



# Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

## January 2022

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## Message from the Superintendent

Happy New Year!

I am pleased to announce that on December 15, 2021, the Board of Education appointed Mr. Christopher Smith to the new School Security Officer position at Alfred-Almond Central School. Please join me in giving him a warm welcome to our District. Mr. Smith assumed his duties on January 3, 2022.

Mr. Smith recently retired after a 33-year career with the New York State Police. He comes to us with a depth of diverse experiences, including having served as a former School Resource Officer in a local school district. He holds the Civil Service title of School Security Officer, albeit the district intends to view this position not only for security, but also as a proactive resource to students, faculty, staff and administration on school-related matters. Mr. Smith will wear school logo apparel and will carry a firearm, which he will re-certify with twice per year.

An overview of the duties and responsibilities he will hold include, but are not limited to, the following:

- provide security for students and staff within the buildings and grounds
- conduct student misconduct investigations and support administration with reports
- monitor the district and bus surveillance systems
- serve as a role model to students, especially in terms of appropriate behavior and respect
- monitor and support chronic absentees (including home visits, if necessary)
- attend after school functions, as deemed necessary
- counsel students either individually or as a group on school and non-school safety topics including social media usage, drug abuse prevention, etc.
- promote a safe learning environment and deter misconduct through high visibility and developing positive rapport with students
- serve as a member of the District Safety Committee
- communicate and maintain positive relationships with law enforcement

We are fortunate to have Mr. Smith join our team and look forward to the positive contributions he and this position will provide our AACS educational community.

I hope this new year brings you all much-deserved health, happiness and peace.

Kind Regards,

**Tracie Bliven**

Superintendent of Schools

## Student Government helps fight hunger

In early December, Student Government organized a school-wide Food Drive to collect non-perishable items for two local food pantries. The Alfred-Almond faculty and students responded to the needs of their community. At the conclusion of the Food Drive, the Elementary and High School collections totaled to 1,134 items. The fourth- and twelfth-grade classes collected the most items and earned a class pizza party, compliments of Student Government. Overall, the Food Drive was a success; the Alfred and Almond pantry coordinators were overwhelmed with gratitude.

Student Government would like to thank their school community for working together to help those who struggle with food insecurity, especially during the holiday season.



## Chess/checker champions crowned



Fourth graders enjoyed the annual Chess/Checker Tournament that was held on December 22. Twenty-two participants played various opponents throughout the morning. Congratulations to Harrison M. and Ally G., who were named Chess/Checker Champions, respectively.

## A-A Math Team wins at CCC

The Alfred-Almond Math Team has been busy participating in math competitions this fall. We are proud to announce that Alfred-



Almond once again placed first in the small school division at the Corning Community College competition. Approximately 20 Alfred-Almond students participated, and our school score was made up of our top five scorers. Congratulations to Julian, Kouki, Ella, Jack and Gabe, whose combined efforts earned our school the top team score! Julian placed fourth in individual scores.

The team participated in an online competition called Math Madness, which enabled them to go up against students from across the United States. Students also participated in the American Mathematics Competition and eagerly await the results.

## Modified soccer celebrates undefeated season

The 2021 girls' modified soccer team had an amazing season, compiling a record of 10 wins and no losses. The team dominated their opponents and did not allow a single goal all season! White Imprints of Cuba generously awarded shirts to the team for their impressive accomplishment. Congratulations!



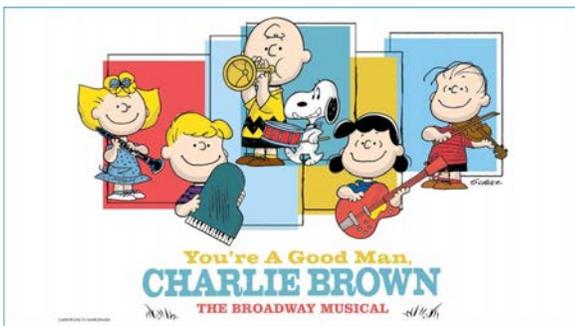
# The Great Chili Cook-Off held in Home and Careers class

On November 19, the eighth-grade Home and Careers class went head-to-head in a good old fashioned Chili Cook-Off! They spent the days prior to the competition reviewing and modifying their recipes. A scoresheet with the criteria was presented to students prior to the competition and they participated as teams in their selected kitchens. Their culinary skills were put to the ultimate test with many ingredients and only one hour to cook, simmer and create a presentable and palatable recipe. A panel of skilled judges were selected, their taste buds challenged and scores tallied. After careful consideration and deliberation, a winner was declared.

The students learned many different skills such as teamwork, leadership and communication throughout the competition. These transferable skills will follow them throughout their lives.



## Alfred Almond's Spring Musical



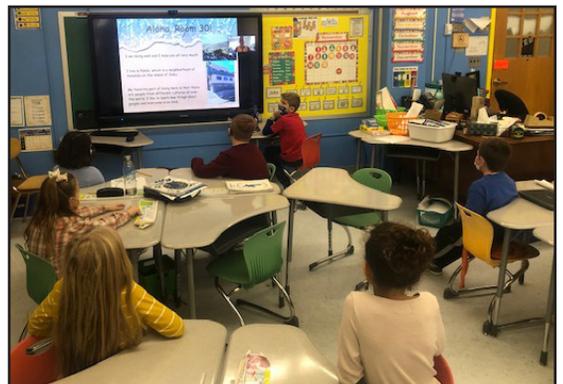
Will be held:

Friday, March 11th @ 7pm  
Saturday, March 12th @ 7pm  
Sunday, March 13th @ 2pm  
In the High School Auditorium

More details, along with ticket sale information will be posted to the school website!

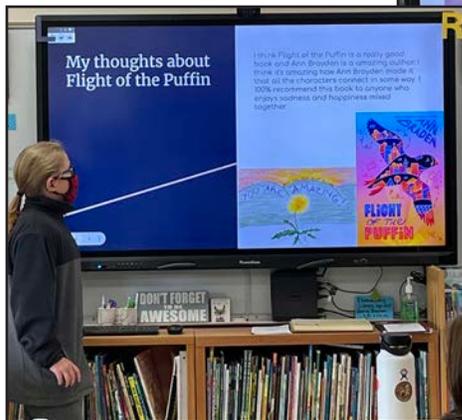
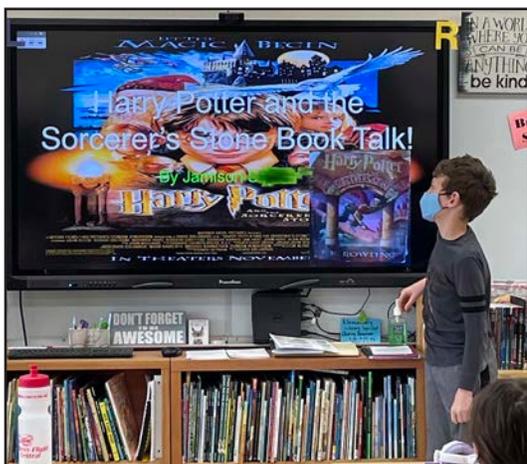
## Students get virtual visit from Hawaii

After reading *High Tide in Hawaii* by Mary Pope Osborne, Mr. Bogey's class decided to reach out to Ms. Bill, a former teacher who moved to Hawaii. Students sent her questions about Hawaii and she offered to Zoom with the class to share answers. Since there is a five hour time difference, she graciously got up early to accommodate the school schedule. The class learned about Hawaii's food, weather, beaches, surfing and animals.



## Students share favorite books during "Book Talk Tuesday"

In sixth-grade Reader's Workshop, each Tuesday is known as "Book Talk Tuesday." Students can sign up to share a short presentation with their classmates that highlights a book or series that they have loved. Many readers have volunteered, and great book recommendations have been shared.



## Second-graders study holidays around the world

Second-graders studied holidays around the world in December. They took imaginary flights to eight countries and learned about different traditions. They ended the unit with making of gingerbread houses.



## Students read with service dog

The “Reading with Kilroy” program has returned to the Elementary School library. Kilroy is one of Alfred-Almond’s service dogs, and he loves reading with students. On Mondays, students can visit the library for reading time with Kilroy. This is a program that students have loved in the past, and we hope to keep the tradition going.



## STAR credit information

Eligible new homeowners will receive their STAR savings in the form of a check directly from New York State. New Basic and Enhanced STAR applicants must register with the New York State Tax Department to receive a STAR check. Register anytime at [www.tax.ny.gov/star](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star) or by phone weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (518-457-2036). Register by July 1 to receive your STAR check in September. If you register after July 1, you will receive your check later.



### STAR eligibility requirements

If you own your home, it’s your primary residence, and if your income is \$500,000 or less, you’re eligible for the Basic STAR credit.

If you’re 65 or older with an income of \$86,300 or less, you may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR credit.

### Before you register

You’ll need this information to register for the STAR credit:

- names and Social Security numbers for all owners of the property and their spouses (you may be asked to enter this information more than once to show the relationships between owners)
- the primary residence of the owners and their spouses
- approximate date the owners purchased the property and the name of the sellers (this information is not required, but it can help us to smoothly process your registration)
- the most recent school tax bill, if the current owners received one
- address of any residential property owned in an other state
- the legal name of the trust, if applicable
- 2018 federal or state income tax returns for all owners. If you weren’t required to file a 2018 income tax return, you be asked to provide financial information for all property owners.

### STAR exemption recipients

You don’t need to register with New York State for STAR if you’re a longtime homeowner with an existing STAR exemption. If you’re a senior citizen who has been receiving the Basic STAR exemption and has become eligible for the Enhanced STAR exemption, you should apply with your local assessor.

## Alfred-Almond KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

In order to identify all children who will enter Kindergarten in September 2022, we are asking those parents who have eligible children who **DO NOT CURRENTLY ATTEND THE PRE-K PROGRAM** to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 15, 2022. Your child must be 5 years of age on or before December 1, 2022. This information is necessary when we initiate Kindergarten sign-ups in the spring. We will use this information below to generate a mailing list for sending the actual registration packets. Students currently attending the Pre-K will automatically be sent a packet. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ M/F Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Maiden Last

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM \_\_\_\_\_

Child Resides With: \_\_\_\_\_

Alfred-Almond Elementary  
6795 State Route 21  
Almond, NY 14804  
607-276-6525

## Alfred-Almond PRE-KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

In order to identify all children who will enter Pre-Kindergarten in September 2022, we are asking those parents who have eligible children to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 15, 2022. Your child must be 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2022. This information is necessary when we initiate Pre-Kindergarten sign-ups in the spring. We will use this information below to generate a mailing list for sending the actual registration packets. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ M/F Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Maiden Last

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM \_\_\_\_\_

Child Resides With: \_\_\_\_\_

Alfred-Almond Elementary  
6795 State Route 21  
Almond, NY 14804  
607-276-6525

## Art meets science in fourth grade

In the fall, Mr. Mix's science students studied environments. As a part of their studies, the fourth-grade class took a field trip to a local stream in order to observe the wooded stream environment and gather crayfish for classroom observation. In art class, students created observational drawings of crayfish and then collaborated to create a crayfish environment mural based on the stream they visited. The unit of study culminated with student presentations which included research, observation and student-created illustrations. Well done, fourth-graders!



## National Honor Society members serve as bell ringers

The Alfred-Almond Chapter of the National Honor Society assisted the Salvation Army again this year by bell ringing in front of the Hornell Walmart on Wednesday, December 22. Funds raised by the Salvation Army are used to help families in our area that are in need of basic necessities, not only during the holidays, but all year long.



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

### School closing information

As a reminder to parents, 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:

WLEA 1480 AM    WLSV 790 AM    WKPQ 105.3 FM  
WCKR 92.1 FM    WJQZ 103.5 FM    WZKZ 101.1 FM  
WKBW-TV (Buffalo)    WETM-TV (Elmira)

### Follow us on social media



Have you liked us on Facebook yet? Be sure to click the like button at the top of the page to receive updates.  
<https://www.facebook.com/AlfredAlmondCentralSchoolDistrict>



You also can follow us on Instagram:  
[@alfred.almond.central.school](https://www.instagram.com/alfred.almond.central.school)

### Mark your calendar

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day –  
No School..... January 17  
Superintendent’s Conference Day –  
No School for Students ..... January 31  
Winter Recess – No School ..... February 21-25  
Parent-Teacher Conferences ..... March 17-18  
Elementary dismissed at 11:50 a.m.

### Transportation requests

Any parent requesting student transportation to a nonpublic school must request such transportation in writing no later than April 1, 2022. The request should be submitted to the Alfred-Almond Central School District Office.

### ALCEN yearbooks on sale

It’s time to buy a yearbook!  
The 2022 ALCEN Yearbook is now available to purchase. **This year, all books must be ordered online.**  
Please follow the directions to order your book:

- Go to [www.jostens.com](http://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 cost of the book is \$50 plus tax.

The staff has been hard at work on page layouts, completing the underclassmen and elementary sections of the books, and taking winter sports pictures. If anyone has sports photos we could possible use in the yearbook, please feel free to send them to Kelly Valentine at [kvalentine@aacapps.com](mailto:kvalentine@aacapps.com).

Thank you for your support!

