



Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

November 2022

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A message from the Superintendent

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying all that beautiful Alfred-Almond has to offer. This is a busy time of year for our Alfred-Almond family and there is excitement on campus as student activities are in full swing. School spirit is alive and well on the field and courts as soccer and tennis teams participate in athletic competitions. Music is streaming through the school as our musicians prepare for their upcoming concerts and our walls are beautified by artwork created by our talented resident artists. Students are taking pride in our building and grounds by performing community service projects on our campus and attendance at our after-school events has been wonderfully supported by classmates and the community. I am proud to call this community my home!

School safety remains very important to all of us and we continue to ask for your help and support in keeping our campus a safe place. We require all visitors to enter the school through the main entrances of the buildings. Visitors, staff and students are reminded to close doors propped open and encouraged to report any behavior or conditions which may be observed as threatening. In the year ahead, we will be practicing fire, lockdown and emergency go-home drills. Before the first lockdown drill, the protocol and purpose will be discussed with students. We ask that you reinforce the purpose of all drills and encourage children to take them seriously.

The week of October 17-21 was School Board Appreciation Week. A very special thank you goes out to our five school board members, who collectively have more than 75 years of experience in serving our district. If you see our board members, please thank them for their commendable and dedicated service. We couldn't do it without them and appreciate the time they volunteer on behalf of our communities, students and district as a whole.

In closing, I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions regarding any aspects of our district. I am proud to be a part of such a student-focused team and community and greatly appreciate your continued support of the district. Alfred-Almond is a very special place and all of you are an important part of what makes it so special. I hope you enjoy the remaining days of fall.

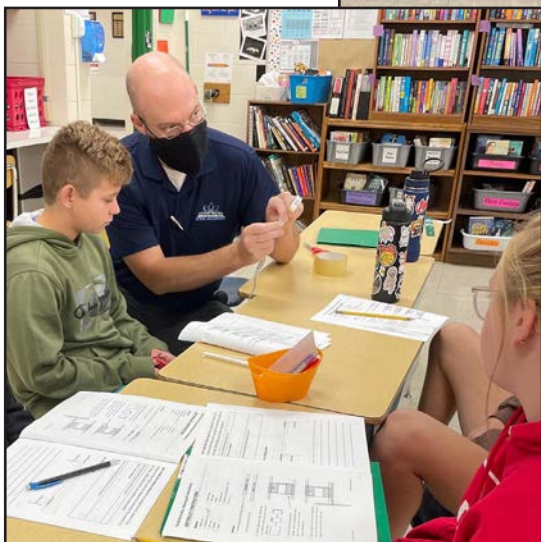
In Education,

Brett A. Dusinberre

Superintendent of Schools

Sixth-graders creating and exploring

Sixth graders have been working with their air trolleys in science class. This is part of our first investigation, Variables and Design. Students build air trolleys, fly them and record how far they travel with different numbers of winds of their propellers. Then they modify the trolleys to explore independent variables and see how their changes affect the trolleys' flight distances.



Mrs. Fox's sixth grade social studies class explored the ancient caves and the humans who lived there 2.5 million years ago. Through our exploration, we learned about ancient cave drawings and what they tell us today, then we created our own cave art about ourselves. Did you know that the humans who lived during this time would use their handprints as a signature? This is because there was no written language, just drawings of what they saw. Come check our cave art out in the sixth grade hallway.



Spanish students travel to Rochester for celebration

Alfred-Almond Spanish students joined the 22nd Annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery on September 26. Students enjoyed a variety of activities. They clapped along to some very traditional Mexican songs performed by local Rochester community members. We bet you would all recognize the song “Cielito Lindo,” as we did! Local dance schools of Rochester impressed us with their typical dances from various hispanic countries. Some of the young performers stole our hearts! Students, along with chaperones Christina Rowady and Bella Lang, enjoyed making more than one, “ojo de dios,” a traditional Mexican craft. Students enjoyed making them so much they made more the following week during Spanish Club. They also spent time researching the origins and meaning of the craft. It was a treat to view the diverse art on exhibit at the gallery. Talula Worth, a Spanish II student, especially enjoyed seeing work by Yayoi Kusama.

As every good outing should, the day ended with a good meal and great conversations. We are looking forward to joining the Day of the Dead Celebration and seeing an exhibit on the prolific Mexican artist, Frida Kalho, at the Rockwell museum in Corning on October 29. We would like to thank our school for providing us the opportunity and means to attend these enriching cultural events.



Cafeteria news

What a whirlwind of change this school year has seen for the AACS Cafeteria! We’ve welcomed three new team members – Kristy, Jessie and Anne – all of whom have brought great enthusiasm to the cafeteria and cannot be thanked enough for their efforts. We hope that each of them has made a positive impression on students as they’ve visited us for breakfast and/or lunch in both the High School and Elementary cafeterias.

Families should be aware that universal free meals were not extended for the 2022-23 school year. If families have not yet submitted an application for free/reduced price meals, they are encouraged to do so. It does not hurt to submit an application and it is kept completely confidential. Applications are processed and results mailed back within two to three business days. Applications should be addressed to Tori Parmenter, Cafeteria Manager.

Please note that students who do qualify for free/reduced meals are eligible to receive one free breakfast AND lunch each school day.

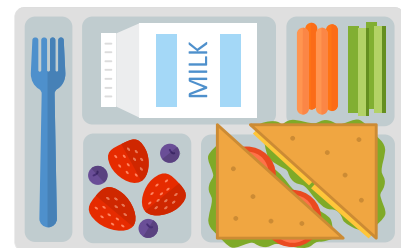
We’re pleased to share that many of the supply chain challenges we faced last year are not plaguing us as badly so far this year. We’re glad we can offer a variety of options each day to all students across campus and encourage families to check out our menu on the AACS website to

see what’s planned for each day and also consider our daily options, detailed on the right-hand side of the menu. Please be aware that menus are subject to change as there are still some supply chain challenges we face.

Lastly, families are encouraged to register their students at <https://myschoolbucks.com>, where you can track what/when your students eat and what their available account balance is. You also can add money to their accounts using credit/debit cards on the site.

Families that prefer to send cash or check to add money to their students’ accounts are welcome to do so. Please make checks payable to AACS School Lunch Fund and include your student’s name in the memo on the check. Funds can be sent with students, but large payments are strongly encouraged to be mailed to the school and addressed to Tori Parmenter, Cafeteria Manager.

Thank you to all families and students for your grace as we manage the many changes this new school year has brought. We look forward to serving you delicious breakfast and lunch this school year.



Elementary PE update

Elementary PE students have had a very busy month playing cooperative games, soccer, flag football, ultimate frisbee, hiking and participating in fitness testing. Students are learning how to be good teammates, to work through challenges and that being active is as easy as going for a walk outside and can also be as challenging as running the mile.

Recently, Mr. Mann and Mr. Dwyer facilitated an obstacle course station at the Move and Groove Night. Students had to get across the gym without touching the floor. Some obstacles required teamwork, and others required careful route planning, balance and agility to complete the course. It's been a great start to the school year and the students have enjoyed going outside and taking advantage of our expansive campus and the great fall weather.



Makerspace area now open in the Elementary Library

The Elementary Library has some exciting news: a Makerspace area is now open for students to use on Mondays and Fridays.

A Makerspace is a destination where students – sometimes alongside staff, parents and mentors– can create, problem solve and develop skills, talents, thinking and mental rigor.”

We have had many students in second through fourth grades participate so far, and we look forward to many more.

Some activities include: who can build the longest chain challenge, how many drops of water can you fit on each coin challenge, gravity maze and magnet blocks.



Firefighters visit for National Fire Prevention Week

In recognition of National Fire Prevention Week, Alfred-Almond students were visited by local volunteer firefighters from the Alfred, Alfred Station and Almond fire houses. The firefighters went over basic fire safety, showed students their personal protective gear and explained what to do in an emergency and how to call 9-1-1. They also brought fire and emergency trucks for the students to see up close. A poster contest was held with this year's theme, "Plan Your Escape." The winner of the contest was Tessa Bracken, who received a personal ride to school in a fire truck from the Almond Fire Department.



College application tips for seniors

Currently, Mr. McAneney is completing interviews with each senior. These meetings take place to assist and solidify future plans. For most seniors, this is the time of year when they will begin the important task of applying to colleges. Regardless of the number of colleges to which students apply, the following process will help avoid confusion and unnecessary delays.

Step 1

When registering for the ACT or SAT, designate which colleges are to receive your score reports. Most colleges require that you send “official test scores” directly from the test center (at an additional cost).

Step 2

Complete the college application forms online. The Common Application site and the SUNY online application site are good starting places (see Mr. McAneney to find out which colleges use it). It is a good idea to make a copy of the application. Students can also download and print applications from the college website. If the application requires a teacher and/or counselor recommendation, arrange for those immediately.

Step 3

Students applying online will need a credit card number for the application fee. Students mailing their application will need to enclose a check for the appropriate amount. Do not send cash.

Step 4

An official high school transcript will need to be sent to the college from the School Counselor’s Office either electronically or by mail. Students applying online through the Common Application can electronically invite their counselor and teachers to submit the necessary information. This information will be uploaded electronically by the teachers and/or Mrs. Boone. Students applying online to SUNY may print a transcript request form that needs to go to the SCO. If you would like Mrs. Boone to check your online applications before sending them electronically, please see her.

Step 5

Don’t delay, act today!

Reminder: Seniors need to start their FAFSA applications at fafsa.ed.gov beginning Oct. 1.

Thank you, Board members

School Board Recognition Week was October 17-21. This is a time to promote awareness and understanding of the important work performed by school board members.

We’d like to extend our sincere appreciation to our Board of Education members for selflessly serving our students and communities on behalf of faculty, staff and the leadership team.

These members dedicate countless hours far beyond the two meetings per month, ensuring our school is helping every child learn at a higher level and providing accountability to our communities.

Please know how much your service is respected and valued, as well as your continued support. Thank you.



Fourth graders practice math skills

Fourth grade students in Mr. Weller’s math class practiced addition and subtraction with and without regrouping using dice.



Courses offer advantages

Alfred-Almond Central School currently offers nine Advanced Placement classes, six ACE classes, one Alfred University and two Alfred State classes taught at A-A, as well as online Alfred State and Corning Community College classes. Students who are planning to go to college should take advantage of these opportunities. Taking these classes while in high school can be a great benefit during both the college application process and undergraduate life. Below are four reasons why students should consider AP classes in high school:

1. Strengthen Your High School Transcript

Most colleges would agree that the most important part of an application is a student's academic record (transcript). Admissions offices want to see that students have participated in the most challenging courses available. Success in these courses demonstrate that a student is prepared for the next level. At A-A, the most challenging courses offered are high school college classes.

2. Develop College-Level Skills

College classes require critical thinking skills that are required of college students. The ability to write essays and problem solve successfully are just two of the skills necessary to succeed in college.

3. Save Money

Taking several college classes may allow students to graduate from college a semester or even a year early. In the long run, this could save thousands of dollars.

4. Choose a Major Sooner

College courses provide an in-depth introduction to a specific subject area and also may fulfill a general education requirement. This means you may have more room in your schedule to explore different fields earlier in your college program.

Order your 2023 yearbook today

The 2023 ALCEN Yearbook is now available to purchase. This year, all books must be ordered online. The cost is \$60. Please follow the directions to order your book:

- Go to www.jostens.com
- Click the link: Order Your Yearbook Today
- Search for Alfred-Almond Central High School
- It will then ask you to input your information

The ALCEN Staff members have been hard at work! They have been selling business ads, taking pictures in school and at sporting events, and working on designing the yearbook pages. We look forward to having another successful book this year.

Thank you for supporting the Alfred-Almond Yearbook!

Elementary artists collaborate

Every September, the Elementary School starts off the art year with some kind of project based on the children's book *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds. This year, every student in UPK-6th grade painted a 9-inch dot. Then they cut them up, made them into puzzle pieces and reconfigured them to create this colorful mural. Like the main character in our book, we "made our marks" and this is where it took us! Well done, Elementary artists!



POSTAL PATRON

Alfred-Almond Central School
6795 Rte. 21
Almond, New York 14804
Return Services Requested

U.S. Postage Paid
Alfred, New York 14802
Permit No. 20
Non-Profit Organization

Mark your calendar

- Veterans Day–No SchoolNovember 11
- Parent-Teacher ConferencesNovember 21-22
(Elementary dismissal at 11:50 a.m. both days)
- Thanksgiving Recess – No SchoolNovember 23-25
- Holiday Recess–No School.....December 23, 2022-
January 2, 2023
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School..... January 16
- Superintendent’s Conference Day –
No School for Students January 30
- Winter RecessFebruary 20-24

School closing information

As a reminder to families, it is sometimes necessary to close school because winter weather conditions make it unsafe for students to walk or ride to school. Should it be necessary to close school, you will receive an



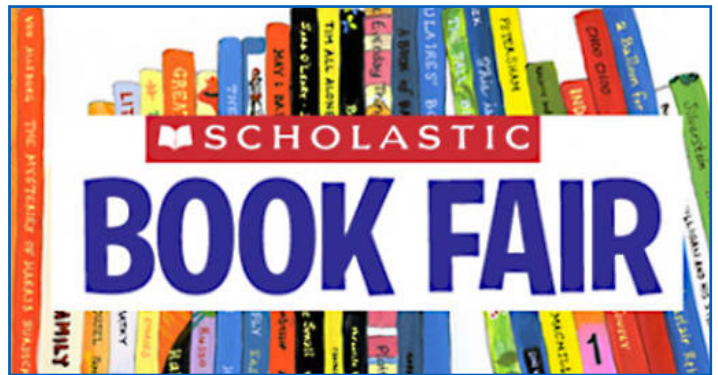
automated message notifying you of this occurrence. For additional information on school closings, please listen to one of the following radio or TV stations:

- WGRZ-Channel 2
- WIVB - Channel 4
- WHDL (PIG 95.7)
- WKBW - Channel 7
- Spetrum News
- BIG OLY 107.1

AACS Eagle visits students



Second graders gathered around the AACS Eagle to learn all about the school plan of Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS). Golden Tickets are being handed out frequently with this group of students!



Alfred-Almond is excited to bring the Book Fair back!

Mark your calendars for the Scholastic Book Fair on December 5-9!