



JANUARY 2017 VOL. 6 ISSUE 3

# OBSERVER

HAVE WE GOT NEWS FOR YOU...

Learn more about Martin  
Luther King Jr.

See what our teachers were  
like in highschool!

Rugby in the  
Olympics?



European Observations

Ball Drop History

BOCES

# 2017

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Life of Vladimir Lenin

A Shift of Power

Get Advice From Teachers!



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## Letter from the Editors

Happy New Year, Alfred-Almond! The mission of this year's *Observer* is to provide an entertaining and educational product for the benefit of the students and staff. As we launch into a new year, the *Observer* staff would like to supply our readers with historical articles about the famous New Year's Eve ball drop, Martin Luther King Jr., and Vladimir Lenin. We then transition to more recent history and learn about Alfred-Almond's very own teachers and their senior years. As you sift through the pages of the first edition of 2017, you will be sure to find some educating, interesting, and surprising articles. We welcome you to plunge into this newest edition of the *Observer* and enjoy all that awaits! Happy Reading, and Happy New Year!

*Brendan W.  
Jessica Flaitz*

### Have an idea for the paper?

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## Mission & Vision

### *Have We Got News For You*

It is our mission as the Alfred-Almond *Observer* to provide a well-balanced resource for the purpose of entertaining and informing the Alfred-Almond community. We intend to create an easily accessible and reliable source of both local and national news. It is our goal to leave behind a more informed and knowledgeable student body for years to come.

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By  
**Madge Chroniger**  
Public Relations Manager

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

By  
**Abbey Swackhamer**  
Copy Editor

There will be no school on Monday, January 16 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

The school Spelling Bee will be held on Thursday, January 19 at 6:30pm

Semi-Formal will be Saturday, January 21 at 7:30pm for 9th-12th graders

NYS regents will be happening January 24-27

## ATTENTION ARTISTS!



Submit artwork/ideas for a mural in the Senior Area to Mrs. Backer by January 20.

Artwork should promote **Acceptance, Community, and Kindness** at A-A.

## PHOTO CHALLENGE



### The Reveal:

**Green poster:**  
Mrs. Bialecki's Room  
**"Mischief Managed":**

Mrs Turner's Room  
**Heart:**  
Ms. Carretto's Room



Where are these photos found around the school?

Discover for yourself or find out in the next issue of the *Observer*!





# Dropkin' in the New Year

By: Abbey Swackhamer-Copy Editor

On December 31, the world turns their eyes to the energetic Times Squares celebration of the new year. Bright lights, entertainment, and positive energy fill New York City every year as the clock moves towards midnight on January 1 in anticipation for the annual Times Square Ball dropping to ring in the new year. New York City is the most popular destination worldwide on New Year's Eve. Over one million people gather in NYC on this day and even people around the world watch and participate in this crazy celebration... but where did it come from?

This grand party all began in 1903 when The *New York Times* newspaper opened their new headquarters in what was then known as Longacre Square. The opening was celebrated with midnight fireworks on December 31, 1903 and after four years of fireworks, the owner, Adolph Ochs, wanted more attention drawn to the building. He hired an electrician to construct a lighted ball that would be lowered from the flagpole on the roof. At this time, the iron ball was only five feet in diameter. It was dropped for the first time in 1907. The Ball has faced seven transformations throughout its history and has dropped every year except during World War II due to wartime lighting restrictions, in which people still gathered in NYC without the Ball.

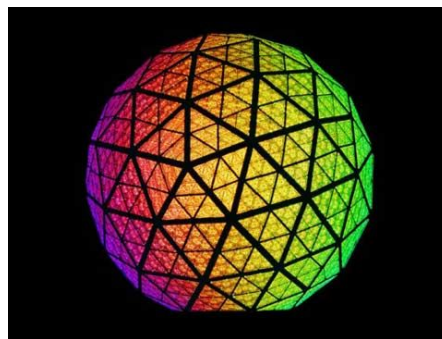


**1907 Ball** *The original Ball was only five feet in diameter.*

*Photo from thenewyorker.com*

The Ball now stands on a 141 foot flagpole and drops down in 30 seconds.

Transformations of the Ball occurred in 1920 when the Ball was replaced with a five foot, 400 pound iron Ball. The third Ball came out in 1995, adding rhinestones and a computerized lighting system featuring strobe lights which were 1070 pounds and 6 feet in diameter.



**The 2017 Ball** *The 2017 Ball is 12 feet in diameter, and weighs 11,875 pounds, which is much larger than the original*

*Photo from timessquarenyc.org*

It included 504 Waterford Crystal triangles and 600 light bulbs. A 100th anniversary ball was made with a six foot diameter weighing 1,212 pounds with LEDs, computerized lighting pattern while only using the electricity of 10 toasters! This ball was only used once. The Ball, created in 2009, is now 12 feet in diameter and weighs 11,875 pounds with 2,688 Waterford crystal triangles. These crystals are named after the city, Waterford, in Ireland

New Year's Eve is not only celebrated in New York City, but also celebrated at home or at large scale events in many cities. Many Americans celebrate New Year's Eve at home with friends, family, and the NYC event on the TV. Honolulu, Los Angeles, Chicago, Portland, Las Vegas, and New Orleans are a few of the most popular cities to spend New Year's Eve, besides Manhattan. Major cities often have a ball dropping and New Year's festival of their own. For example, Las Vegas hosts a street celebration called the "Fremont Street Experience" and Los Angeles has a celebration at Grand Park. The New Year's Eve celebration at Grand Park has live bands and DJs while covering the entire City Hall and Music Center will be covered in culture. The dropping of the New Year's Eve Ball to signify the beginning of a new year has been an exciting tradition celebrated since the beginning of the 20th century.





# New Years Eve: *Terrific* or Terrifying?

By: Owen Curtin  
Design Manager



**New York Crisis:** 1 million people were expected to attend the New Year's Eve celebration in New York City this year. 20% of American citizens are classified as criminals. According to this data, there will be 200,000 criminals attending the New Year's Eve celebration in New York City.

*Photo from mashable.com*

New Year's Eve, a historical day that dates back to 1904 where the first Times Square celebration took place. In 1907, the New Year's Eve Ball drop made its first appearance where people gather from miles around to celebrate what a good year they've had, or they look back on what a terrible year it was and how badly they want to move on to the next one. New Year's Eve is one of the most anticipated days of the year, but also one of the most dangerous. This happens mainly because of the increase in bail bonds, or more people are being bailed out of jail. There are many speculations for why people are spending this great night in the slammer. One thought is increased alcohol consumption. It has

become a strategy for bars and clubs across the nation to increase their regular stock of alcohol when the holiday season comes around. From Thanksgiving to New Year's, the alcohol increase of bars spikes across the nation. According to Lisa Hozella, manager at Brewer's Outlet in Pottsville, the bar averages 250 customers a day, but on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, they expect upwards of 1500 customers.

The reflection of one's year can be an emotional time. You could be proud of all that you've accomplished, or be ashamed of how little you have achieved. In many cases, the shame of thinking that you're useless can lead to self-harm and domestic violence related crimes. However, the idea that suicide rates drastically increase around this time, because of how emotional of a time it can be, is nothing but a myth. Domestic violence is a major crime that occurs around New Years because of increased alcohol sales. Both accomplishment and shame can lead to an increase in alcohol consumption. When people feel this emotional, they tend to drink more. In Germany last year, there were 1200 women sexually assaulted on New Year's Eve as well as an increase in racial related crimes. German police were investigating crimes that

targeted North Africans. Assaults on Syrian and Pakistani citizens were also committed. This is a prime example of people adopting this overly celebratory attitude and drinking too much on New Year's Eve. Although this isn't as relevant as a domestic crime, and it's unaware if alcohol was involved, it still applies to the abuse of the "anything goes" attitude on this day.

Another common crime that occurs on New Year's Eve is vandalism. This past New Year's Eve, many people took part in committing a prank of changing the famous Hollywood sign to say "Hollyweed". They did this by hanging flags in specific places on the "O's" to change them to "E's". However, this crime isn't too serious or violent, and this same prank has been done many times before. In 1977, the sign was changed to "Holywood" in celebration of Easter. So remember kids, New Year's Eve can be a dangerous time, so when this holiday comes around next year, have fun, but be safe.



**The Perfect Time for a Crime:** New Year's Eve is a popular time for robbery to occur.

*Last year in Amarillo, a convenience store was robbed by three young men.*

*Photo from seanlinnane.blogpost*



# European Observations

By: Dylan Griffin - Staff Writer

Following a recent family trip to the United Kingdom, I decided to share some obvious cultural differences and structural differences that the United States and the United Kingdom have. I spent ten days in England and Scotland, and I saw that there were vast differences between here and there. Some of the obvious differences were driving on the opposite side of the road, smaller roads in general, and a different money system.

Sports are just as popular in the UK as they are in the US, but the big difference between the two is the location of venues. We have a larger amount of land and resources to place our massive stadiums on. A majority of England's major cities are incredibly old with rich culture. Their sports teams have historic venues that define the city skylines. On match days, the whole city puts their support behind their teams. If you're not headed to the sporting event, I suggest you try to avoid the parts of the city that have major stadiums. There can be up to 20,000 fans walking towards the stadium in the streets which makes traffic in that part of the city incredibly difficult to navigate.

Another difference that doesn't get much attention, but is very useful to know, is how electrical outlets are different in the two nations. So anyone who goes to the UK and is unaware of the change is often hit with extremely high prices for AC adapters. The adapters are not as well constructed as they are here in the US. Unfortunately, we had

an adapter break on us during our stay.

Despite the expectations of what food was going to be, I surprisingly found it to be greasier than American food. I was expecting smaller plates of wholesome and healthier food. One of the most frequent dishes that I came across was fish and chips. I personally did not find any fish and chips that were less than satisfactory. Most of the fish was fresh, as a result of the geography. Most dishes came with chips regardless of whether it was steak or salmon. "Chips" in the UK are what most Americans like to call "fries." To refer to an actual potato chip in the UK, they would often be called "crisps."

As opposed to many restaurants in the States, refills are not free in the UK. Waiters and waitresses did not ask if we wanted refills either - they just brought them and charged our bill. One other major difference that stood out to me in the European food industry was that tipping is expected. Even if you're not a fan of the meal or service, it's expected that you tip at least 10%, and if the dining experience is a good one, a 25-30% tip is expected. This is something that a large majority of Americans may be unaware of. From personal experience, I know that I would have never expected a tip of that much.

The overall trip itself was an incredible experience that I was lucky enough to go on, and it gave me the opportunity to see how we differ from the nation that we started from.



**London Bridge**

*London Bridge is an iconic landmark in the British Capital. You can see many major landmarks from the bridge, including the London Eye and Big Ben.*

*Photo Courtesy of Love Griffin*



**London Eye**

*Standing at 443 feet tall, the London Eye is the fourth tallest ferris wheel in the world. From the top you can see about 25 miles in any direction on a clear day.*

*Photo Courtesy of Love Griffin*





By  
**Alex DeGraff**  
Copy Editor

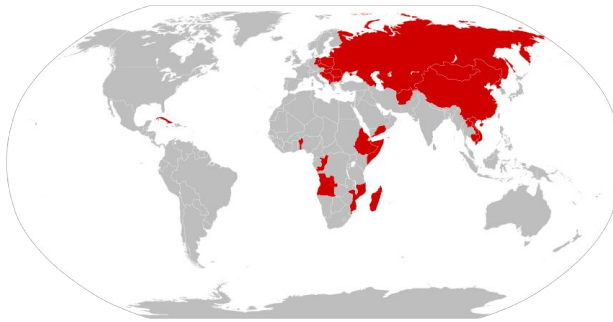


# When Life Gives you Lenins...



It's a new year! With every new year there comes a new anniversary. 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the world's first communist revolution! To commemorate this occasion, I have written an article about the life of Vladimir Lenin. For those who do not know,, Lenin was a Russian communist revolutionary, and from Marxist ideology he constructed what is known as "Leninism." Marxism is the belief that class-based hierarchies should be abolished from society, and that the working-class of a nation should be in control of every level of production. Lenin, however, made a few changes to this ideology in order to better incorporate socialism in Russia. Russia's historically feudal and agrarian society meant the country had a very small working class. As a result, Lenin also believed that a socialist government in Russia would mainly need the support of farmers. He also believed in establishing a social government to transition between capitalism and complete communism. He was the head of the Russian Republic from 1917 to 1918, the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic from 1918 to 1924, and the Soviet Union from 1922-1924. Additionally, Lenin has the fourth highest score for people killed in the 20th century, as he is responsible for 4 million deaths as a result of the Russian Civil War.

Lenin has been one of the most influential men in history. In his youth, Vladimir led a surprisingly lofty lifestyle before getting into the revolutionary business. His father had risen from serfdom to aristocracy by becoming a professor of physics and mathematics, and his mother had come from a family of nobility. He had



**Communist Influence**

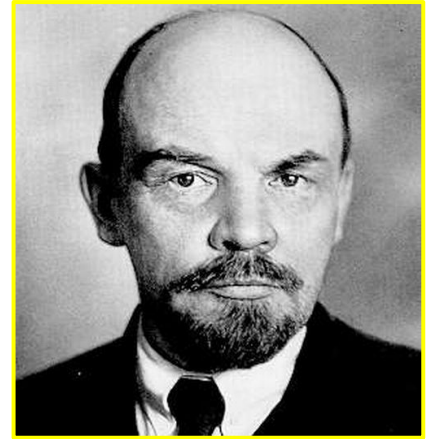
*A map of every country which has had a communist government, thanks to Lenin*

*Photo from wikipedia.com*

two sisters and a brother, who was executed for attempting to assassinate the Tsar Alexander III of Russia. This violent, revolutionary upbringing clearly influenced his decision to start a Marxist Revolution in Russia.

Lenin's revolutionary stint began quite early. During his college education at a university in the city of Kazan, Lenin was arrested for being the ringleader of an organization protesting the Russian government's restrictions on student organizations. His sister convinced Russian authorities to allow him to continue his studies at the University of St. Petersburg externally, and he eventually completed his education.

After "Bloody Sunday" in 1905, Lenin began to rally Bolshevik forces against the tyrannical government, and attempted to begin a violent overthrow. At this point however, Lenin never actually got around to revolutionizing. After around 1908, Lenin moved around Europe, going first from England to Austria in 1914, where he was briefly arrested at the outbreak of World War I, and then to Switzerland in 1916. Finally, in 1917, Lenin returned to his homeland, coming to the city of Petrovich, where the February Revolution began. In the middle of revolutionising, however, Lenin



**Vladimir Lenin**

*Photo from findagrave.com*

fell ill and returned to Finland to recoup. While he was gone, a few things happened: a few military coups were attempted, and the revolutionaries eventually took control of the Russian government.. Russia then had an election, which the Bolsheviks initially lost to an agrarian Socialist movement. Despite this, Lenin still ran the new government, and issued a number of Marxist decrees. He nationalized the land owned by aristocrats and by the church, closed down counter-revolutionary press sources, and established tribunals to deal with counter-revolutionary crimes. He led the negotiation of the treaty which pulled Russia out of World War I.

Lenin stepped down as Chairman in 1918 as a result of deteriorating health. He suffered many strokes, which paralyzed and eventually killed him.

Lenin was a very influential and controversial leader in history. He has truly left behind an amazingly large, although not always positive, legacy. He caused 27 countries throughout history to adopt communist policies, and began the popular support for the ideology that America would battle for decades.





# Donald J. Trump: 45th President

By  
**Cory Olix**  
Staff Writer

President of the United States of America: The most powerful man in the world. The responsibilities that the leader of the free world has are immeasurable and prestigious. The risk of unpopularity is never too much of a factor, as being somewhat unpopular comes with the job. We've had many up and down presidents, but where will Donald Trump find himself among the ranks? Will his unpopularity among distinct voters leave him only with four years in office? Will he complete the rough task that is put in front of him? Time will tell how President Trump will affect the United States, whether it be positively, negatively, or a little bit of both. Donald Trump is no longer just a candidate for one party, he is now the leader of all Americans. Since Trump has won the Presidential election, we should become knowledgeable about his plans for this country.

For starters, Trump's proposed plan coming into the Presidency is to unleash \$50 trillion in untapped shale, oil, and natural gas reserves. Nominating Scott Pruitt as the head of the EPA will sure make for a new regulatory perspective. Pruitt has been a stark opponent of many actions of the EPA in the past, but only because he believes in a balance between environmental protection and economic prosperity.

Next, Trump has stated that he would like 540,000 active duty soldiers. His major goal is to beat



**President Elect** Donald J. Trump will be sworn in January 20 to become the 45th President of the United States *Photo from businessinsider.com*

ISIS since it is an ongoing problem for the United States. One of the most important foreign policy feats that a president needs to do is protect from outside terrorism and its potential trek into our own country. Nominating multiple high-level generals is for sure a precaution that Trump is taking in order to have high-level intelligence about the enemy, as well as plans to defeat them.

Another plan coming into office is to build a wall along much of the border between the United States and Mexico to physically keep out illegal immigrants.



*Photo from businessinsider.com*

Donald Trump plans to uphold the laws in our land and remove criminal aliens immediately. Also, people that overstay their visas will be forced to leave. These promises go along with what our laws already state.

Trump's vision about gun rights include appointing a justice that will uphold our laws and constitution. He plans on upholding our 2nd Amendment rights. Donald Trump believes that "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed upon." Donald Trump does not believe that the government has any right to dictate what people can buy or use, in relation to guns and ammunition.

One of the last major plans Trump has is to get rid of unruly business regulations and create jobs. Government is not in charge of jobs; capitalism is the key to employment. In order to let capitalism work, many feel that regulations need to be decreased by a large amount so that the next generation of entrepreneurs can develop their product and or business to help make jobs for others. Trump's plan to reform the entire regulatory code is one step toward a more free market. For example, the less regulated a company is, the less involved the government is, which in turn could allow for the creation of new jobs, and ultimately a better economy for the American people.

Donald Trump is a businessman that is now at the highest office in the United States. While jobs are one of the most important aspects he hopes to bring, only time will tell the totality of what he can accomplish for the USA as President.

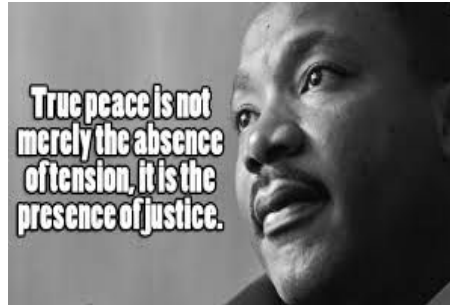


# The Impact of a True Icon

By: Jack Castle - Copy Editor

Every year on the third Monday of January, we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s effect on this nation. In addition, the whole month of February is known as African American History Month. King played a major role in the movement to end racial segregation and discrimination. This movement is called the "African American Civil Rights Movement," which lasted from 1954 to 1968. This year on January 16, we celebrate the day after King's birthday, formally known as Martin Luther King Jr. Day. King is known mostly for his "I Have a Dream" speech, where he dreamt of having the same opportunities as a white person, which for that time period was hard to come by. In that speech, King also expressed a wish that his "four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character".

Beginning in the late 1800's and ending in the mid 1900's, Jim Crow laws, rooted from the Black Codes that were overridden by the Emancipation Proclamation, legalized segregation between blacks and whites in America. King lived the majority of his life with the limitations set by the Jim Crow laws, only living four years out of the restrictions because of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. King was a major power that put these laws to rest by fighting against the racial segregation and discrimination civilly, which



*Image from etonline.com*

contradicted Malcolm X, another human rights activist, greatly. Malcolm X was violent; he used thoughts of any means necessary to end racial segregation and discrimination including preaching violence and racism. Regardless of their differences, King and Malcolm were both very effective and influential civil rights activists, and wouldn't have achieved victory without each other.

King's nonviolent tactics forced the issue of segregation onto federal levels, surpassing the powerful local governments and police forces who had institutionalized segregation for multiple years prior. King led multiple marches in his quest for racial equality. Beginning in 1955 with his civil rights campaign of Montgomery, Alabama, King "emphasized the importance of equality among all races, whether on a bus in Alabama, a restaurant in Georgia, or a voting booth in Mississippi"

tavaana.org/en/content/martin-luther-king-jr-fighting-equal-rights-america-0, Martin Luther King, Jr. Fighting for Equal Rights in America, E-Collaborative for Civic Education.

The message got through to the Supreme Court, declaring that segregation on buses was unconstitutional.

Then, for the next eight years, King led multiple successful marches. He led his most historic action on August 28, in 1963. King's March on Washington for jobs and freedom took a life of its own. The event hosted over a quarter of a million people who were all facing King while he gave his "I Have A Dream" speech, standing with his back to the Lincoln Memorial. In King's "I Have a Dream" speech, he cited *The Bible* and *The United States Declaration of Independence* multiple times. "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.' Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children".



**A True Spokesman** King speaks into multiple microphones, his words of wisdom motivating millions.

*Photo from parade.com*



# The Impact of a True Icon Continued...

With Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and the Supreme Court all on the same page, multiple acts were passed and goals were achieved, suppressing segregation and powerful steps forward in the Civil Rights Movement. Coincidentally, the same year that King was shot and killed in Memphis, Tennessee. King was headed to Memphis to show his support for African American city sanitation workers who went on strike February 11, 1968 because of unsafe working conditions, getting paid significantly less to the white worker, and receiving no pay if the workers had to stay home because of bad weather. King's final speech, known as "I've Been to the Mountaintop," and his parting words came the day before his assassination in an address at the Mason Temple, making references to a bomb threat on his plane trip to Memphis:



**Confident leader.** King looking confident as ever, persuading even more followers with his words, attitude, and behavior.  
*Photo from usatoday.com*

*"And then I got to Memphis. And some began to say the threats... or talk about the threats that were out. What would happen to me from some of our sick white brothers? Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. [applause] And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land! [applause] And so I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. My eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!"*

King was then shot and killed the following day, on April 4, 1968 at 6:01 p.m.

King had been awarded the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize and Named Time Magazine's Man of the Year in 1963 and 1964. After his assassination, he received the Presidential Medal Of Freedom in 1977 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004, and of course a national holiday, which we will be celebrating on January 16, in honor of the legacy he leaves behind.

## Famous MLK Quotes:

*"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."*

*"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."*

*"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."*

*"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."*

*"I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."*

*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"*

*"The time is always right to do what is right."*

*"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."*





# Little Orphan Annie Makes Her Way to AA

By  
**Madge Chroniger**  
Public Relations Manager

The Alfred- Almond drama department will be presenting *Annie* as this year's Spring musical, and we are extremely excited to carry on the tradition of America's well known little orphan. The show first originated out of a poem by James Whitcomb called *Little Orphan Annie* written in 1885. Thomas Meehan, one of the original composers, thought it was a rotten idea when the idea came about to create *Annie* into a show. He didn't think any success would come from the production.

Despite Meehan's thoughts, they followed through with the composing of the show and the original stage production premiered on August 10, 1975 at the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut. After a long run at the opera house, *Annie* finally made it to Broadway; the first show was in April of 1977 at the Alvin theatre, which is now the Neil Simon theatre. This theatre currently houses the famous Broadway show *Cats*. While *Annie* was in its fantastic run of 2,337 performances on Broadway, the show received ten Tony nominees and won seven out of the ten, including best musical. The little redhead we all have grown to love continued to climb the ladder of success and was claimed for movie rights by Columbia Pictures in 1979 with the plan of creating a \$50 million movie.



**Alfred Almond's Annie** Mirra R. will be stealing the show as our little redhead.  
*Photo courtesy of Madge Chroniger*

When it came time to find their golden girl to play America's beloved Annie, Columbia Pictures ran into a problem trying to find that perfect little actress. After auditioning 8,000 girls in ten months in over twenty different cities, Columbia Pictures found the perfect match - Aileen Quinn. She became the new Annie, and made her debut singing "Maybe" on May 21, 1982. Just like Columbia pictures, the Alfred- Almond drama department is excited to search high and low for the perfect match to become Alfred-Almond's beloved redhead. We hope to have a strong cast that will help us present *Annie* as another fantastic show. While talking with the director of the show Miss Karr, she made it clear that her expectations for Annie are that it will be the best show yet. Although not sure of the exact number of people there will be in the cast, Karr shares that the number of people in last year's show was too much.

## Cast List

**Annie:** Mirra R.  
**Mr. Warbucks:** Wyatt Ames  
**Grace:** Abby Kelly  
**Miss Hannigan:** Maeghan Rodd  
**Rooster:** Joe Miletti  
**Lily St. Regis:** Amya Snyder  
**Molly:** Katelynn Roulo/Lauren Johnson  
**Kate:** Grace Hildreth  
**Tessie:** Claire Volk  
**Pepper:** Ryann Donlon  
**July:** Ella Napolitano  
**Duffy:** Reagan Comer  
**Orphans:** Zoe Tarun, Angel Kenyon  
**Sandy:** Kilroy  
**Drake:** Noah Briglin  
**Mrs. Pugh/Sophie:** Emelia Enke  
**Mrs. Greer:** Caroline Ding  
**Cecille/Connie Boylan:** Larissa Eichler  
**Annette/Ronnie Boylan:** Katlyn Guild  
**Bert Healy/Kaltenborn:** Logan Whittall  
**Bonnie Boylan:** Amber Trudell  
**Jimmy Johnson/Harold**  
**Ickes/Announcer:** Justin Berry  
**Fred McCracken/Wacky:** Alex DeGraff  
**President Roosevelt:** Greg Boardman  
**Morganthau:** Jesse Berry  
**Frances Perkins:** MacKenzie Ormsby  
**Cordell Hull/Lt. Ward:** Jake Schultze  
**Louis Howe:** Erin Anderson  
**Bundles McCloskey/Cop:** Arnold Saint Phard  
**Star-to-be:** Dominica Nunez  
**Dog Catcher:** Dustin Kinnaird  
**Assistant Dog Catchers:** Owen Curtin, Dan McMahon  
**Usherette:** Emily Campbell



## Little Orphan Annie – Continued...

With a cast size of 56 students in Alfred - Almond's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Annie's* cast will need to be much smaller. Miss Karr shares that the thing she is most excited about isn't the cheesy answer of opening night; her excitement is all for callbacks. Unlike other shows when she has had a general idea of who the lead is, she had no idea who would be in each role this year. She was excited to see new people audition who could bring forth new talent.

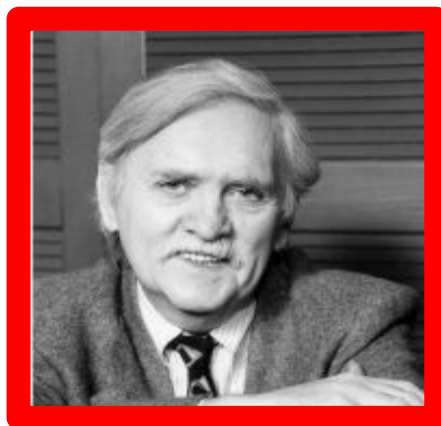
Although Karr is excited for the production, she does have concerns, with her biggest being the set. The massive combination of many complicated, big set pieces could be a challenge, but we know we can pull it off. Her response about the fact that we will be having a live animal on stage playing Sandy is that it scares her. She isn't very sure about live animals in shows. The fact that Kilroy, a kind loving therapy dog, will be our live animal makes her a little more comfortable with the fact we will have a dog on stage. Although there are excitements and concerns from our director, she is faithful we will pull off yet another fantastic show.

Our head stage manager, Miss Acker, had some input on the expectations for our show and what our crew should be preparing for. She really likes that we are doing *Annie*. She thinks that it will be a fun show and will attract a different audience, and because it is a kid friendly show, we are hoping more kids and families will attend



*The tradition of Annie Annie's original cover art still is used to help carry on the tradition of America's beloved redhead*  
Photo from mtishows.com

the performances. She is most excited about the fact that she gets to work with new kids that aren't in her classes and will get to know the people she doesn't otherwise see on a daily bases. Like our director, we all have concerns and fears for the show. Miss Acker is specifically worried about the set and how set design is going to play out. One of Miss Acker's many jobs is to search for people to be on our stage crew to help pull off a seamless show. Some of the things she is looking for in stage crew candidates are people who are able to work well with others, work well under pressure, are flexible literally and figuratively, and



**Thomas Meehan** *The composer who originally thought Annie was a rotten idea and shouldn't have been created*  
Photo from mtishows.com

are good problem solvers who are willing to take initiative. Also, all those looking into being on stage crew this year should definitely practice their duct taping skills - this comes in handy more than you think it would. As stage manager, being in charge of everything that happens backstage, naturally Miss Acker had thoughts about how a live animal will play into Alfred-Almond's show. She is extremely excited to have Kilroy as a part of our cast, and looks forward to the experience because he is well trained. She is hopeful that Kilroy will bring a calming presence to the cast and crew.

And finally, you can't have a musical without the music of the Pit Band. Director Mr. Bialecki has some thoughts on this year's show as well. He is excited and is looking forward to the opportunity to help out with making *Annie* a success. The advice he gives to anyone involved in the cast, crew, and pit is "Preparation, Preparation, Preparation." Mr. Bialecki also shares his thoughts on having a live animal on stage, "I hope the animal has been 'walked' before it goes on stage..."

Along with the great excitement for the production and the amazing sense of family that comes from being involved in a show, there is a lot of work that goes into putting a performance together. We hope to bring a classic story to life through countless rehearsals, long hours, and little sleep. Be looking forward to Alfred Almond's production of *Annie*.



# Faculty Flashback

By Janu Patel      Sr. Copy Editor

Have you ever wondered what our teachers were like in high school? Or what they had planned for their futures? As a senior, I have been making some big decisions about my future, but everybody knows things don't always go as planned. While I currently feel like I know what I want my future to look like, I know that my plans and visions will change as the years go by. So I set out to ask teachers about their plans for the future, favorite memories and advice from their senior year.

Here are the questions I asked them:

What were your plans for your future as a high school senior?

What is your favorite memory from senior year, or the best part of senior year?

What advice would you give to high school seniors?



*Photo courtesy of Miss Acker*

1. When I was a high school senior I wasn't sure what I was going to do in college. Being a teacher was always something I wanted to do, but I wasn't sure what I wanted to teach. I was also interested in becoming a pediatric nurse practitioner or physical therapist.
2. Senior trip to Boston.
3. Start to get some experience in the field you want to pursue now. It's helpful to go into a major with background knowledge and experience. Enjoy your last experiences as students at Alfred-Almond.

~ Miss Acker

1. My plans were to graduate, attend college at Alfred University (my major was undecided, but I had an opportunity to attend college with free tuition, so it seemed silly to pass it up), and then live out my days working a horse farm.
2. My favorite part of senior year was graduating. I was eager to get out of the daily routine of school.... go figure!
3. Be open to change and look for the opportunities that exist right in front of you. Sometimes our plans and what is meant for us are two different things... life is unpredictable, so enjoy each moment for what it is!

~ Mrs. Backer

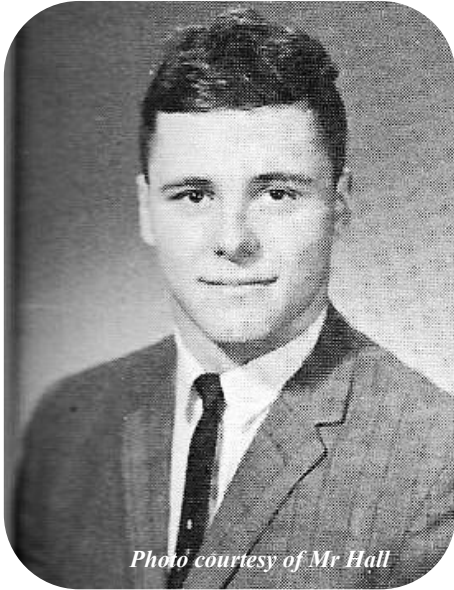


*Photo courtesy of Mrs Backer*





# Faculty Flashback



*Photo courtesy of Mr Hall*

1. I was headed for college (Where I hoped to read every book in existence (and avoid Vietnam for four years)).
2. Girls. See my autobiography for details.
3. Wear your seatbelt. Remember that there are people who love you and worry about you. You are not immortal or invulnerable. Pay attention to all the wonders taking place all around you. Be kind to fat old bald guys.

~ Mr. Hall

1. To attend Alfred University and major in ceramic engineering. I switched majors after I saw the required textbook list.
2. Best part: Open Campus. If you were an honors student you were allowed to leave during your lunch periods and study halls. I had a first period study hall so I didn't have to report to school until an hour after everyone else.

3. If you are college bound:

1. Choose your institution based on its programs first and social life, second.

2. Be committed to yourself and your learning because you are paying for it!

In general:

Find something you enjoy doing!

Remember it's OK to change your mind!

~ Miss Carretto



*Photo courtesy of Miss Carretto*

1. I had no plan other than to join 47K students at UW Madison.
2. The forging of deeper friendships with the knowledge that we were all going our ways out into the world. My best personal senior memory involved Dirk Debbink and his dancing, but you will have to ask me about that story....
3. Future Freshmen, take advantage of the opportunities available at college! Future employers want unique skills, community volunteerism, and leadership. You never know what is going to help you or what combination of interests is going to put you up above the crowd.

~ Mrs. Donius



*Photo courtesy of Mrs Donius*



# Faculty Flashback



*Photo courtesy of Mr Donlon*

1. To be a high school history teacher and to marry Kelly McCormick.
2. I enjoyed my friends more, I was aware that the time spent with them was coming to an end.
3. Make smart decisions about what college you are going to and make sure that your major is the one you want for the rest of your life.

~ Mr. Donlon



*Photo courtesy of Mrs Donlon*

1. Special Education teacher.
2. Hanging out with friends, yearbook assembly, senior picnic.
3. Try hard in school because your grades count. Have fun and make memories.

~ Mrs. Decker

"What's comin'  
will come and  
we'll meet it  
when it does."  
~Hagrid

1. Going to St. Bonaventure University for Elementary Education.
2. Great times with friends. I had a very close class and we had lots of fun.
3. Follow your dreams! Have fun but work hard. It pays off.

~Mrs. Donlon



*Photo courtesy of Mrs Decker*

1. I wanted to be a HS Math Teacher.
2. My favorite memory from my Senior year was the group of guys and girls that I hung out with. Boyfriends and girlfriends were minimal and we just had a great time being together, wherever that may have been.
3. Spend more time with your friends. Boyfriends and girlfriends will come and go throughout your life, but, hopefully, you will be able to maintain some great friendships for life.

~ Mr. Decker



*Photo courtesy of Mr Decker*





# Words From the Wise

By Jessica Flaitz  
Editor-in-Chief (Lite)

Entering a new career field can be scary, to say the least, so I decided to conduct some interviews with the teachers that have recently started teaching at Alfred-Almond, as well as some teachers that have been teaching at Alfred-Almond for many years now, in order to shed some light on their motives behind their decisions, feelings about their careers, and any advice that they'd like to pass on. I chose three new teachers and made a set of questions for them, and then made a different set of inquiries for the teachers that have been here for a while.

My first interview was with Ms. Acker. She has been at Alfred-Almond for two years, alongside her mother. Ms. Acker studied at Alfred State for one year and then moved to Ohio to study at Cedarville University. I then asked her what inspired her to go into education. In her response, she took me back to when she and her sister were young and recalled memories of them playing "teacher and student" as a lot of us used to do when we were kids. Growing up she told me that another one of her inspirations was her mom... again as many of ours is. When she was a senior in high school she was in the New Visions program at BOCES Wildwood Campus. Quickly realizing her freshman year at college that the medical field just wasn't for her, she took a psychology course and came to the conclusion that education fit her best. I asked Ms. Acker what made her choose this age group after

having taught elementary and high school. She came to the conclusion that high school just made sense. Since Ms. Acker is new to teaching, I asked her what piece of advice she would give to students pursuing the education field, and she said the best thing you could do is to shadow teachers and become familiar with the workplace. Since she plans to stay here, it'll be a while until she leaves, so I was curious of what she might leave behind at Alfred-Almond. The one lesson she would like to leave behind is that everyone has different strengths and weaknesses, but make sure you are doing what makes you happy and what you are passionate about.

Starting a full time job can be intimidating. Ms. Zeh, Alfred-Almond's new Earth Science teacher, started this year and told me that she plans to stay. When I asked Ms. Zeh if she had any concerns going into a new teaching position, she said, "Yes and no." Elaborating on this a little bit, she told me that putting into practice what she has learned so that it is beneficial to students was one of her biggest concerns. This is understandable because learning a subject is much different than teaching it. After high school, Ms. Zeh attended Daemen College for her Bachelor's degree before transferring to Niagara University for her Master's degree. Like Ms. Acker, Ms. Zeh did a lot of substitute teaching before she took on a full teaching position. Staying with the same questions, I asked what piece of advice she would give to



*Ms. Zeh Began teaching at Alfred Almond as the new Earth Science Teacher Photo courtesy of ALCEN*

students pursuing the education field. Her response: "Keep the enthusiasm for the content because it isn't always easy to stay positive when things don't go as planned."

I think many students can benefit from this. One lesson Ms. Zeh would like to teach the student body before she leaves Alfred-Almond is to find what you love and what you can see yourself doing on a daily basis. She reminded us that every job has its challenges but as long as you still have a piece you are passionate about, it will all be worth it in the end.



*Ms. Acker takes on her third year at Alfred-Almond. She hopes to pass on some great lessons to all of her students Photo courtesy of Jessica Flaitz*





# Words From the Wise Continued...

The third new teacher that I interviewed was Ms. Byrne, who also plans to stay. Coming from Syracuse, Ms. Byrne attended Alfred University, met a group of friends, and decided that the small towns of Alfred and Almond fit her. Growing up in a family of teachers, continuing the tradition just made sense. Teaching is such a broad career path as to what subjects you can choose from, so I asked, "Why Spanish?" Well, in Ms. Byrne's school in Syracuse, she had the choice between Spanish, French, German, and Italian. Originally she chose French, but because of a scheduling mistake she was put in the Spanish class. Being too nice to say anything, she went to Spanish class and instantly fell in love with the language. Teaching any subject other than the one she loves just didn't make sense to her. Curious of her concerns starting a new job, she confidently responded that she didn't really have any concerns because she did a lot of student teaching in the past. She also added that everyone at Alfred-Almond was so nice that it was an easy adjustment. My final question to her was, "What piece of advice would you give students that are entering the educational field?" Her response, "Take it step by step and never be afraid to ask for help." This is a piece of advice that Ms. Byrne thinks all students could take no matter what career path they choose. Before Ms. Byrne leaves Alfred-Almond, she would like to teach the student body to embrace culture and new opportunities.

Talking to three of Alfred-Almond's new teachers, I of

course couldn't leave out the ones that have been roaming the halls for many years now. In 1995, Alfred-Almond gained a creative and kind art teacher, Mrs. Booman. Before Mrs. Booman started teaching she attended UCLA for her undergrad and then earned her Master's degree for teaching at Buffalo State. Mrs. Booman worked in marketing before teaching at a school, and that is where she realized her love of teaching. When she entered the field of education, Mrs. Booman said that one thing that surprised her was how creative the students were. It was definitely a pleasant surprise, especially to an art teacher. Since Mrs. Booman has been teaching art at Alfred-Almond, both elementary and high school, I was curious if she had the opportunity to change one thing in schools, what would it be? Her response to this was that she would like it if students were offered to "take more of an 'Odyssey of the Mind' approach." Odyssey of the Mind gives students the opportunity to take more of a creative and open approach to problem solving - a very beneficial change in my opinion as a student. I then asked Mrs. Booman what piece of advice she would give to new teachers here at Alfred-Almond. She said to "keep your eyes on the prize" and always remember the value of learning. Being in one workplace for 21 years, I was sure that we (the student) body had to make some impression on Mrs. Booman, so getting a little deeper into the harder questions, I asked her how teaching has impacted her life. Mrs. Booman paused, and seeing the emotion in her

face I knew I had asked the perfect question. "I've met so many wonderful students and have had so many rich experiences. Teaching has taught me to always have faith and that this is a very rich journey and wonderful career." Hearing this really showed me the kind heart Mrs. Booman has and how the love of teaching she has runs very deep. To wrap up the very rewarding interview, I asked Mrs. Booman one lesson she would like to teach the student body of Alfred-Almond. She undoubtedly responded with, "No put downs."

Mr. Brady, one of Alfred-Almond's English teachers, started his teaching career at Alfred-Almond in 1984. He studied locally at Alfred University. Mr. Brady got his teaching degree in two years instead of four, so what surprised him the most was the volume of work.



*Ms. Byrne Takes on the Spanish room and helps her students embrace different cultures*

*Photo Courtesy of Jessica Flaitz*



# Words From the Wise

## Continued...

When I asked him why he decided to become a teacher, he shared with me that he has always had a love for books and he likes discussing them, so being an English teacher just made sense. I then asked Mr. Brady what one thing he would change in this school if he could. He told me that he would like to see the school offer more electives for seniors in the future. There used to be more classes seniors could choose from for their 12th grade English credit, and he hopes that they will be brought back. When I asked Mr. Brady what piece of advice he would give to the new teachers of Alfred-Almond, he said that with all of the hoops young adults have to jump through just to become a teacher, it's easy to get discouraged, so "Think positive." Coming to the end of the interview I asked Mr. Brady how teaching has impacted his life. His response was, "Teaching to me is a blessing because everyday when I wake up I look forward to going to work." Mr. Brady has been at Alfred-Almond for 32 years and, to put in his words, he "derives a great deal of meaning from teaching." Before Mr. Brady leaves Alfred-Almond, I asked him what one lesson would be that he would like to leave to the student body. He told me to "strive to be the best you can be." Mr. Brady chose a good lesson to leave in the walls of Alfred-Almond.



**Mr. Brady** *If you've ever been curious about the ending of a book in one of Mr. Brady's English classes, you can almost guarantee you'll hear his infamous quote "I'll never tell..."*  
*Photo Courtesy of Jessica Flaitz*



**Mrs. Kress** *Even though she says she dislikes pictures, she gives a thumbs up to the camera next to senior, Brendan*  
*Photo Courtesy of Jessica Flaitz*



**Mrs. Booman** *helps two very dedicated art students* *Photo Courtesy of ALCEN*

My last interview was with Mrs. Kress, who has been here since 1995. Mrs. Kress also studied locally at SUNY Geneseo. I asked her if, in a parallel universe where English isn't offered, what subject she would teach? After telling me about not being a very good at playing instruments, she said that she would choose to teach choral music. I then asked, "Why?" She responded, "I like it." Makes sense. Curious of what made her decide to be a teacher, she told me that there was never really anything that specifically made her want to teach, she has just always known since seventh grade. After asking Mrs. Kress if anything surprised her, I realized it was a silly question because she responded, "Nothing surprises me." One thing Mrs. Kress would like to change in Alfred-Almond is for books to sign themselves in and out and for it to always be the right number. She claims this would make her life a lot easier. One piece of advice she would give to new teachers is to enjoy themselves, and that teaching is fun if they let it be. Teaching has taught Mrs. Kress that teenagers are really cool people and they keep life exciting. Thanks Mrs. Kress! Before Mrs. Kress leaves Alfred-Almond she wants to teach the student body to not take yourselves too seriously and be very kind to other people. Very nice advice, Mrs. Kress.





# This Justin: On A Wild Adventure We Will Go

By  
**Justin Berry**  
Design Manager



**Peace Personified** *Mrs. Donius is a ball of positivity, and meditation is one of her big hobbies* **Photo Courtesy of Justin Berry**

This is the second-coming of *This Justin*, a column where I inform you awesome readers of people and things you otherwise wouldn't know about. Any high schooler worth their salt has been to the library; it's a vast field of knowledge and a marvelous place to get some quality work done or simply relax in a quiet, calming environment. If you've been to the library, chances are you got a pass from one of the outstanding librarians that can be found there. But have you ever thought about the person giving you that pass? In this issue's *This Justin*, I'll take you on a journey and discuss the living hurricane that is Mrs. Donius. After interviewing Mrs. Donius for only a short time, I could tell she was an extraordinary

example of someone rich with personality and life experience. One exceptionally important characteristic that she used to portray herself was *gracious*; Mrs. Donius is immensely grateful for everything she has and all of the different seasonings that spice up her life. That gratitude permeates her being. Mrs. Donius describes it as a way of life for her. Some of the people most responsible for making her the wonderful person she is today include First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, American poet Mary Oliver, and her loving husband, Bob. Each one helped to give Mrs. Donius the perspective that makes her such an interesting and fun person. Mrs. Donius describes her biggest strength as

being very understanding and empathetic. She always attempts to look at other points of view as well as give anyone and everyone a chance. These are qualities that everyone should strive for. Alongside her kind heart and understanding nature is an person with a vast amount of vitality. She characterizes herself as someone who lives her life to the absolute fullest; *spontaneous* is a word that comes to mind. Mrs. Donius has done so much with her life and has experienced so much, it's an inspiration to hear from someone who has spent their time doing as much as possible. One example of her vivacious personality is when she went to a cruiseship to be their librarian and ended up dealing blackjack.





**Well Travelled Woman** *Mr. Donius loves to travel and especially enjoys Geography* *Photo Courtesy of Justin Berry*

Let me elaborate on that. She described to me how she had taken a job on a cruiseship, wanting to work as a purser - essentially a librarian and greeter wrapped into one. After she had taken a job on the cruiser, she learned that the job was taken, so she decided to instead deal blackjack on the ship. This is just a small taste of the interesting life Mrs. Donius leads.

Parallel to her spontaneous temperament is an incredibly inspirational and considerate nature, demonstrated in this next story. Nine years ago she was horse riding and fell off, breaking her neck. One of her first thoughts after breaking it was about whether or not she would be able to be there for the students that would miss her. Fortunately, it was over the Christmas break, so she didn't miss nearly as much school over the four months it took to recover. That mindset shows how kind-hearted and dedicated Mrs. Donius is to her job and things she is passionate about in general.

Her favorite hobbies furthermore reflect her compassion and energy quite nicely. Some of the things Mrs. Donius loves to do to relax and relieve stress includes gathering wood, recycling, weaving and even a wholesome game of Pinochle here and there. She enjoys any activity related to nature; it resonates with her to be close to nature and establish a relationship with the earth. Being physically active is another fundamental aspect of Mrs Donius' life. She has done a variety of things, one of which being horse riding. As previously mentioned, Mrs. Donius is someone with enormous wisdom, compassion and life experience. When interviewing her I asked if she had any nuggets of advice for us growing teenagers, and what she discussed was very inspirational. She told me that it is monumentally important to get as many experiences as possible, whether that be learning a language or doing something you've never done before.

Alongside that, Mrs. Donius described how necessary it is to never limit yourself and always think outside the box, considering that you never know what will happen over your lifetime. Lastly, she told me to take the time to develop yourself because *you* are your biggest asset.

Interviewing Mrs. Donius for this article was an absolute treat; she is an amazing person with a very interesting outlook on life. The amount of vitality she demonstrates everyday is commendable and most certainly inspirational to me and hopefully you beautiful people will appreciate it as well. If you ever pass Mrs. Donius in the hall and she says, "Hello," make sure to say "Hi!" back and give her a high-five just to show your appreciation for everything she does.

This concludes the second edition of *This Justin* - hope you all enjoyed it as much as I enjoyed writing it. See you next time.



# BOCES: A Different Way of Learning...

By  
**Harry Robshaw**  
Staff Writer



The BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) campus is an excellent opportunity for students. The Wildwood BOCES program offers an alternative, more hands on, experience to the learning process. It simulates what working an actual job would be like in a real world situation for students. It also provides students with the skill set needed to work real world careers.

There are many different job types you can experience at BOCES. There is everything from digital design, where students can learn how to use computers to make their drawings to come to life, to building trades, where students can learn all of the skills necessary to start a career in the construction industry. The heavy equipment program offers

students the ability to conclude their program with a certification to operate a forklift and gets them a step closer to getting their CDL (Commercial Driver's License).

The New Visions program advances students a whole year closer to becoming their desired profession in the medical field. Students in the Criminal Justice program can learn how to properly shoot simulation pistols, run forensic tests, and how to properly write tickets and give citations.

Even with all of these points taken into consideration, the most compelling piece of evidence that ensures that BOCES is a good choice is the personal opinion of the students themselves. Most of the students agree that there's a more equal attitude towards the students from the teachers

and staff. Students are treated as employees and members of a team rather than being talked down to or treated as children. Many of the students attending BOCES also like the fact that they're leaving high school with a couple years of experience in their trade. The students also enjoy how it serves as a stepping stone into their future. "It's a good blend between a hands-on experience and a classroom setting, all while building a good base of discipline," says Dustin Kinnaird, a senior in the Criminal Justice program. He states, "It also introduces you to many people from other schools that you would otherwise never meet." As all of the Students that were interviewed can agree, BOCES is a wise step in the direction of learning a trade.



**The ICM Building**  
*Home of the New Visions Class.*  
*Photo from boces.org*



**The Courtyard and Main Building**  
*The main building is where all day BOCES students go to learn.*  
*Photo from boces.org*





# Lessons Learned in First Grade

By  
**Kalista Calkins**  
Staff Writer

First grade: the true start of your educational career, this is when you begin to learn the basic fundamentals of being a kind human being. You may not think so, but the transition from kindergarten to first grade is really quite a huge jump. In first grade all you do is read, read, read and even more reading. Which is what you're about to do for the rest of your school career and life, so you can thank your kindergarten teacher and first grade teacher for this ability. Additionally, here are a few simple lessons learned in first grade that you should truly learn to live by.

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**Lesson one:** Always be kind to one another. When asked what lessons are learned in first grade, Mrs. Burlingame answered with, "Always be kind." This is usually the first thing taught to kids. If you see one of your classmates struggling with something, the kind thing to do is help them out. When I was visiting the first grade class I saw a lot of this. This lesson is meant to stick with you throughout the rest of your life. ALWAYS use kind words towards your friends, peers and elders. When you don't use kind words and act nice towards others there are consequences, like sitting out during playtime or even going to see the principal, so be on your very best behavior! Being kind pays off in more than one way. Especially when you get older because the consequences can get worse.



**Fun in first grade** Evelyn and Vanessa build gingerbread houses *Photo courtesy of Kalista Calkins*

**Lesson two:** Listen when others are speaking. If your teacher is talking, should you be talking? If your friend is talking, should you be talking? The answer is no; in first grade you're taught to listen and be quiet when someone else is speaking. Especially when working with another student, make sure to give each other a chance to speak. This is very important lesson because you must learn when to talk and when to give others a chance; when working with someone else you can't do all the talking or ignore their words, listening and making an effort to understand others when they are speaking is important and simply a sign of human decency.

**Lesson three:** Sharing is caring. This goes along with always be kind. It's kind to share your toys, pencils, crayons, food and work materials. Sharing goes a long way, and helps to create friendships that can last you throughout your time in school, and maybe even life after graduation! The next time you have the chance to share something with someone, I recommend you do. During my visits I've seen students share their toys and build friendships from that.

**Lesson four:** Work quietly. Always try your best to not be distracting around your classmates while working. It's never easy to work with lots of distractions. I've found that you can get a lot more work done when it is quiet and there are no distractions. If you don't work quietly you could be sent out into the hallway to work alone. Also if you're in an environment that's not suitable for working in you can also seek out another location to work quietly in.

**Lesson five:** Last but not least, Have tons of fun. The most important lesson learned in kindergarten and first grade is to always have fun!! With all of this "rule-following," you have to make room for having fun. For example you can have fun sharing with your friends during playtime, and enjoy listening to others speak (and learning from their insights and experiences).

Basically, who you are today is partly because of your experience in first grade, whether it was a good or bad one. If you keep following these five simple lessons, you will see the benefits of being a kind, giving, and patient human being. To this day, I've followed these helpful tips and have gained many things from it.





# Cheaper by the Dozen: The Walsh Edition

By  
**Brendan Walsh**  
Editor in Chief

For my third article, I thought it might be interesting to provide a little insight to our readers about what it's like to live in a large family. I'm sure everyone knows by now that I have eleven siblings. Including me, this adds up to a total of twelve children. To put that into a different perspective, that is the equivalent of two basketball teams (with two substitutes), a soccer team (with a substitute), or a baseball/softball team (with multiple substitutes). Many times in the past I have been asked the question "How do you handle living with that many people?" or, "What is it like?" and often times "Are your parents done having children?" It is very different from the average family size, and an experience very few have the privilege to enjoy. So here is a little insight on what it's like.

For starters, living in a house with 14 people is not as bad as people imagine it to be. There are definitely pros and cons, but for the most part the good outweighs the bad. One downside to a large family is obviously the noise level of kids running around the house. Another is the conflict of fourteen very unique personalities in the same place at the same time; a third, the task of cleaning a house full of children; and obviously the impossible task of taking a decent picture. Over the years however, we have found a way to fix these problems to the best of our abilities. For example, the task of cleaning the house isn't so bad when there is a small army of people to get it done.

As far as the pictures go, that one will probably never be perfect due to the fact that we will never be able to get all twelve children to stare at a camera at the same time. As far as dealing with the many personalities, let's just face it, there is usually a lot of arguing, but it usually doesn't get bloody. I remember taking a trip out west to the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone Park many summers ago. We drove in a van with twelve people in it for three days, in the middle of July, and the air conditioning was broken. This was the worst trip of my life, at least the driving portion. There was yelling and fighting and it was nothing short of misery. That is the one thing I'm not a fan of is long drives with a dozen other people. But these are all things I've learned to live with.

Despite the obvious downsides, the upsides make it all worth it. Some positive aspects of a large family is that there is always someone to do something with, and there is always someone to have your back and help you out. There are also enough people to pretty much play any game you want, which makes family activities much more enjoyable.

I have also had the privilege of seeing six human beings grow up from the time they come home from the hospital, to present time. And the numbers have always been growing. We recently decorated our Christmas tree and I noticed something interesting. As you look at the decorations on the tree you can see ornaments that have the names of every child on them. Over the years we have had to replace them. There is one with eight kids on it, then another to replace that one with ten kids on it, and finally the one this year to replace them all with twelve kids on it. It's safe to say you never know what's going to happen.

Living in a large family has also provided me with years of life experience that I would never have received. I have learned to work with all sorts of personalities. I have learned to be an arbitrator in conflicts. I have learned to be patient. And I have pretty much learned how to parent before I've even gotten out of highschool. I remember going through school here at Alfred-Almond and being



## Springtime Photo

*Here is just one of the many thousands of pictures my family takes. This is also missing a kid or two*  
*Photo courtesy of Barry Walsh*



# Cheaper by the Dozen: The Walsh Edition *Continued...*

able to say, “My mom had a baby!” many, many times. I remember going to the hospital to see a newborn sibling at least half a dozen times. My oldest sister is 24, and the youngest is not even a year old, so there is a child in every age range. Along with this large family comes the task of remembering everyone’s name, too. It would be much easier to give everyone a number, but since we can’t do that, all of my sibling’s names in order are: Kristen, Leanna, Kelly, Brendan (me), Noah, Kate, Daniel, Tommy,

Luke, Erin, Liam, and Reagan. And then of course there are the birthdays, which I haven’t even tried to remember. Amazingly enough, my mother has managed to remember the name and age of every child and rarely mess up. She has also managed to remember the exact hour and minute that we were born. My family also expands farther than just the people I live with. I have family members from all places of the country ranging from Alaska to Florida, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. . We have had family

reunions where I don’t even know half of the people there. It is always fun though, and we have people everywhere if we ever need anything. It’s also nice to have a bunch of people for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and all the other holidays. We never spend them alone. Many years from now we will be able to celebrate Thanksgivings and see everyone grown up with their own families, and it will continue to be a very interesting experience to be part of a large family - an experience that I wish others were able to have.



**Just another photo** *My family often times goes on adventures and takes photos along the way. This is a photo behind the house around Easter time of last year. My mother usually likes to take pictures for Easter and Christmas. This photo is lacking the newest child, Reagan. Photo Courtesy of Barry Walsh*



**First time in the Leaves** *Here is a picture of my youngest brother Liam playing in the leaves for the first time outside in the yard Photo Courtesy of Brendan Walsh*





# Facts about Flight - Part 2

**By: Charles Elliott**  
**Staff Writer**

My previous article was the checklist for the Cessna 172; this is the continuation of that article. These checks are necessary for getting the airplane in the air.

1. Make sure your seatbelt is on and your doors are locked.
2. Press and hold the brakes.
3. Turn the master switch on.
4. If it's an older model airplane, you will have to prime the airplane; pump the throttle two to six times, then push the throttle in about  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch.
5. Yell "Clear" out the window, then put the key in the ignition and turn it and hold until the engine starts.
6. You know, these checks are really boring... Let's just skip them and get right into flying.

Once you pull out onto the runway, you will want to be in the middle. Push the throttle all the way in and get up to sixty miles per hour, then gently start pulling up on the yoke; the airplane will lift off the ground with the magical powers it possesses. No, really, it has to do with the shape of the wings and propellers, but that's another story. Once you're up in the air a couple thousand feet, take a look around and view the world from a whole new perspective.

During my first flight I felt scared but excited. I felt like this was what I was meant to do. Throughout my experiences, I have had multiple moments of fear, as well as accomplishment. One of my fearful moments was when we were practicing takeoffs and landings, I was turning left getting ready to land and was about five feet from touching the trees. Fortunately, nothing bad happened, all I had to do was push the throttle in half way. Then there are moments where you feel proud. My most accomplished moment was when I landed the airplane for the first time. This landing wasn't my best, but I did get the airplane on the ground safely.



*Alfred Almond from the sky, Our school from 3,500 feet.  
Photo courtesy of Charles Elliott*

- **I've flown to many places around New York, some of them being Rochester, Ithaca, and Wellsville.**
- **In this Cessna 172, you could fit six people: the pilot, copilot, two passengers, and two kid seats that are removable.**
- **If you're interested in receiving flight lessons, go to the airport at 1100 Airport Road, Hornell, NY 14843, or call (607) 324-2742.**



*Hornell cloverleaf, The 186 entrance and exit ramps from a couple hundred feet..  
Photo courtesy of Charles Elliott*





# ALL ABOUT 7'S

By **Madison McCormick** Copy Editor

Rugby 7's is a shortened variant of rugby. Rugby is an intense, high-contact, all levels, warm weather sport that American football was partially derived from. It involves two opposing teams of usually fifteen players, and the objective is to score more points than the other team by either getting the ball past the touchline for a "try" for five points or performing a drop goal worth three points. Rugby 7's is played on the same field, called a pitch. The game is also more intense than normal rugby since the game play is shorter, therefore play has to happen more quickly with no time in between. (Unlike football, rugby 7's does not allow time for huddles.) There are also less players so the level of skill needed is higher.

Fiji got their first ever Olympic medal in 2016 when their men's 7's team beat Great Britain. The Australian women won the gold that same year when they beat New Zealand.

2016 was the first time that 7's Rugby has been in the Olympics. Regular rugby was last featured as an Olympic sport in 1924 when the US Men's team brought home the gold.

The game is called Rugby 7's because unlike regular rugby, there are only seven players and each half of the game is only seven minutes long (there is a one minute break in between halves).

**SEVENS RUGBY PRIMER**

So you're new to the game of Sevens Rugby? USA Sevens Rugby is here to help with this Sevens Rugby Primer to help get you ready for the 2010 USA Sevens in Las Vegas.

**GAMEPLAY**

- Rugby sevens is a team-based, open-field game.
- The object of the game is to move the ball downfield and score.
- The ball may be passed laterally or backward, never forward.
- The ball can only be advanced by running or kicking the ball forward.
- Unlike American football, there is no blocking in rugby.

Each match consists of 2 seven-minute halves

Each team has **seven** players on the field

**SCORING**

- A player carries the ball and touches it down in the tryzone. This is known as a "try" **5 POINTS**
- Immediately following a "try", a conversion is then kicked (for an extra point) **2 POINTS**
- A penalty kick can be taken after an infraction **3 POINTS**

Only 3 people per team in the scrum

The game was invented in 1883 in Melrose, Scotland after butcher apprentice Ned Haig suggested having each team have only seven players and last only fifteen minutes long to cut down on the cost of playing the game by reducing the number of players that had to be paid.

*Photo from lineoutcoach.com*

New England Patriots' special teams player Nate Ebner was on the US Men's Olympic 7's team.

New Zealand and Fiji are the two countries that have the most championships in the sport.

Teams consist of three forwards and four backs, as well as five replacements.



# ALL ABOUT 7'S CONTINUED

## Rugby Vocabulary

**All Blacks** - name of New Zealand's national men's rugby team

**Conversion** - two extra points for a kick at the goal after a try

**Maul** - convergence of players around a ball carrier to push the player and the ball forward

**Pitch** - playing field that is 112.5 - 133.4 yards by 74.3 yards

**Scrum** - a means to restart play in which players interlock arms and push forward against the other team in order to gain possession of the ball that is thrown into the area

**Touchline** - one of two lines that form the long sides of the playing area

**Try** - act of taking the ball over the try line and grounding it to earn five points

**7 Colleges near  
Alfred-Almond that  
have Rugby Clubs**

Binghamton  
Brockport  
Cornell  
Geneseo  
St. Bonaventure  
Syracuse  
University at Buffalo



*An official Rugby Sevens ball weighs 14-16 ounces and is 11-12 inches long.*

*Photo from GilbertRugbyCanada.com*



*Photo from sportsmanager.ie*



*Maul the players surround the ball carrier to move him forward*  
*Photo from stuff.co.nz*



*Scrum the way that play will be reinitiated after a minor infraction*  
*Photo from the42.ie*



*Fijian players proudly display their country's first Olympic medals*  
*Photo from reuters.com*





# Salade Flambee

By  
**Bill Bacon**  
The Best Staff Writer



The one thing I respect about the French is that they light their food on fire. My father thought salads were inherently communist, and yes, yes they are. So as a public service, I will teach you how to cook the commie out of your salad.

## Ingredients For Salade:

- *Salad*
- *Any amount of Donut*
- *Easy Cheese*
- *Patriotism*
- *Cookie Dough*
- *Barbecue Powder*
- *Bacon*
- **Heavy Whipped Cream**
- *And a copy of the Second Amendment*

Now getting a salad might be a bit difficult. You either have to appear to be communist while ordering one, or you could do what I did and borrow one. I staked out a McDonald's and waited for someone to order a salad. This took a surprisingly long time, as in a few weeks. No, seriously. I went there after school every day for a solid two weeks. But one day someone walked in and ordered one, and I



*The Ingredients George Washington would be proud  
Photo secretly borrowed from Larry's Attorney*

put my newspaper with eyeholes down and rushed off with it. My plan went out without a hitch; everyone was transfixed by my genius when I looked back.

The next step: Dumpster diving. Some people think dumpster diving is a dirty waste of time, but you would be amazed at all the useful treasures you can find. For instance: the ingredients for this recipe. The easy cheese, donut and cookie dough were found behind "The Jet." The Second Amendment is a common household item and should be aquired easily. If you need any I have 500 copies.

The other ingredients I obtained by initiating secret borrowing with one of my neighbors, Larry. He was rather confused by the sudden absence of the snacks he was just eating. But he grew bored of the mystery, and went back to his

daily routine of watching Channel 44 on his T.V., ignorant again of my presence.

The best part of this recipe is that you can use any kitchen available, which is why I used Larry's, that is, until he called the cops. So I retreated into my base of operations to prepare my magnum opus.

The order of the ingredients goes from the lowest to highest patriotic density. The first thing needed is the inherently communist salad. Then the cookie dough chunks. Next add any amount of the American Donut. Then generously spray the **Heavy Whipped Cream** on the Salad. Then, the glorious American invention of Easy Cheese. ~~Liberally~~ Patriotically spray it everywhere, then add the bacon strips on top. Unfortunately my base of operations lacked a





## Salade Flambée Continued...

stove, a campfire, or any fire at all to cook with. I ended up just kind of, slapping them on there, uncooked. The raw patriotism was needed anyway.

The final ingredient I added to this masterpiece was pieces of the Second Amendment to thoroughly get rid of all the remaining communism in the salad. Apparently this was the last straw, as the salad spontaneously combusted when I sprinkled it on. I promptly threw it out of my inflammable base of operations. Being a man of science I realized that the communist elements of the salad being mixed with the capitalist elements of my ingredients caused a fire to occur. That torch of freedom was actually the last of the communism dying.

I ran into some legal trouble while making this due to a certain person whose name rhymes with "berry." Because of this my photos were stolen by the government in an attempt to sabotage me, but no worries I will find a way to get those photos to my readers.

Now before you shed some patriotic tears of victory you can send your thanks to me at [ReporterBillBacon@gmail.com](mailto:ReporterBillBacon@gmail.com). If you would like to donate those American tears to potential future recipes you will find that my base of operations lacks a mailing address. So just mail it to Larry, he won't mind.



**Pre-Flambée** *Currently Communist "Trash," but still beautiful Photo secretly borrowed from Larry's attorney*



**Salade Flambée** *My magnum opus Photo secretly borrowed from Larry's attorney*



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