FOYER**

**To Our High School Students and Families:**

It's hard to believe that spring is here and we are beginning the final marking period for 2022-23. Our spring athletes are well into their seasons and seniors are deciding on their future plans. We have prom/after prom coming up in May, with the senior Trip to Washington D.C. in June. I would like to thank our students, parents, and staff for your hard work this year. The regents schedule begins on Thursday, June 1 for U.S. History, followed by Wednesday, June 14 through Thursday, June 22 for all remaining exams. Now is the time to finish strong and work to achieve your academic goals. Your teachers are available during 9<sup>th</sup> period if you need any extra academic assistance.

Our June 22 graduation ceremony on Bill Race Field for the 2023 Golden Falcons is rapidly approaching. I hope everyone has an enjoyable spring, and as always, contact me by phone or email with any questions. Have a great 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, FCS!



Mr. Jordan Falcon Strong  
716-665-6624 ext. 3  
jjordan@falconerschools.org



A 418 Spring Street, Jamestown NY 14701  
P 716.661.3390 W crcfonline.org

**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Every year, the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation awards more than **\$1 million** to graduating high school seniors, undergraduate and graduate students, as well as, adult learners pursuing a higher educational degree.



**84%**  
applicants  
received awards



**\$2,048**  
average award  
per student



**331**  
scholarship  
funds

**IMPORTANT DATES**

May 15, 2023- Online Applications Available  
*students must re-apply each year*

July 15, 2023 - Applications, transcripts and student aid award letters due

November 2023 - Students receive notification of award status

February 2024 - Awards distributed for second semester expenses



**583**  
scholarship  
recipients

In 2022, the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation invested

**\$1,484,348** in local students pursuing  
higher education.

# 2023-2024



## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

### Scheduling

We have been working diligently with students on their schedules for the upcoming school year. Granted, we haven't gotten to all of them, but we encourage parents/guardians to get involved and reach out to their child's counselor if they want more information.

### SAT/ACT Test Dates

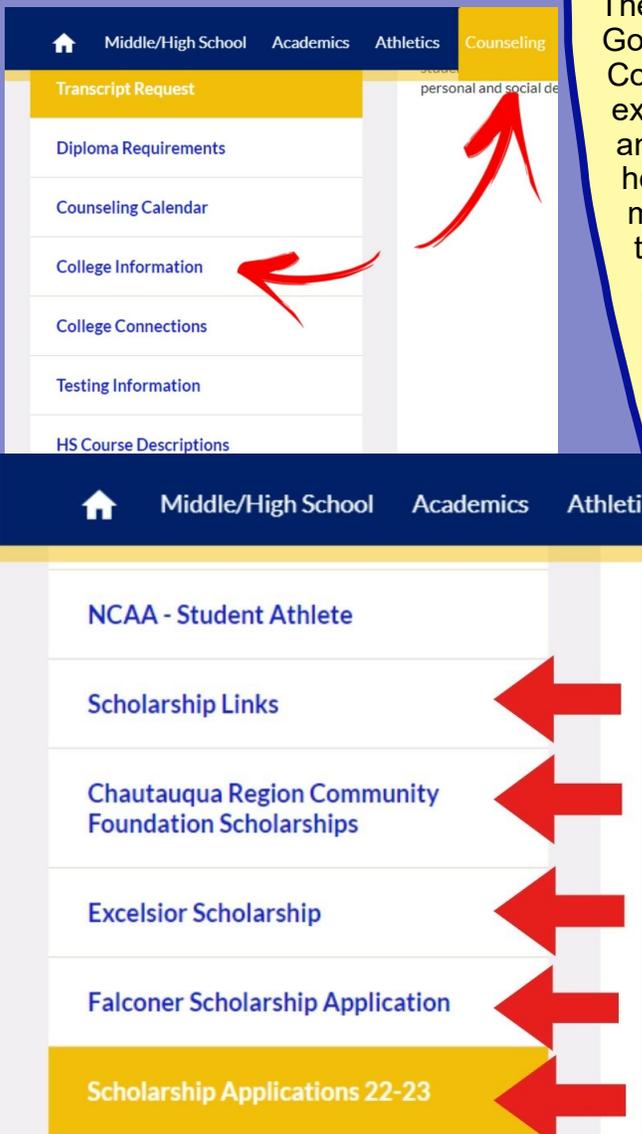
SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Late Registration
May 6, 2023	Apr 7, 2023	Apr 25, 2023
Jun 3, 2023	May 4, 2023	May 23, 2023

ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (fees)
Jun 10, 2023	May 5, 2023	May 19, 2023

### Scholarships

SENIORS! Scholarship applications are available on our website!



### Middle/High School Therapy Dog

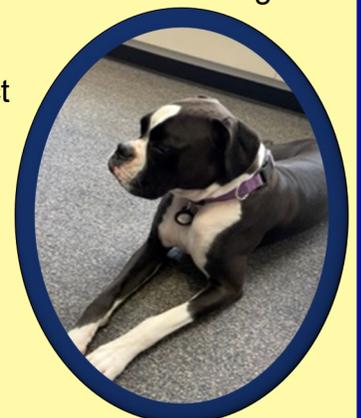
Therapy dogs are volunteers with their owners/handlers to help other people in settings such as schools, nursing homes, etc. Therapy dogs do not have the same access as service dogs. Goldie is a sealed boxer, owned by Tara Warren (High School Counselor). Boxers are known for their powerful body, expressive face, clownish sense of humor, innate intelligence, and intense attachment to their people. In spite of their heritage as powerful and courageous hunters, one of the modern breed's most appealing traits is a tremendous love for their people and a need to be loved in return. With their innate attachment to humans and their intelligence, Boxers make excellent therapy dogs. Goldie's responsibilities include:

- Interacting and connecting with students
- Increasing student engagement
- Visiting classrooms
- Attending presentations and participating in school-wide assemblies
- Being present in the common areas

If your child is allergic to an animal or is frightened by an animal, please contact Mrs. Warren via email or phone. Or if you have any other questions or concerns/ please feel free to contact the building principal.

Boxers have their own distinct antics that are both lovable and (sometimes) annoying.

- Jumping up and down
- Butt wagging
- Leaning/sitting
- Play bow
- "Boxing"/pawing
- Zoomies



**Falcons on Campus**

On Thursday, March 16, a group of high school students visited Penn State Behrend College. They were taken on an extensive campus tour and received a warm welcome from the admissions team where they reviewed scholarships, application requirements, and financial aid. This is one of several college visits taken this year and we are looking forward to the remaining visits to Jamestown Community College, Jamestown Business College, and the University at Pitt-Bradford!



**Elective Previews Week**

During the week leading up to February break, students entering grades 9-12 had the opportunity to get information about the various electives/courses available for the 2023 - 2024 academic year. Teachers set up table displays outside of their classrooms and each day of the week, students were able to leave during their study halls and move about the halls to visit information tables. It was a huge success and we look forward to having another preview week next year.



**Falconer Unplugged**

The Friday prior to spring break offered students the opportunity to relax and "UNPLUG" from their devices and school work as we enter into the final quarter of the year! During this time, students signed up to participate in activities that encouraged interpersonal connection and positive skill-building. These activities included things such as playing board games, getting creative through coloring pages, joining a drum circle, practicing yoga, coloring eggs for spring, and making origami masterpieces.



**eSports**

A new club within MS/HS has had a stellar start! We meet three days a week (Mon/Wed for HS, and Tues for MS). The middle school has a partnership with Prevention Works to help keep emotions appropriate for competitive play.

eSports consists of seven high school students and approximately 14 middle school students.

MS and HS players have teamed together for their first tournaments, sponsored by BOCES through the league OS platform. All games are played through the Nintendo Switch. *Smash Brothers*, *Rocket League*, *Brawlhalla*, and *Mario Kart* are currently being played.

Students have started fundraising with concessions and a bake sale to cover expenses for team shirts, controllers, and entry fees for tournaments.

We appreciate the generosity of one Falconer family who donated a Nintendo Switch to the club, which will help increase participation.

If you would like to sponsor eSports and receive recognition on our team shirts, please contact Ms. Anne Pekrul, [apekrul@falconerschools.org](mailto:apekrul@falconerschools.org), or Mr. Nick Spry, [nspry@falconerschools.org](mailto:nspry@falconerschools.org).



**Future Business Leaders Just Keep Moving**

This year has been an exciting one for our Future Business Leaders. Following a successful fall and winter, the chapter knew they had many more things to accomplish. Members attended meetings of both the Falconer

Rotary and the Falconer Kiwanis Clubs to present information about the chapter and all of their accomplishments. Falconer Rotary sponsored the chapter by hosting a pancake breakfast in their honor. Members served as waitstaff for the event and were granted an incredibly generous donation to assist them in travel expenses to upcoming state and national competitions. The chapter would like to extend their extreme thanks to the Rotary members for their support.



On March 31, the chapter hosted their 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Sophomore Career Day. Tenth-grade students attended two career-specific presentations and a consortium session that offered a variety of college and employment resources.

On April 1, members of both the middle-level and high school chapters, once again joined forces with the Town of Poland Summer Recreation to provide an Easter egg hunt event at Temple Elementary School. The chapter is now looking forward to attending the State Leadership Conference in Rochester to compete against hundreds of fellow FBLA members. Stay tuned for details!

**8th Grade Attend Event**

Recently the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students attended an event at the Reg Lenna presentation of *Freedom Flight* about the real life travels of the Underground Railroad and the cost of freedom for African Americans and how it took place in rural Ohio.





## Falconer MS Celebrates $\pi$ Day

Middle school students had fun with math on 3/14 during the annual Pi Day celebration. Activities were coordinated by high school math teacher Jon Anderson, STEAM Administrator Mary Plumb, STEM teacher Brandon Caruso, and Library Media Specialist April Binkley. Throughout the day, middle school students visited the library to try their math skills at eight different stations. High school students from Mr. Anderson's classes, Honor Society, and Book Club volunteered to work at each station and help students complete the tasks. This year's activities featured a new Pi-party Hat station designed by Mr. Caruso where students measured the diameter of their heads and created a colorful party hat customized to the circumference of their heads. At other stations, students did measuring activities to calculate pi as a ratio, created a chain to represent the digits of pi, and played pi Jenga, SMADness, and other games. Pi Day has become an exciting tradition for more than ten years!

**Falconer Mock Trial**

The 2023 Falconer Mock Trial team had its most successful season in recent years with a 3-1 regular season match record, in which the team won every single trial decision. The team has advanced to the Chautauqua County Finals! Our playoff run was set up by a 3-1 match record in league competition, our best season in 4 years. Our attorneys that have sought out justice with facts and have dueled with opposing counsel in court include, senior Curtis H., senior Zachary K., and junior Josiah S. The witnesses that have embodied their characters and have endured the stand at each trial include, senior Paul C., senior Brason F., junior Declan L., sophomore Katrina S., and sophomore J.C. H. The season concluded with a thrilling runner-up performance county finals at the Robert H. Jackson Center.



**JA Stock Market Challenge**

FCS has brought home one of the most coveted trophies in all of Western New York, the Bull! Congratulations to senior Collin N. for winning the virtual edition of the junior Achievement Stock Market Challenge. This competition involves hundreds of students from Western New York who have one mission in mind; find the stocks and make money. Collin succeeded in beating out the competition and brought the Bull home to Falconer, as well as receiving about \$100 in prizes.

**Falconer Boys Basketball**

The Falconer boys' basketball team went 15-5 during the regular season after going 4-16 last year. We went 8-4 in our league earning a home playoff game. We won our home playoff game against Eden 64-52 before being defeated at Allegheny the following game 39-80 ending our season 16-6. Two players were voted to the second team league all-star team; freshmen Roger M. and sophomore Mathis B. Senior Jase S. earned an honorable mention to the league all-star team as well. Check Arbiter or follow this QR code to see the team's stats.



**Students of the Month**



February  
**Nicola C.**  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade



March  
**Avery F.**  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Kiwanis Terrific Kids**

February  
**Rachael S.**  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade



March  
**Breonna W.**  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade



**Freshman Host Egg Hunt**

Falconer's freshman class of 2026 had a very successful Easter egg hunt fundraiser over Easter weekend.

Freshman class representatives Kate P., Gracie B., Emily Z. and Mylie Z., as well as other freshmen students contributed to make this event a success.

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported this event.



Mrs. Gunnell, Cabinne, Jeffrey, and Ripp, and Mrs. Spry, Jackie, Vivian and Emily had fun at the first Easter egg hunt put on by the Class of 2026!



**Bowling for a Great Cause**

Falconer staff participated in 2023 Junior Achievement bowl-a-thon.



## Instrumental Music Department Sees *Star Wars: Empire Strikes Back* and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

As part of Falconer's music department enrichment trip, on March 24, members of the HS concert band and senior choir members enjoyed an evening at Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo to see a performance of the film *Star Wars: The Empires Strike Back* with live orchestra by the BPO, conducted by Ron Spigelman. The BPO performs the music from the film live while the movie is played on the silver screen. The score composer for the music is the famous John Williams. The HS band will feature one of his classic World War II motion picture compositions, *Midway March*, in our spring concert.



The group also enjoyed a buffet dinner at Ilio DiPaolo's Italian Restaurant before the show. Students agreed the concert was a fantastic experience. Clarinetist/violinist, Isabella A. said, "It would be neat to play in an orchestra like that someday." During the credits scene, the orchestra performs one last time *The Imperial March* which feels like a natural farewell piece, which was a highlight of the night. For most of the students this was their first trip to hear a performance by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. ~ Mrs. Battaglia



**F<sup>2</sup>CS**

**We Want You!** **Marching Band Wants You!**

The F<sup>2</sup>CS Blue and Gold Vanguard Marching Band is currently recruiting new members for the 2023 season. The season will run from July through the end of October. Any student that will be in grades 7-12 in the Falconer or Frewsburg districts in the 23-24 school year are eligible to participate. We are looking for both instrumentalists as well as well as color guard members. Be on the lookout for a parent meeting to occur sometime in June. If you have any questions email Tim Przybelinski.

### Little Diggers

Girls in grades 4-6 participated in Falconer Volleyball's annual Little Diggers program. There were a total of 50 girls who participated!



**MS/HS STEM Wars**

MS/HS students competed in STEM Wars at JCC where many received top awards. Congrats to all who participated!

- Jimmy M., Levi O. and David P. - Dream It, Do It 500: 1<sup>st</sup>
- Zack K., Hannah C., Jordan C. and John N. - Aiden M. and Gage S. - Maker: 1<sup>st</sup>
- Kyle M. and Ashley. - Maker: 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Cooper D. - CAD Design: 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Dream It Do It 500: 3<sup>rd</sup>



**Fenner STEM War Members Win Big!**

"A sweeping success" is how Coaches Sigular and Chitester would describe this year's STEM War competition. Students in grades 4 and 5 were chosen to be on this year's Stem

War team based on their interest in science and technology, their knowledge of STEM, and Fenner's SOARING student qualities. Students started practicing for events and creating projects in January. They worked 2-3 days a week after school for 3 months. The competition was held at the Northwest Savings Bank Ice Arena and was organized by Southwestern Central School. Sixteen local schools attended the event. This team of 19 entered three Maker Fair projects, the science poster category, the t-shirt competition, three catapult competitions, three robotics competitions, and three marble run competitions. During the competition day, students were fortunate to have experiences with local businesses that use technology as well. For example, the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department brought their drones, bomb detectors, and camera robots to show the students how they are used in the field. The Prendergast Library was there, having students build with blocks, and code different cube robots.

This winning team was comprised of the following students; Mathius A., Teddy A., Owen C., Benjamin C., Ian C., Isaac D., Maggie D., Sophia G., Waylin G., Mae G., Jaxin J., Courtney K., Azaria K., Isabella M., Braylee M., Gracie M., Faith R., Seth S., and Wyatt S. Our team proudly brought home two first place ribbons and one second place ribbon in the robotics category; three first place ribbons in the catapult category, and one first place ribbon and two third place ribbons in the marble run category. A video of the competition day is posted on the FCS' Facebook page. Mr. Chitester and Mrs. Sigular are extremely proud of all the hard work, determination, and dedication that all the team members exhibited.

[https://skscouts.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/med\\_2015-stem-camp-logo.jpg](https://skscouts.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/med_2015-stem-camp-logo.jpg)



**SAVE THE DATE!**



**FCS STEM CAMP**

July 10-14, 8 a.m.—2 p.m.

At the MS/HS

Open to all students entering grades 6-9 for the 23-24 school year.

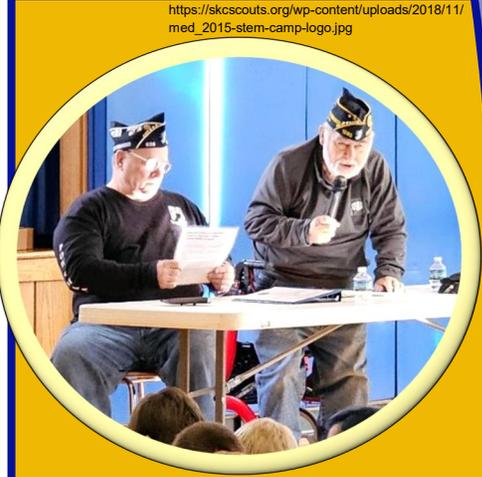
**FCS Summer Boost**

July 10-Aug. 4, 8—11 a.m.

At the H.C. Fenner Elem.

Open to all students entering grades 1-8 for the 23-24 school year.

**Registration for BOTH events will open May 8!**



**American Legion Visits 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Steve Cybart and Marty Schroeder from the Henry Mosher Post 638 American Legion visited the fourth graders. They gave a presentation to increase students' understanding of the history, significance and meaning, and care of and respect for the flag of the United States.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Has a Shaking Good Time**

Fourth graders at Fenner Elementary are studying colonial times, and they are also reading *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Laura learns to churn butter with her Ma. The students had the chance to make their own butter by using a mason jar, heavy whipping cream, and a lot of shaking!



**3<sup>rd</sup> Graders Sew "Peeps"**

This March Mrs. Garrison's and Mrs. Pawlak's classes learned to sew. They worked on an Easter sewing project and made stuffed bunny "peeps." The kids loved learning how to sew and did a super job. They added a cute face with whiskers and finished their bunny off with a bow. Both classes bought their bunnies home to enjoy Easter with them. Pictured is Mrs. Pawlak's third grade class.





### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Studies Traits

Third grade students are learning about inherited traits. Students are investigating how traits are passed down from parents to their offspring by building clay creature offspring. Students use a set of guided trait characteristics to see which traits were inherited from the parent creatures. They used these guides to create their creatures. They then compared and discussed similarities and variations between the offspring. Next, students worked in groups to make the clay creature offspring with specific traits based on instructions randomly inherited from the two parent creatures. During a class discussion, students applied their growing knowledge and, at the same time, deepened their understanding of inheritance and traits.

### The Audubon Visits Fenner

The classroom visits from the Audubon have tied in nicely with our science unit, as students have learned that the environment, or the humans in the environment, can impact bird populations in our area.



### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Studies Beavers

The 4<sup>th</sup> graders learned about beavers with a visit from Miss Katie from the Audubon. The kids enjoyed the hands-on lesson. They were able to touch real beaver fur and skulls.



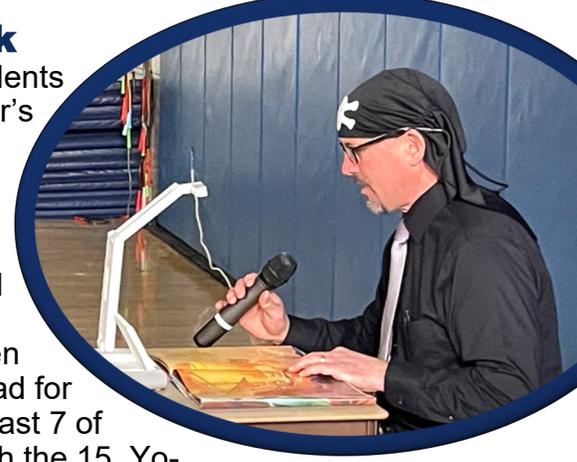
### Fenner's PARP Week

Ahoy, me hearties! Fenner students recently wrapped up this year's PARP (Pick a Reading Partner) challenge! As you may have guessed, we had a pirate theme this year entitled Set Sail with Reading! Students were challenged to "batten down the hatches" and read for 15 minutes or more on at least 7 of the days from March 4 through the 15. Yo-

ho! We had many a matey who chose to read ALL 12 DAYS (which meant reading on Saturdays and Sundays, as well)! It was "all hands on deck" as we celebrated reading in a variety of ways at school, throughout the event. Students enjoyed dressing like pirates, wearing shirts with words for others to read, hearing pirate books read by athletes from the JCC men's and women's basketball teams, participating in book

exchanges, and more! A few lucky "shipmates" were awarded Pirates' Booty (cheese puffs), pirate necklaces, and treasure digs, at our wrap-up assembly, which was kicked off with the book *Henry and the Buccaneer Bunnies*, read by Captain Gilbert! Our culminating activity, for those who completed their reading, was a movie called *Treasure Planet*. Students were served root beer floats, which tied in with the plot of the movie. All in all, we feel that our voyage was a success, as we all had fun finding **treasure in books!**

Our hope is that students and parents will continue to Set Sail with Reading, by making reading together a **daily habit!**



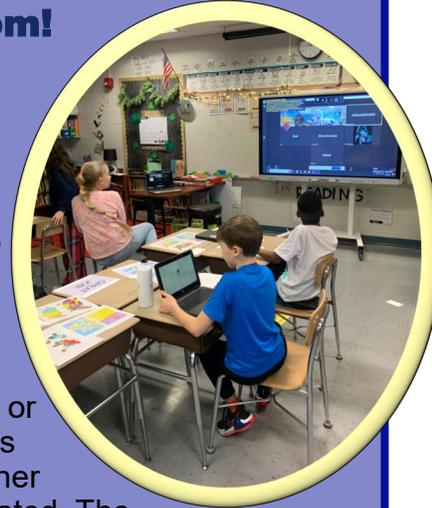
**5<sup>th</sup> Graders Visit Temple**

At Temple the fifth grade students read stories and sang the ABCs to some of the UPK classes.



**Mystery Zoom!**

Fifth grade students recently participated in a Mystery Zoom session with students from Cairo, Egypt. In this Zoom, the students had to prepare questions that could only be answered with a Yes or No response to guess



where their partner class was located. The students were divided into groups of questioners, responders, researchers and map readers. Together, the students created an incredible team of problem solvers! Once our class identified that their partner class was located in Cairo, it was time for us to answer questions so those students could guess where we were from! At the end, the students had an opportunity to talk to one another and ask questions about each other's country. Our class was able to show the Egyptian students snow, which received quite a reaction! The class enjoyed the activity so much they have requested another mystery Zoom session. Our mystery location cannot be disclosed just yet, but the students will put their research skills into practice again very soon!

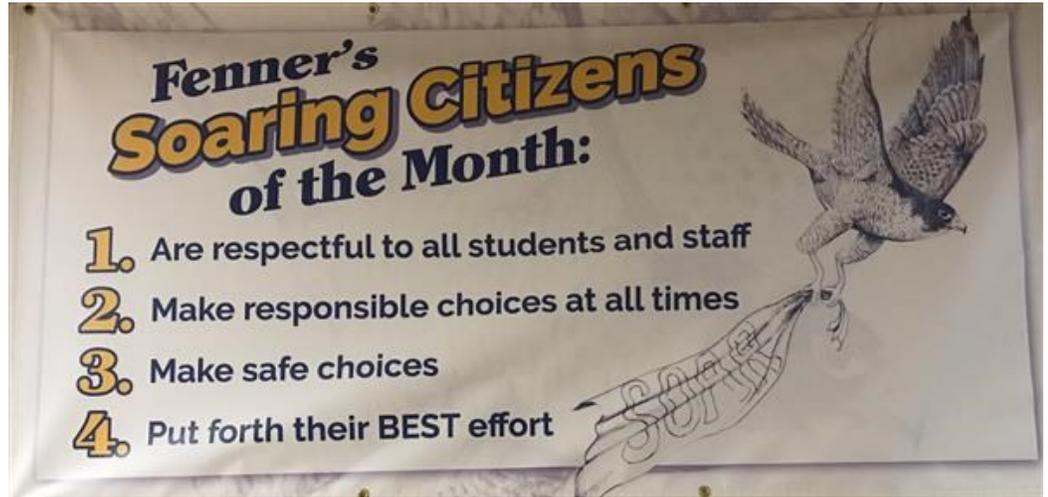
**Game Night**

The district's Academic Intervention Services department hosted a pizza and family game night on April 13. Almost 100 students and community members attended a fun night of pizza (paid for by PTO), cookies (donated by Sprinkles and Crumbs) and traditional board games held in the recently renovated HS cafeteria.



**Harvey C. Fenner Elementary Soaring Students**

Every month there will be one student chosen by the classroom teacher. To have all staff involved in the soaring citizens, and to not exclude children who may not soar in the classroom but may in other areas of the school, all non-classroom teachers and related service providers will be asked to get together and choose one student from 3<sup>rd</sup>, one student from 4<sup>th</sup>, and one student from 5<sup>th</sup>. We would also like to ask the cafeteria staff and aides to get together and do the same.



**February Soaring Students**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**



(pictured above)  
Silas C., Gage E., Zack V.,  
Audrianna S., Alexius M.,  
Noah N.

(pictured below)  
Ceci K., Lydia S.,  
Zaideyn S., Emma S.,  
AydN S., Clarie B.,  
Elianna J., Zoey Y.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**



(pictured above)  
Zofia L, Katelyn H.,  
Isabella H., Keaira B.,  
Lucas O., Molly K.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**



(pictured below)  
Anthony M., Nicolis L., Luke  
R., Livianna C., Azaria K.,  
Colton G., Brienna P.,  
Nevaeh W.

**March Soaring Students**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**



(pictured above)  
Koltyn H., Dominick R., Aiden  
R., Huntyr H., Alexius M.,  
Aiden R.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**



**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**



(pictured above)  
Maggie D., Melanie J.,  
Aubree L., Jaxin J., Colton  
M., Luke P., Damarion I.,  
Keade Z-W., Ben C.

## Meet Evelyn, Temple's Therapy Dog!

Her handler is Miss Kylee Lindahl (second grade teacher). Evelyn will be visiting once a week to start. Evelyn is a yellow labrador that is specifically trained, receives daily grooming before school, and has experience working with children. Evelyn will stay in Miss Lindahl's class but she may go into other classrooms to provide services to those who need it.

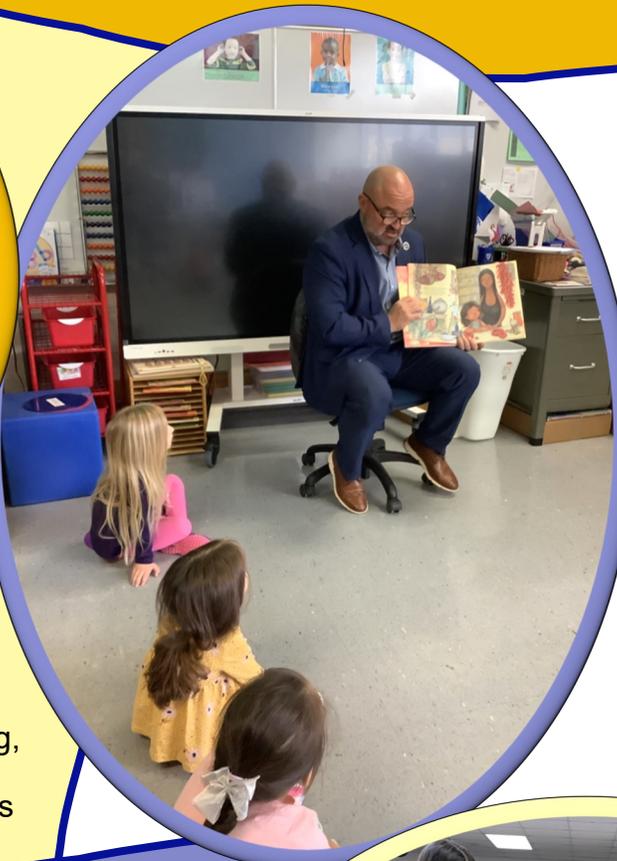
Therapy dogs are trained to help people who might experience stress or anxiety. They also bring much joy to those who enjoy dogs. Therapy dogs also provide both mental and physical benefits to people of all ages!

If you have any questions or concerns in regards to Evelyn please contact Miss Lindahl via email [klindahl@falconschools.org](mailto:klindahl@falconschools.org)



### "Bee Your Best Self"

Mrs. Boughton's kindergarten class made encouraging "Bee Your Best Self" posters. They used their tracing, cutting, gluing, writing, and following direction skills, to make these colorful creations. Pictured with their poster is Corbin C., Grayson D., Cameron J., and Hannah N.



### Guest Reader

County Executive, PJ Wendel, read to students in Mrs. Long's UPK class at Temple Elementary to celebrate Ag Literacy Week.



Temple's school store named Temple Sunshine Store is now housed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade pod. The store has school supplies and some fun items for sale. Pictured are Miss Buccola, Mrs. Bidney, and Miss Oehlbeck along with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade shoppers.





**3B's Awards**

Students who receive these awards exemplify the Temple 3B's (Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible). One to two students per classroom are given this award monthly and special area teachers also distribute this award to students. Award recipients are featured in the Student Spotlight found on the Temple Elementary website (<https://www.falconercsd.org/Page/4084>).

**PARP at Temple**

Temple celebrated PARP (Pick A Reading Partner) in March! PARP is a program that encourages a partner (parent, grandparent, babysitter, older sibling, cousin, friend, etc.) to read with a child for at least 20 minutes daily. Learning to read is the single most important activity in a child's education. To foster the love of reading, the students took part in a week-long celebration featuring the amazing author and illustrator Dr. Seuss.

Each day during PARP, a different Dr. Seuss book was featured. On Monday, the students read *Ten Apples on Top* and ate applesauce during snack time. Tuesday's book was *ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book!* and students ate alphabet cookies and wore a shirt they could read. Wednesday's theme was *Cat in the Hat* and students wore their favorite hat to school and received a Dr. Seuss finger puppet. Thursday's book of the day was *Green Eggs and Ham* so students wore something green. In honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday, they received a Dr. Seuss pencil and a mini note pad. In addition, the cafeteria served green eggs and ham for lunch. Friday's book was *If I Ran the Zoo*. Students were given a Dr. Seuss crayon shaped eraser. It was a fun week that celebrated Dr. Seuss and reading!

Thank you to Mrs. Hannon, the teachers, students, and parents for always supporting PARP! A special thank you to the Falconer Elementary PTO for funding our celebration of reading each year!



**Temple Students of the Month**

Students who receive this award are featured in weekly videos, assist with the announcements, and are able to eat lunch with a friend of their choosing.

**February**



**March**





**Budget Edition: Reminders & Announcements**



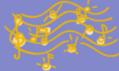
**Mission Statement**

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 2022-23
- ⇒ Select what you want to look at (ex: *Agendas*, or *Minutes*)
- ⇒ Click on meeting date



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

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

young people in YOUR COMMUNITY  
need role models like YOU



**AmeriCorps Seniors**

**Foster Grandparent Program**

The purpose of the AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program is to provide supportive, person-to-person service to children with exceptional or special needs in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany Counties. To be a Foster Grandparent, men and women over the age of 55 must be income eligible and in good physical/mental health. Individuals suited for the program must enjoy being among children and possess the desire to enrich their lives as a mentor, friend and role model. Foster Grandparents can volunteer as little as 15 hours per week and receive an hourly tax exempt stipend.

*"We love our Foster Grandparents at Fenner Elementary! They give that extra love and gentle care that so many students want, and our students love working with them. They build positive relationships with our students and assist them academically, emotionally, and socially"*

*Mr. Gilbert – Principal, Fenner Elementary*

**For More Information**  
**(716) 665-5354**

**senior Spot Light Happening Now**



A member of Falconer Class of 2023 is currently being highlighted daily on District's Facebook page. Student spotlight videos can also be found on YouTube by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yd5nmpna>

