



May 5, 2016
Volume 5 Issue 7

Observer

Bringing News Close to Home



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Joe Kenyon

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Letter from the Staff

Welcome to the May edition of the AACS *Observer*! First, on behalf of the *Observer* staff, thank you to all of the students, faculty, and staff who contributed to this issue. Also thank you to those who eagerly wait for each issue. The *Observer* wouldn't be so successful without you, our readers!

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week. We students would not be where we are now if it wasn't for the hard work and dedication of our teachers. We rely on all the staff members to help us when we are stuck on problems. They guide us when we have questions, and support us through thick and thin.

In this issue, we give some insight into the teachers. Members of the *Observer* staff have taken the time to ask the teachers for advice that they would give us students. Also, we discuss the married staff, we talk to the music, art, and health teachers, and provide teacher trivia and acknowledgments! We also recognize our cafeteria staff in honor of School Lunch Hero Day on May 6. Also in this issue we have announcements, new NHS members, a look at politics, Olympics, and much more!

Michelle Feenaughty

Have an idea for the paper?

Contact the *Observer* staff:

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Mission & Vision

Bringing News Close to Home

Our mission as *The Alfred-Almond Observer* is to become a high quality source of informative and entertaining news that relates to the members of the Alfred-Almond community. The goal for the paper is to expand the knowledge of our readers and to contribute to the development of a more informed community.

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Announcements


By: Darnell Love Watson
Project Manager



**Pancake Breakfast
at Applebee's
in Hornell**

May 14
8-10A.M.


Sponsored by Gus Macker
All Profits Go to the YMCA



**Teacher Appreciation
WEEK**

May 2-6

Quiet Testing



AP Tests
May 6-13



KEEP CALM

AND

GET A 5 ON THE AP EXAM

Final testing for all AP courses

The Secondary School Improvement Team

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day weekend **No School**
May 27-30

Alfred Almond is looking for six or more student members to join the high school SIT Committee. Students will help the faculty to create positive change within the school through the organization of events and activities that benefit the students and community.

Applications are available in the main office.
Deadline June 1

It's Mother's Day! Show your appreciation for your mom!




Happy Mother's Day

Spend the day with your mom

Show your mom how much she means to you

May 8



Strawberry Festival

Concert by band and chorus on the courtyard of Alfred-Almond School

May 25

Strawberry shortcake



NHS Welcomes New Members

By: Kelsey Cline - Design Manager

On April 7, Alfred-Almond's chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed 15 new members. The National Honor Society, or NHS, is an organization that has been established to recognize outstanding high school students. The members have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, and character. NHS challenges members to develop themselves further through community service and involvement in school activities, which helps the students to learn what it really means to make a difference. According to the advisor, Mr. McAneney, it is a goal to help students create a "less selfish" mindset by being involved and giving back to their community.

A-A's local chapter members take part in several activities in our area to do their part in giving back. The students run the annual blood drive and participate in bell ringing during the holidays to raise funds for the Salvation Army. They also work the concession stand at school during winter sporting events, plan and run the annual semi-formal dance, and even tutor students who may need help in school.

There are specific qualifications to become a member of NHS. Our chapter considers more than just academics to determine membership. Students must show that they are accomplished and committed to the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, leadership, service and character. First, students must show their accomplishment in scholarship



Newest Honor Society Members Induction Ceremony at Lake Lodge
Photo courtesy of Kelsey Cline

with an average of an 85% or above to have their achievements in the three other pillars considered. Leadership is demonstrated in their classes, clubs, and sports. Service is through volunteer work in their community and school. Character is the most important of the four pillars, but is also the most difficult to convey. It is more than an impressive resume or application. It involves the student's overall behavior and actions, even when they think nobody's watching. It is also, in part, their willingness to contribute to their school and community, and their attitude when they encounter success, as well as defeat.

Becoming a member of the National Honor Society is an outstanding achievement for students. The organization strives to help the members continue to excel and better themselves and their community. Congratulations to all!



Congratulations to the newest members of the National Honor Society!

- ★ Jack C.
- ★ Attilo C.
- ★ Alexander D.
- ★ Dylan D.
- ★ Emelia E.
- ★ Abigail F.
- ★ Aeowyn K.
- ★ Hudson L.
- ★ Ellen M.
- ★ Sophia N.
- ★ Cory O.
- ★ Christian P.
- ★ Marilyn P.
- ★ Maya R.
- ★ Maeghan R.



Local News and Events

By: Kylie Faulkner - Copy Editor



Photo from facebook.com/pages/Hornell-Area-Humane-Society

There was a 5K-9 Run and Cat Walk April 16 on Alfred University's campus that raised money and awareness for abandoned and abused pets. This event also raised funds for the Hornell Humane Society. The event idea came from a Student Design Challenge issued by AIGA, the professional association of design. They want to show that design can make a positive impact on the community. The design team from AU wanted to focus on animal welfare, which they think has not been focused on as much as other social issues. Their main concerns with the event that they want to stress are abandonment, neglect, and abuse. If you are interested in donating to this cause go to: <http://www.hornellanimalshelter.org/donations.html>.

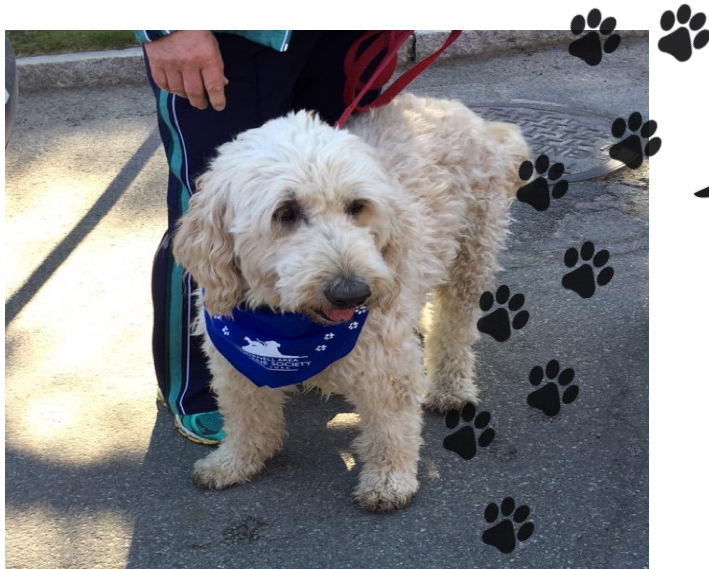


Photo courtesy of Jessica Gallicchio



Photo from johnhalpennymd.com/

According to an article in the Evening Tribune, St. James Mercy Hospital has been given \$55 million grant by New York State to build a new hospital. The new hospital will be built by the nursing home in Hornell, McAuley Manor, near Lowes. The hospital will include an emergency room, physical therapy, and radiology on the first floor; ambulatory surgery, primary care, and specialty doctors on the second floor; inpatient rooms, observation beds, and offices on the third floor says Mohamed Razak from Ryan Papaserge article in the Evening Tribune. The ambulance entrance might be built off of State Route 36, the highway in front of the Hornell Plaza. There is also a plan to have an entrance off of Wells street. Hospital officials want to start building in October, 2016 and building is expected to take about 18 months.



Photo from catholiccourier.com/



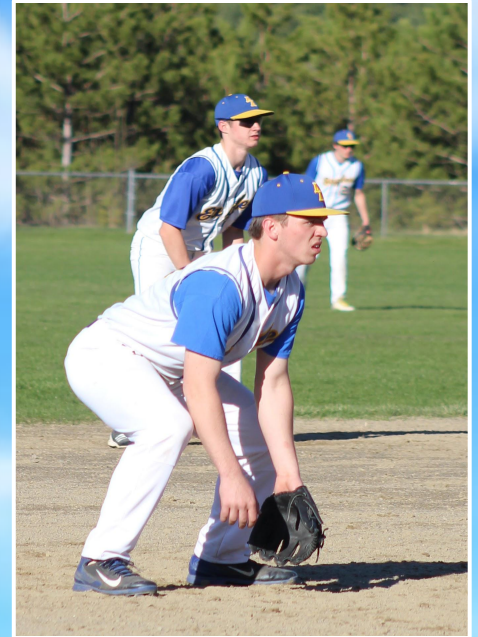
MRS. CHAMBLISS' SPRING SPORTS PICKS

(Say THAT ten times fast!)

Mrs. Chambliss is our most dedicated school photographer. She goes out of her way and volunteers her free time to support us at our sporting events. Here are some of her favorite pictures from the spring season thus far.

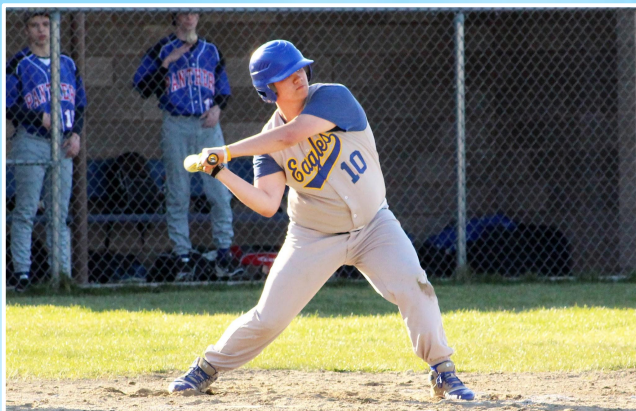


Kayla S. Modified Softball



Brody N. Varsity Baseball

Photos courtesy of Mrs. Chambliss



Chris G. JV Baseball



Andrea M. and Zoey B. Varsity Track

**By: Kelsey Cline
Design Manager**



Andrea M. and Maggie G. Varsity Track



Wesley D. Varsity Tennis



Duncan A. Varsity Baseball



Mets & Yankees Throw Down 2016



By: Gracen VanDyke - Copy Editor

New York Mets Pitchers

Jerry Blevins: Blevins was born on September 6, 1983. He is originally from Johnson City, Tennessee, and was 24 years old when he broke into the big leagues with Oakland Athletics. Jerry was drafted by the Chicago Cubs in the 17th round of the 2004 Major League Baseball draft. He is known for his strikeouts, and excellence on the mound.



Bartolo Colon: Bartolo was born May 24, 1973 in Altamira, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. Colon was 23 years old when he began his career in April 1997, with the Cleveland Indians. He has played for the Indians, Expos, White Sox, Angels, Red Sox, and now the Mets.



Matt Harvey: Matt was born on March 27, 1989. Harvey is from New London, Connecticut and was 23 years old when he joined the big leagues with the New York Mets. He has been a great part to the team pitching.



New York Yankees Pitchers

Ivan Nova: Nova grew up in the Dominican Republic. He was elected into the San Diego Padres, but he did not take the offer and instead stuck to the Yankees. Ivan is a very successful pitcher; he recently pitched a game with no hits, no runs, and no errors.



Michael Pineda: Michael was born in the Dominican Republic. He signed as an International free agent with the Seattle Mariners in 2005, and made his MLB debut for the Mariners in 2011. Michael was drafted into the NY Yankees in 2012, and is continuing to perform with excellence.



Masahiro Tanaka: Tanaka is a professional Japanese baseball player, from 2007-2013 he played for Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles in Nippon Professional baseball Pacific league. Tanaka was scouted into the MLB for the Yankees in 2013.





Best USA Olympic Competitors

By: Levi Bayus - Photo Editor

The USA Olympic contenders are warming up and stretching for the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The games start on August 5 and end August 21. Here are the best and most promising competitors for the United States of America.

Top Swimmers:

Missy Franklin
Michael Phelps
Ryan Lochte
Nathan Adrian
Haley Anderson

Top 10 Most Watched Olympic Events:

Swimming	Indoor Volleyball
Basketball	Tennis
Gymnastics	Soccer
Beach Volleyball	Badminton
Track and Field	Cycling

Top Men's Soccer:

Tim Howard
Clint Dempsey
Michael Bradley
Jozy Altidore
DeAndre Yedlin

Top Basketball:

Steph Curry
Russell Westbrook
Lebron James
Kevin Durant
Anthony Davis

Top Track and Field:

Tori Bowie
Trayvon Bromell
Michelle Carter
Matt Centrowitz
Emma Coburn

Top Women's Soccer:

Crystal Dunn
Tobin Heath
Julie Johnston
Carli Lloyd
Christen Press

Top Beach Volleyball:

Emily Day
Kimberly DiCello
Tri Bourne
Phil Dalhausser
Lauren Fendrick

Top Indoor Volleyball:

Matt Anderson
Aaron Russell
Taylor Sander
Rachel Adams
Foluke Akinradewo

Top Badminton:

Howard Bach
Phillip Chew
Tony Gunawan
Eva Lee
Paula Lynn Obanana

Top Gymnasts:

Gabby Douglas
Simone Biles
Jake Dalton
Brenna Dowell
Sam Mikulak

Top Tennis:

Serena Williams
Venus Williams
Gonzales Austin
Jean-Yves Aubone
James Blake

Top Cyclists:

Alex Grant
Howard Grotts
Todd Wells
Evelyn Stevens
Erin Huck



Big Guns

Swimmer Nathan Adrian showing off
Photo from teamusa.org



Teammates

USA gymnasts after qualifying for the Olympics

Photo from teamusa.org



Team USA

Women's national soccer team qualifies for Rio
Photo from teamusa.org



Best USA Olympic Teams

By: Levi Bayus
Photo Editor

Men's Basketball

The USA Men's Basketball Team is getting ready for the 2016 Rio Olympics. With LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony leading the list of 30 other players, there are high hopes for this year's team. Between the players on the team, there is a total of 29 gold medals and six bronze medals.

The team's head coach is Mike Krzyzewski from Duke University. The assistants to coach Krzyzewski are Jim Boeheim from Syracuse University, Tom Thibodeau and Monty Williams from the Oklahoma City Thunder. Krzyzewski has been part of the Olympic basketball team for 16 years; he has been the head coach for 13 of those 16 years. The Men's Team has already qualified for the games along with Brazil, Nigeria, Venezuela, Argentina, China, Spain, Lithuania, and Australia. There are three more open spots on the qualifying list; the remaining spots will be determined by a final FIBA Olympic qualifying tournament.

In the past, the U.S. Men's team has collected medals in all 17 Olympics in which they have competed, including 14 gold medals, one silver medal and two bronze medals. This year, the team is very hopeful to add to the already impressive total of medals.

Women's Soccer

The USA Women's Soccer Team is also getting ready for the 2016 Rio Olympics. The team is coached by Jill Ellis. Ellis was appointed the head coaching job on May 16, 2014. In just 13 months of being the head coach, she led the Women's National team to a 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup Championship.

The team roster consists of three goalkeepers, seven defenders, five midfielders and five forwards, although a lot of the selected players can play multiple positions. The team includes 13 members of the 2015 Women's World Cup Championship team and seven Olympic qualifying veterans, three of whom (Hope Solo, Tobin Heath and Carli Lloyd) took part in qualifying for the 2008 Olympics.

Carli Lloyd and Hope Solo are the most experienced players on the team. Lloyd leads the group with a combined nine Olympic qualifying appearances between 2008 and 2012, followed by Solo with eight Olympic qualifying appearances over the same span.

If the USA women qualify and come out victorious at Rio, they would be the first team in international women's soccer history to win a World Cup and an Olympic gold in back-to-back years.



Captains *Lebron & Melo after a previous Olympic Gold Medal Win*
Photo from sportingnews.com



Carli Lloyd *Carli with the 2015 World Cup Trophy*
Photo from equalizersoccer.com



Rio Olympics *The USA Teams prepare to dominate the Olympics this year*
Photo from mumbrella.com.au



CONTESTED CONVENTION?

The nation awaits as the two major parties vote to decide who will be the two nominees for the presidential election. This is decided in a state by state election with an eventual party convention in July.

What is a party convention?

In order to become the Republican or Democratic nominee, Candidates must go state to state and win enough delegates to become the party's nominee. Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton are the two remaining Democratic candidates, while Donald Trump is the frontrunner for the Republicans. This year there appears to be a risk of a contested convention in one of the major parties.

What is a contested convention?

A contested convention occurs when no primary candidate is able to secure enough delegates to outright win the nomination. For the Republican party, candidates need 1,237 of the 2,472 delegates required to secure the party nomination. For democrats, the required number is 2,383

What is a delegate?

During a state's primary, registered members of either the Democratic or Republican Party vote to decide which candidate their state's delegates will vote for. These delegates are people chosen at a state or local level. There are two types of delegates: pledged delegates who have to vote according to how their state directs them too, and unpledged delegates who are *supposed* to vote how their state directs them, but don't actually have to. Pennsylvania, for example, has these types of delegates. The Democratic Party also has "superdelegates" who are not voted for and can vote however they like. These are usually party elites, like former or current senators.

Then what?

The delegates vote over and over again until a nominee secures a majority of them. The record for most redos in the voting process is 103 votes in the 1924 Democratic convention. John W. Davis was eventually chosen.

Don't all delegates have to vote as directed by their state's voters?

The rules vary state by state, but after the third round of voting, almost all of them are able to vote however they personally choose.

What about a brokered convention?

The term "brokered convention" simply means a contested convention that involves "backroom dealing" between party elites to determine the party nomination. In order to secure the proper number of delegates, candidates often have to do backroom negotiation with delegates in order to turn them to their side. This involves promising delegates certain things if they become president or convincing them that they are the best candidate.

How likely is a contested convention this year?

This was the main goal of the "Stop Trump" movement. Sections of the Republican Party hoped to rob Trump of enough delegates to secure the nomination, and then swoop in with their own candidate. Now though, it is likely Trump will be able to secure enough delegates, considering he is the only candidate left in the republican field. Hillary Clinton also seems likely to secure a majority. Even if the candidates weren't clear, it does seem that the both parties would want to avoid a contested convention.

Why would they want to avoid a contested convention?

Contested conventions in the past have been extremely violent and messy. Candidates become involved in even harsher mudslinging, riots have been known to break out, and the party often comes out looking splintered and weak. Also the nominee's reputation can be badly damaged, hurting his chances of winning the general election. As you may have noticed, John W. Davis did not win the 1924 presidential election. This could be attributed to the extremely messy convention.



By: Tyler Vecchio
Staff Writer

THE ORIGINS OF TYLER

On October 3, 1997, I was born to my amazing parents and two older brothers. Growing up I lived in Glenwood, New York which is close to Buffalo. I have two older brothers, Mitchell who is 20, and Jake who is 25. We've had so many great times together and I can't wait to have many more throughout our lives. In 2011 I moved to Alfred, when my dad accepted the position of Athletic Director at Alfred University. I began attending Alfred-Almond in ninth grade



and I am due to finish high school this June with the rest of the 2016 class.

I really enjoy riding bikes and singing karaoke. I love singing along to the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Tom Petty, and many other artists. Since I have a love for karaoke, after graduating high school, I would like to have my own place where people can come hang out to listen to music and sing karaoke. I'd like to call it *Tyler's Karaoke Klub*.

Tyler Vecchio

Photo by Hannah Henderson
Photoshopped by Joe K.



FACTS ABOUT me!

- ❑ My Favorite color is dark blue
- ❑ I love Batman, Marvel and DC Comics
- ❑ I own a Playstation 2 and 3 which are my favorite consoles to play on
- ❑ My favorite movie is *Batman v. Superman*
- ❑ My best friends are Darnell Watson, Hannah Henderson and Matthew Lamos



AA's Foreign Exchange Students

As the school year ends, we asked this year's foreign exchange students questions about their home country and America.



Kazakhstan Flag
Photo From: wikipedia.com



Thailand Flag
Photo From: wikipedia.com



By: Dylan Thayer - Sports Advisor

Anuar

From: Kazakhstan
(Between Russia & China)
Grade: 10
Here until: July 6

What do you like about America?

Anuar: "Driving age is 16"
(Which is Really cool)

How do you like AA?

Anuar: "People are very nice,
friendly and helpful"

How is your school different from AA? What is similar?

Anuar: Students can't pick classes; Do not have study halls; School is until 1:00; Breaks are longer; School is until May 25; Regents exam are only in 4,9,11 grades ; Only 11 years of school; Elementary school is in the afternoon; In 10-11 grades we have military preparation (military class); Special dress form.

How is your school different from AA? What is similar?

Amni: "My school in Thailand is a lot different. First of all, we don't have lockers, we don't have sport teams, and we don't have musicals, but we do have band. We don't switch classes, we just stay in one class all year and then each teacher comes to us. We do have uniforms! We can't wear shoes in the classroom, we can't do fancy hair and paint nails. We don't have spirit week, but we have a sports day. We have to be in school about 7:50 for singing the national anthem and do an activity before class together. We don't have buses. I ride a moped to school. My school starts for study at 8:05am to 4pm. We don't have a cafeteria, we can go outside the school for lunch. We do have prom for the end of senior year. My school has almost 900 students. My school is in the university because it is to prepare students to be ready for college. We study hard but we also do a lot of activities. One more thing, I lived in dormitory because my house isn't in the same city as the school, and I come back just for weekends and break."

How do you like AA?

Amni: "I like how nice people are, and friendly and helpful :) I remember the first day of school.

I couldn't find my classes, couldn't open my locker, and there were a lot of students that came to help me. In the class, when I didn't understand, teachers and friends are always helping me. It was so nice! I had a good time studying here. I'm very thankful to all teachers, friends, the principal, and everyone in the school for helping me. Thank you for everything. I will never forget my exchange studying in AA<3"

What do you like about America? What do you find weird?

Amni: "I find America "opportunistic." I've done a lot of things. I had a lot of fun and happy times. I saw things I could never dream of. I gained a second family, new friends, and became a local in another culture. A journey of self-discovery and personal growth filled with unforgettable memories. America is a really interesting place. Since I've lived in the U. S., I went to NYC, Florida, D.C. and California (LA and San Francisco). I love to travel and see things. One of the best memories of my exchange year is my host family. I'm living with the Ormsby family. They're so nice and kind, I just feel like the happiest and luckiest exchange student ever. The thing that I found weird is American people call everything "stupid." I heard like stupid dog, chair, and everything. I wonder why, but I know it's just difference.

Amni

From: Thailand
(Southeast Asia)
Grade: 11
Here until: June 14



By: Dylan Dirlam
Technology Advisor

Weird News



Michigan School Offers Taxidermy Class

In many high school biology classes, students are required to dissect an animal at some point. At Croswell-Lexington High School in Michigan, students are given the option to take a taxidermy class, which teaches them how to mount animal pelts. Over sixty students enrolled in the new class this year and it's been a hit!

The teacher, Kyle Tubbs, owns a taxidermy business. He first proposed the idea to the principal of the school last year, who gave it the green light. Students are required to bring in any dead animal they find, trapped, or have hunted at some point to work on in class. Many students say they enjoy the class since it relates to their hobbies and interests, and they compare it to other science classes. Many students at the school say they plan to take the class in upcoming years.



Mounting a rabbit Students work on their animals projects during class. *Photo from wafb.com*

Man Arrested After Not Returning VHS Tape

James Meyers of Concord, North Carolina was arrested recently after being pulled over for a broken taillight, but that's not the reason he was arrested. Since 2002, there has been a warrant out for his arrest for failing to return a VHS tape to J&J's Videos, a store that has been closed since 2006. He was taken to jail, as the law requires, and his failure to return it was deemed a misdemeanor offense.

To add to the unusual circumstance, the film's director, Tom Green, called Meyers to talk to him about what happened. He offered to pay the \$200 fine for the troubles if the charges were not dropped.

Back in 2014, a similar case arose with a woman in South Carolina, who failed to return a video many years ago. Her charges were later dropped. John Snyder, an attorney and former District Attorney said, "This would be a case that you would dismiss." Although the case has not yet been dropped, the chances that it will be dismissed are very likely due to how old the warrant was.



VHS Store Make sure to return your rentals!
Photo from yelp.com

Giant Omelet Made with 15,000 Eggs?!

Certainly most people, at some point in their life, have had an omelet. But have you ever had an omelet made with over 15,000 eggs? Every year, a group of chefs in Bessières, France make a huge omelet.

Since 1973, Members of the Giant Omelet Brotherhood of Bessières gather in the city's main square to make a giant omelet. This isn't the only time the group makes these omelets. They travel throughout France making these giant omelet feasts on demand for large events.

It all began with a legend which says that Napoleon and his army were travelling through the south of France and spent a night in Bessières. Napoleon ate an omelet prepared by a local cook and enjoyed it so much, that he ordered the townspeople to gather all the eggs in the town and to prepare a gigantic omelet for his army the next day.



The Giant Omelet Chefs gather to work on their masterpiece. *Photo from nbcnews.com*



NEWEST GADGETS

By Paige Schmidt, Staff Writer

The Interchangeable-Lens camera (ILC) can do something no other camera can do; it can take pictures at night! The ILC's photo quality is just as good as Digital Single-Lens Reflex cameras (DSLR), and the ILC is almost half the weight of the DSLR.

The A7S is a camera that is part of the ILC series and it is the first camera that can shoot pictures in almost complete darkness. It has a full-frame sensor that is 12.3 megapixels. Having a lower pixel density allows larger pixels to capture more light. The camera's body is quite small, so the sensor sits closer to the lens; so now, taking a picture at night is now easier than ever. For more information about the A7S camera visit bestofwhatsnew.popsci.com.



The A7S camera

This camera is part of the ILC series
Photo from bestofwhatsnew.popsci.com/

The 360Fly camera captures every angle in full HD. You can instantly shoot videos, then edit and share them on your mobile devices. The camera can be mounted or placed anywhere. The 360Fly is water, sand, dust, and shock resistant. Once a video is recorded, you can swipe from side to side on your mobile device to see the video at all angles. There is even an app for the 360fly camera in which you can preview the live video from your camera. You can also purchase accessories; such as mounts or stands for the 360Fly camera. For more information visit shop.360fly.com.



360Fly Camera
Photo from shop.360fly.com

This wristband may look like a Fitbit, but it's actually an Embrace wristband used to alert epilepsy patients when they are about to have a seizure. The sensor on the wristband picks up autonomic nervous activity, such as nerve impulses. Embrace also detects increasing electrodermal activity (EDA). An increase in EDA or physical motion can onset a severe or potential life - threatening seizure. Once the wristband detects signs of a seizure, it vibrates to alert the wearer. For more information visit extremetech.com.



Embrace wristband
Photo from empatica.com

The self-filling water bottle turns humid air into drinkable water. It is solar powered, and the condenser is connected to a series of hydrophobic surfaces that repel water. So, you immediately get a drop flow into the bottle. It can make 0.5 liters of water in one hour in good conditions ranging from 80 percent to 90 percent humidity, and temperatures ranging from 86 to 104 degrees. There is a filter at the top that keeps dust and bugs out. However, the prototype's filter does not include a way to filter out potentially harmful contaminants. Kristof Retezár, the designer of this product, is also thinking about making a bottle with a carbon filter. Retezár originally made this water bottle to be used in nature, where there is non-polluted air. For more information visit livescience.com



Self-filling water bottle
Photo from livescience.com



Why were you interested in becoming a teacher?

I knew I wanted to teach after my first elementary school observation. I immediately jumped into the lesson and loved it.

What is your favorite unit?

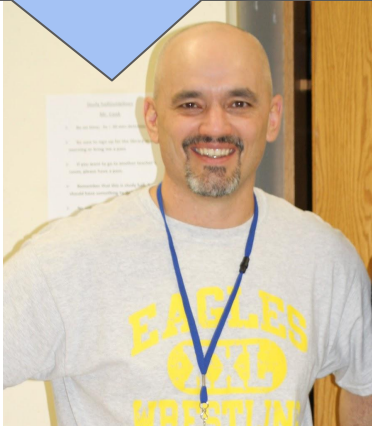
My favorite unit to teach is football.

What is your greatest achievement at work?

That's a tough one, so I would have to say coaching the 2011 State semi-final soccer team, winning five sectional Track and Field titles in a row, and coaching a State Champion in wrestling.

What's the most rewarding aspect of your job?

The most rewarding part of teaching is seeing students succeed in areas where they lack the confidence or a belief that they can succeed.



Mr. Cook

Ms. Soule



What is your favorite sport?

My favorite sport to play would be golf, which would surprise many due to my wrestling background and history.

What is your greatest achievement at work?

The achievement that I look to master everyday is getting students to buy into what they are being exposed to; both academically and athletically; as well as in preparation for life outside of these walls.

What's the most rewarding aspect of your job?

The most rewarding part of this job is when a student/player who is struggling with a concept/skill is finally able to become successful at mastering that concept/skill. The look they give, and the feeling they have when they first "get it" is priceless.



Mr. Gemmel

Ms. Lawrence



Why were you interested in becoming a teacher?

My father was a teacher, and it seemed he derived great satisfaction from his profession.

What is your favorite sport?

Actually, there are three sports which are my favorites: swimming, basketball, and track and field.

What is your greatest achievement at work?

My goal in teaching Physical Education is for students to find activities that they enjoy, and for them to be able to celebrate the successes of their classmates. I hope that philosophy has been part of what my students take away from my classes. Also, the Sectional Title the girls track and field team won in 2009, after 24 years.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?

Seeing smiles on the faces of the students and their classmates when they achieve success with things that are new to them.

Why were you interested in becoming a teacher?

After graduating from college I interviewed for several positions in industry, as well as in education. I was offered a job in high school close to where I was living in NJ and decided to teach. I found that I really enjoyed working with this age group.

What is your favorite unit or lesson?

My favorite units are the foods/cooking and the sewing/clothing units. They involve hands on activities and teach practical skills that are useful in your adult life. They are also the units that the students seem to enjoy the most.

What is your favorite recipe?

I don't have just one favorite recipe. I enjoy homemade soups/as well as breads. I also enjoy apple crisp.

What's the most rewarding aspect of your job?

Helping students be successful and realize they have the skills to complete a task on their own is very rewarding.



LUNCHROOM HEROES!

By: Bailey Comer - Project Manager and Dylan Dirlam -Technology Advisor

The mod we all look forward to the most, lunch at Alfred-Almond would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the cafeteria staff, and it certainly wouldn't be the same without their friendly personalities and kind smiles. Friday, May 6 is School Lunch Hero Day, and in honor of our own lunch heroes, we asked some questions in order to get to know these amazing individuals better.

Audra Jean Briglin

What do the students call you? George, Ma, Mrs. Briglin
How long have you worked here? 13 years
What do you like most about your job? The kids, making good food, and seeing the smiles
What do you like least? No unemployment benefits, [but] what's not to like?
What is your favorite food that you serve? Macaroni & Cheese
If you could add anything to the lunch menu, what would it be? Steak, corn on the cob, baked potatoes with sour cream
What is one thing you'd like the students to know about you? That I really appreciate their individuality



Lee Christine George

What do the students call you? Miss Lee
How long have you worked here? 15 Years
What do you like the most about your job? The children
What do you like the least? Ice Cream Day
What is your favorite food that you serve? Tacos
If you could add anything to the lunch menu, what would it be? Lasagna
What is one thing you'd like the students to know about you that they don't know already? I'm a nurse





LUNCHROOM HEROES!

Lisa McMichael

What do the students call you? Mrs. McMichael
How long have you worked here? [Since] November 2015
What is your favorite food that you serve? Pizza
If you could add anything to the lunch menu, what would it be?
More sweets :)



Audrey Jane Ordway

What do the students call you? Lunch Lady
How long have you worked here? 34 Years
What do you like the most about your job? The students
What do you like the least? Coming in at 6:00AM
What is your favorite food that you serve? Tacos
If you could add anything to the lunch menu, what would it be?
Tuna Boats



Karin Thayer

What do the students call you? Miss Karin
How long have you worked here? 8 years
What do you like most about your job? Audra and Lee
What do you like least? Nothing
What is your favorite food that you serve? Pizza
If you could add anything to the lunch menu, what would it be?
Fish Fry



Janet Thiemke

What do the students call you? Lunch Lady
How long have you worked here? 9 Years
What do you like the most about your job? It keeps me busy
What do you like the least? Dishroom Cleaning
What is your favorite food that you serve? Dunkers & Tacos
What is one thing you'd like the students to know about you that they don't know already? I might be retiring soon.





Good Reads: Poetry

By: Bailey Comer - Project Manager

"Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought and the thought has found words." ~Robert Frost

Rupi Kaur - milk and honey

Milk and honey is a written collection of poems and proses used express the emotions experienced as a result of violence, abuse, love, loss and femininity. Divided into four chapters, the hurting, the loving, the breaking, and the healing, this gracefully written book takes the readers through a relatable journey that allows them to find the sweetest moments in even the most bitter times of life.

Rupi Kaur self-published "milk and honey" in November 2014. She grew up in Toronto, Canada, and found her passion in writing and drawing at the young age of 5. Kaur drew in the earlier years of her life, until she leaned towards writing at the age of 17.

To learn more or to order the book, go to <http://www.rupikaur.com/>.

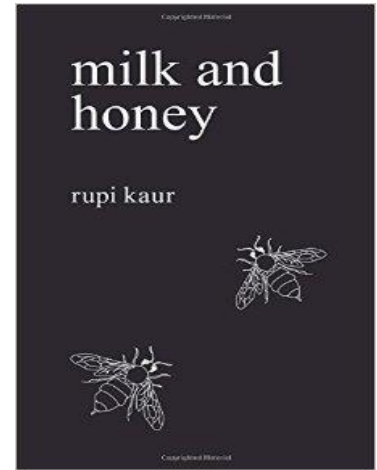


Photo from amazon.com

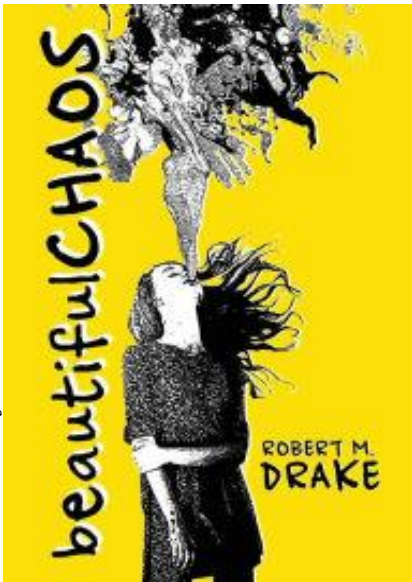


Photo from barnesandnoble.com

R. M. Drake - beautiful CHAOS

Beautiful Chaos is a book in which the problems our society faces are described. It makes use of the comparative method to help readers understand the collapse of our society. The book explains how environmental problems contribute to the common youth, and society as a whole. Drake says, "To be human is to be broken and broken is its own kind of beautiful."

Robert M. Drake started out with self-publishing. By writing short poems and posting them on social media sites such as Instagram, R. M. Drake gained not only followers, but readers, and rapidly so. His writing always seemed to hit the spot with readers, and continues to do so. He has a new collection coming out soon, "Dead Pop Art," that will be filled with short stories. Drake plans on steering away from his one to two sentence poems, and instead plans to write short stories for something unexpected as he experiments with his writing.

To learn more or purchase R. M. Drake's works, visit barnesandnoble.com.

ALEXANDRA ELLE - WORDS FROM A WANDERER

Words From A Wanderer is a dazzling compilation of notes and poems. Elle had hopes to encourage readers with her poems, and included a journal in the back for readers to "continue the conversation." Alexandra Elle created this book to shed some light to let others know that "Not all who wander are lost."

Alex originally was a jewelry designer, until one friend questioned as to why she kept her talent a secret. This was followed by her first published book "Words From A Wanderer." She started her self loving journey at the young age of 21, three years after having her daughter, Charleigh. In an interview with *Madam Noire*, an internet publication geared towards women of color, Elle expressed that her works are written for "self-love and self-care." Check out her other works; "Love In My Language" and "#ANOTETOSELF Meditation Journal."

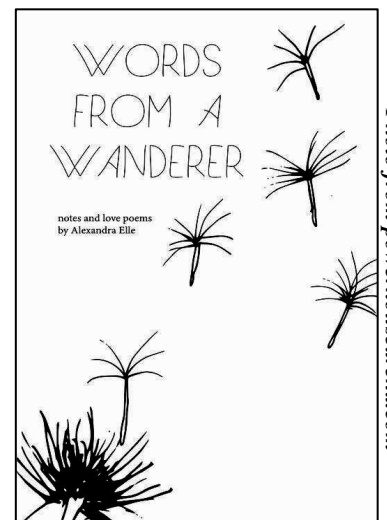


Photo from powerhousearena.com

Emily K. Graphic Designer

Graphic design: the art of creating designs using text and pictures. Many artists love to do graphic design, and a lot of them create their artwork using a computer program.

One of these artists attends Alfred-Almond, and she is Emily K. Emily believes she started graphic design in 2013, when she decided she wanted to combine her love for snowboarding and digital arts. Graphic design was the best choice to express what she loved, by designing snowboard graphics on Adobe Illustrator.

Recently Emily won first place honors in the Advertising Design Competition at the SkillsUSA New York State Championships in Syracuse. As a state champion, Emily will go on to represent New York State at the SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference, held in Louisville, Kentucky at the end of June.

Emily looks at graphic design as a possible future career, because it is only growing in popularity. She says that this means she has a better chance at making more money. If she gets into a technical field, especially with art, she sees a very wealthy future for herself. The world is becoming more and more electronic, so there is always going to be a need for graphic designers.

The designs that Emily creates can be elaborate, yet they can also be simple. Either way, they look great. The best part about her work is that she loves to make and design each and every one of her products. You can see the passion that she expresses in each individual piece.

Emily is an amazing artist, and a great snowboarder. With her talents she could have an amazing life of happiness and beautiful artwork. She has a very artistic brain, and a very bright future that is still unfolding.



By: Joe Kenyon

☺ Editor in Chief ☺

Emily dressed for success
Mixing her love of art and snowboarding
Photo courtesy of Emily





Teacher Advice

We asked our teachers for advice on how to succeed in high school.
This is what they said...

"Ask questions while you are here and utilize study halls to get work done. There is nothing worse than a student who says they didn't understand an assignment or project, yet never asked for help. Use your self-determination skills and get what you need!"
-Mrs. Turner

"Learn how to budget your time between homework, studies, extra curricular activities, family, and friends."
-Mr. Vance

"Listen carefully, carry out your teacher's instructions, and do your homework!"
-Mr. Barniak

"Study, take good notes, and listen to your teachers."
-Mrs. Lehman

"Develop organizational habits and advocate and ask questions when you don't understand. These things help you not only in highschool, but in the real world as well."
-Mr. Gemmell

"Be a human, your teachers are human, come have a conversation with us in person about what you have learned. Come to us prepared to ask questions so that we know what you need in the teaching-learning process. Be a learner, it is an active process. If you are not active in the process, what you experience is a teacher's manipulation and interference in your life. You will learn better when you actively seek something new in your life."
-Mr. Rech

"Understand what techniques work best for you and figure out how to take what you're learning and apply that to your learning style. Use your resources, your teachers are all around you!"
-Mr. Hirsch

"First...and most important...if you haven't done so already, try to understand that success in high school is a freedom ticket. The more success you achieve in high school, the more freedom you will have to make your own decisions, choose your own career paths, and to decide where and how you want to live. Adult life is coming faster than you think, and the better prepared you are, the more you will be able to master and enjoy it."
-Mr. Ruch

"Find what interests you. Figure out what you are passionate about, and let this be your guide and motivation! Also, realize that learning is a lifelong process, and try to look for the good in all people and situations. Strive to be happy!"
-Mrs. Backer

"Come to school ready to learn, eat a good breakfast, and get a good night sleep."
-Mrs. Lawrence

"#1- Do your homework.
#2- Don't be afraid to ask questions.
#3- Read as much as you can about current events."
-Mr. Donlon

"My tip is very simple: Keep an open mind, and above all else, be kind."
-Ms. Allen

Be organized, study, and do your homework."
-Mrs. Valentine

By: Elizabeth Allen
Staff Writer



May & June Senior Birthdays

By: Hannah Henderson Photo Editor

What are your hobbies?
“Sports, friends”

What are your plans after high school?
“I plan on attending Alfred State to study nursing.”

What is your life goal?
“My life goal is to be successful in my career by having a positive impact on my patients.”



Alec G.
May 17, 1997

What are your hobbies?
“Soccer, softball, basketball, listening to music, lifting, fangirling.”

What are your plans after high school?
“Attend Daemen College for nursing.”

What is your life goal?
“To save lives everyday and have a family”



Lily C.
May 29, 1998

What are your hobbies?
“Working and shopping”

What are your plans after high school?
“I plan on going to the Culinary Institute in July 2016.”

What is your life goal?
“I would like to be a restaurant manager.”



Maggie M.
May 19, 1997

What are your hobbies?
“Game Server Management, and coding.”

What are your plans after high school?
“Continue my education at Alfred State in Computer Information Systems.”

What is your life goal?
“Become a software developer for a large company.”



Dylan D.
June 16, 1998

What are your hobbies?
“Playing video games, and watching videos.”

What are your plans after high school?
“Attend college at SUNY Poly”

What is your life goal?
“I am still looking, maybe to have a joyful productive life.”



Noah L.
June 9, 1997

What are your hobbies?
“Playing Guitar, photography, cinematography and snowboarding”

What are your plans after high school?
“Go to Champlain College for graphic design”

What is your life goal?
“Work at a snowboarding company and travel.”



Emily K.
June 19, 1998



Educators of the Arts

By: Caitlin Cook - EIC



Photo courtesy of Caitlin Cook

Miss Karr

**Music Teacher,
Choral Director, Play
Director**

Miss Karr joined the Alfred-Almond staff during the 2014-2015 year as a long-term substitute, and now holds a permanent teaching position in the music department. Since her senior year of high school, Miss Karr knew a career in music was the one for her. She is passionate about sharing her love of singing and theater with her students. To her, the most rewarding part of her job is watching students succeed. In her spare time, Miss Karr enjoys attending hockey games with friends and family. This summer, she plans to make a visit to Ethiopia. When Miss Karr retires, she hopes to return to Ethiopia permanently to volunteer and help educate those who would otherwise not have the opportunity.

Mr. Bialecki

**Band Director, AP
Music Theory
Teacher**

Mr. Bialecki, also known as "B," "Mr. B," "Bialecki," and "Sir Toddingham," has been a member of the AACs teaching staff since October of 1991. Since his sophomore year of high school, Bialecki knew that he wanted to teach music. When asked what the most rewarding part of his job is, he replied, "Every day from 11:29-12:35" (when he teaches the Junior High band and Senior High band). In his spare time, Mr. B enjoys fishing and skiing. This summer, he plans to fish, hike, and hang out with his dog. In the future when retirement comes, Mr. Bialecki hopes to spend his days fishing and working at a bait shop.



Photo courtesy of Caitlin Cook

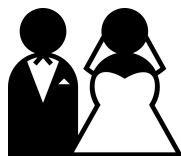
Mrs. Booman

Art Teacher

Mrs. Booman began teaching at Alfred-Almond in 1995. It was when working as a graphic designer that Mrs. Booman discovered her love of teaching. She is inspired by the creativity, enthusiasm and kindness of her students. The most rewarding part of her job? Seeing her students develop. In her spare time, Mrs. Booman enjoys biking, traveling, and eating. Over the summer of 2016, she looks forward to visiting family in Minnesota, as well as traveling to the southwestern United States. After retiring from being an art teacher, Mrs. Booman plans on doing all of her favorite things: traveling, eating, biking, and, of course, making art.



Photo courtesy of Caitlin Cook



Married Staff



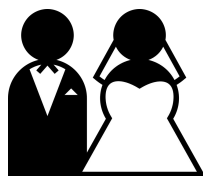
The Mixes

Although they didn't meet here at AA, the Mixes did meet each other locally; at Alfred University. He was playing at a coffee shop and she was an art student. "It was love at first sight," says Mr. Mix. They were married August 28, 1986- 30 years this year! They married an hour later than planned because "The bridal party got stuck in traffic and the guy with the rings nearly got off the wrong exit." Mr. Mix thought, for a little bit, that he had a runaway bride! They believe in treating your spouse well, even when you don't want to, and that it is one of the most important things in a marriage. Also, doing things without the kids, and keeping a sense of humor about everything, is important too. They both choose dishes over laundry. They are "still in negotiations about" retirement; Mr. Mix wants to skydive, but Mrs. Mix is against it. They do plan on traveling though. Committed, fun, and loving, are words they used to describe their marriage. They don't do much during the week except crash and recuperate from the school day, but on weekends they love to go outdoors and kayak, look for new camping places, as well as travel to visit their kids in D.C. and Rochester. The convenience of having similar schedules has strengthened their marriage, even if they don't always see each other that often. However, they save seats for each other at faculty meetings (how cute!). The early mornings and late nights weren't the best for the kids, but they both agreed that once they got to highschool and were involved with athletics and other things, the kids were often busier than them!

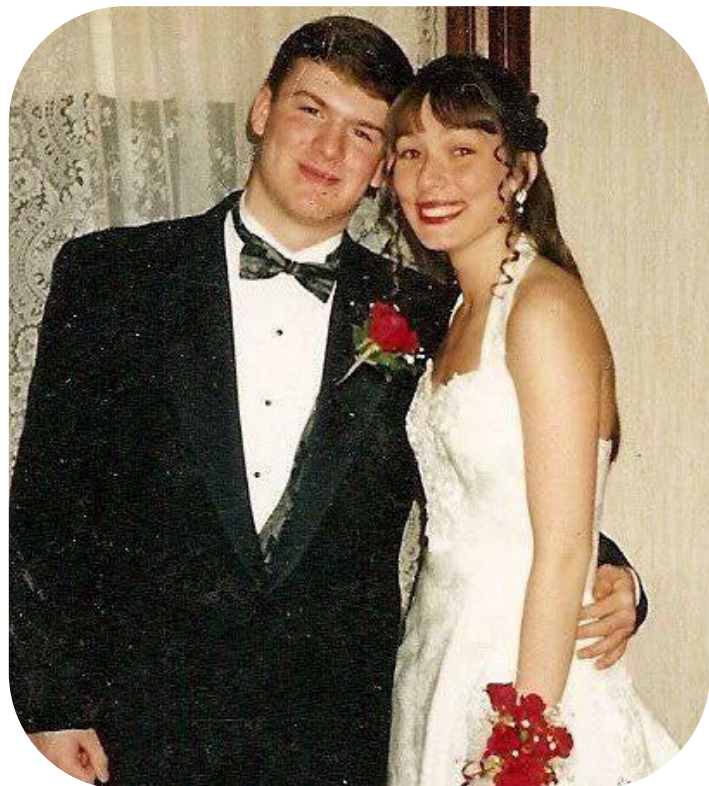
The Calkinses

Mr. and Mrs. Calkins met at Binghamton University (she says it was due to his pretending to know French!). They were married on August 10, 1991, and although Mrs. Calkins didn't believe her husband would remember the date, he did! Their key to marriage is staying best friends and enjoying each other for who they are and not sweating the small stuff, except coffee each morning. They take turns with dishes and laundry, but although he doesn't like either, Mr. Calkins usually ends up with both, minus folding laundry. He doesn't want to retire until his wife does, and because she never wants to retire, he won't ever retire either. When asked to describe their marriage, Mrs. Calkins says it is "amusant, fidele et extraordinaire!" Mr. Calkins just said, "She's a Saint!" They love to spend time traveling and vacationing when they can, although one loves Paris and the other a hunting lodge. (Can you guess which?) They both really appreciate being able to have their family together at school and watching them grow up, as well as being their "ATM" and "snack providers."





By: Tayler Fox Copy Editor



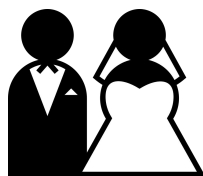
The Donlons

High school sweethearts, the Donlons met in their early teen years. She was 15, he was 14, and they have been together ever since. They were married July 6, 2002. They keep love alive in their marriage by always making time for each other and fun, as well as remembering things like communication, doing small things even when times are busy, and continuing to go on dates with each other. They are a team when it comes to cleaning, but Mrs. Donlon always washes the clothes, whereas Mr. Donlon always takes care of the clothes (even though he would rather do dishes). They both want to live somewhere warm during the winter months after retiring. Mrs. Donlon wants to travel and Mr Donlon wants to coach college football. They both agreed that their marriage is strong and fun. During their summer vacation, they spend time with their kids and their dog Jack at their cabin. In the winter though, Mr. Donlon loves to take walks together or watch their favorite shows. Both parents are very grateful that they have the opportunity to see their children every day, and Mr. Donlon seems to like the fact that he can sneak down to Mrs. Donlons room and eat the snacks there. They couldn't imagine anything better.

The Kresses

Meeting through her brother, Mr. and Mrs. Kress were married 20 years ago in 1996, after being together an additional 10 years. They believe the best way to keep love and marriage alive is to [REDACTED]. Mrs. Kress believes that it is "a secret, so if we told you, we'd have to kill you." In terms of chores, no one wants to do dishes or laundry, and even though Mr. Kress says laundry, Mrs. Kress says he is lying. They plan to travel after retiring, which gives Mrs. Kress the chance to catch up on reading and maybe even write some books. They varied in response to describing their marriage. Mr. Kress said that it is "loving, sharing, and caring," but his wife just said "ha, ha, ha." They don't have much spare time since they became parents, but they like to go camping and boating, and even relax and watch some Jeopardy. Working together with their children here at school has been both rewarding and challenging, but Mr. Kress describes it as "beautiful." Mrs. Kress doesn't think her children really appreciate having their mom as an English teacher, but she is very thankful for the chance to be there for her kids. Mr. and Mrs. Kress make sure to have lunch together on Wednesdays; one of those small things that keeps marriage alive.





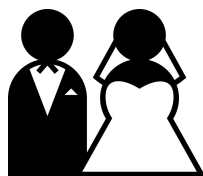
The Deckers

Mr. and Mrs. Decker met here at AACCS. Married in 2004, they believe the key to marriage is compromise, honesty, complimenting each other, and treating each other like they are special each and every day. Mr. Decker would rather do dishes, which works out perfectly since Mrs. Decker would rather do laundry any day, however putting the laundry away is a whole different story. When she retires, she hopes to go on many beach/resort vacations to live a simple life with her husband. Mr. Decker's retirement wish to travel means that her wish might just come true! The couple describes their marriage as sizzling, adventurous, and lifelong. They watch TV shows, such as *The Bachelor*, in their spare time, and during the summer, Mr. Decker is always out maintaining their pool so that Mrs. Decker can enjoy "floating". Although they don't see each other often, working in the same building makes things both convenient and hectic. They have the same friends, but it is hard for their kids to "get away" with anything. Mr. Decker usually tries to stay out of everyone's business, but Mrs. Decker loves being able to keep an eye on things.

The Turners

Mr. and Mrs. Turner met in a graduate class at AU. They were married December 30, 2006. Their trick to keeping love alive in marriage is gratitude, spontaneity, communication, laughter, and doing little things that make life just a little bit easier for the other. When it comes to household chores, Mrs. Turner would rather wash dishes because she absolutely hates laundry! Lucky for her, Mr. Turner would rather do laundry. In terms of retirement, he doesn't want to retire until he is not effective or unmotivated, and when the time comes, he wants to travel and parent, along with Mrs. Turner, who will retire when her "ducks are all in a row" and also wishes to travel. They describe their marriage as loving, fun, and competitive, as well as rewarding and fruitful. Their spare time (that is non-existent, according to Mr. Turner!) is spent with their children and sports teams. Working with each other, although they don't see each other often, is convenient, comforting, and brings them closer. Mr. Turner remarked that it is "a perk to get to spot her [Mrs. Turner] in the hall." They have a common goal of educating children, and appreciate the opportunity to keep a closer eye on their children at school as well as the opportunity to be there when their kids need them.





The Gemmells

Meeting each other here at Alfred-Almond, the Gemmells were married July 18, 2009, or as Mr. Gemmell would say, “the day that Mrs. Gemmell arrived in paradise.” Spending time with one another, doing little unexpected things, and complimenting each other are their secrets to a love filled marriage. Mr. Gemmell often does both the dishes and laundry because he feels bad for leaving Mrs. Gemmell alone with the four boys so often. When she does have to clean, she prefers “dishes... in the dishwasher...” She fears when they retire she will be forced down south to soothe Mr. Gemmell’s dream of playing golf 24/7 and being a golf course manager. Their marriage is fun, as well as open, trustworthy, and understanding. They both agree that spare time is pretty much nonexistent in their lives, especially with their four lovely boys and coaching sports. They use their summer time to de-stress from the school year and to spend time with their kids. A perk of working together is carpooling during non coaching seasons, as well as being able to see each other, although Mrs. Gemmell sometimes tries to avoid “seeing his mug” in the halls. Sharing a similar profession makes for great conversations all around.

The Bialeckis

Like some of the other AACCS staff couples, the Bialeckis met here. Mr. Bialecki remembers the exact place and day; “In the hallway outside the band room on October 23, 2006!!” They were married twice, first by the Mayor of Hornell on October 8, 2009, and then again October 10, 2009. Being spontaneous and fun, doing little things such as buying candy and flowers, and listening to one another, are just a couple of ways they have a successful marriage. Mrs. Bialecki prefers to do neither dishes nor laundry, which works out because Mr. Bialecki doesn't mind doing either! With dishes they often take turns; if one cooks the other cleans and vice versa. They both plan to travel the world after retirement. They also both described their marriage as “fun, fun, fun!” They spend their spare time adventuring, finding new restaurants and vacation spots, boating and fishing on the Finger Lakes, and when they aren't out and about, they spend time relaxing watching Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy together each night. Due to the fact Mrs. Bialecki works in the elementary and Mr. Bialecki works in the high school, they don't see each other often. She sometimes stops to visit him, especially when the 5th and 6th graders have band, and it makes his day. Having their family grow up here, however busy, was “one of the best parts of working at A-A.”





Acknowledgments For Our Teachers

Mrs.Shinebarger because she's my favorite teacher and she's really helpful.
-Alex C.

Mr.Hall because he deals with 9th grade boys.
-Anonymous

Ms. Carretto because she relates really well with us, she's humorous, and is the best teacher I have.
- Roni M.

Mr. Hirsch because he's so adorable.
-Anonymous

Thank you to Mr. Turner because he encourages and inspires us to be our best while keeping a light hearted attitude.
-Jesse C.

Mr. Brady for being helpful and understanding, plus he's awesome.
-Annie L.

We would like to thank Mr. Partridge for relating to us on so many levels. P.S. thank you for preparing us for the AP.
- Your Calc Class

Thank you to Mr. Decker for being so understanding.
-Jordan F.

Mrs. Kress for making class enjoyable and always being available to help students.
-Anonymous

Mrs. Backer for being such a great teacher in the small amount of time here.
-Anonymous

Thank you to Mrs. Valentine because ever since I was a small 7th grader, KV has watched over me like an angel.
-Alec G.

Ms. Acker because she's the best.
-D.B.C.

Thanks to Mr. Donlon because he taught me the true meaning of life.
- Levi Lawrence

Thanks Mrs. Acker for all the work she has done for us.
-Tyler V.

Thanks to Mr. Holmok for making sure everyone had their picture forms
-Elizabeth A.



Teacher Trivia and Jokes

By: Priya Rao- Copy Editor

Gym Joke: Mr. Cook

PE Teacher: Why didn't you stop that ball?

Goalie: That's what the net's for, isn't it?

Spanish Joke: Ms. Burr

What if soy milk is just regular milk... introducing itself in Spanish!

Tech Joke: Mrs. Williams

There are 10 types of people in this world: those who understand binary and those who don't.

French Joke: Ms. Kassay

French teachers are so tough, they eat *pain* for breakfast.

Library Joke: Mrs. Donius

Q: Why did the computer go the doctor?

A: Because he lost his memory!

Math Joke: Mr. Vance

$\sin(\text{gerine})$

=

$\cos(\text{gerine})$



Answer: tan(gerine)

Chemistry Joke: Mr. Rech

Two atoms are walking down the street. Says one atom to the other, "Hey! I think I lost an electron!"

The other says, "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I'm positive!"

Music Joke: Ms. Karr

Q: How many Chorus members does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Two. An alto to replace it and a soprano to stand at the bottom of the ladder and say, "Isn't that too high for you?"

Biology Joke: Ms. Carretto

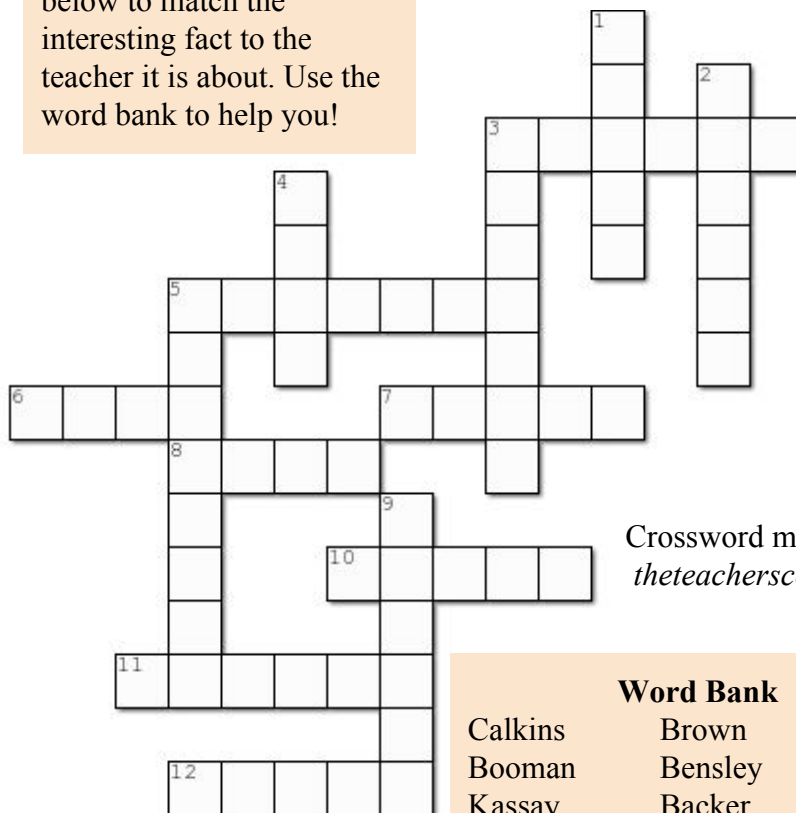
Q: Why couldn't the skeleton cross the road?

A: Because he didn't have the "guts" to!

English Joke: Mrs. Backer

The past, the present, and the future walk into a store. It was tense.

Directions: Use the clues below to match the interesting fact to the teacher it is about. Use the word bank to help you!



Crossword made using theteacherscorner.net

Word Bank

- | | | |
|---------|----------|-------|
| Calkins | Brown | Kress |
| Booman | Bensley | Karr |
| Kassay | Backer | Hall |
| Donius | Levey | Ruch |
| Vance | Carretto | |

Across

3. Loves to plant trees, and has planted hundreds already
5. Can twirl fire batons two at a time
6. Was chased by a camel herder in Ethiopia
7. Can play the left handed accordion
8. Studied dance in college
10. Was a banker for 12 years (but lost interest)
11. Worked on a cruise ship as a blackjack dealer
12. Likes the excitement/adrenaline of going into a burning building

Down

1. Participated in and taught ballroom, latin, and social dancing (like the types of dance seen on Dancing with the Stars)
2. Lived on (and was married on) a horse farm
3. During college breaks, worked at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and drove a pace car
4. Could bench-press 400 pounds when he was 22
5. Can juggle
9. Can do a backflip