



MAY 2017 VOL. 6 ISSUE 7

OBSERVER

HAVE WE GOT NEWS FOR YOU...



**Alfred-Almond
says goodbye to
retiring teachers**

MORP

**What it is
and why you
should go**

SIT:

Meet the local groups behind "Leave your Mark"





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Letter from the Editors

Greetings, Readers!

The mission of this year's *Observer* is to provide an entertaining and educational product for the benefit of the students and staff. To jumpstart this rainy month of May, the *Observer* would like to present you with some great articles including the local history of the infamous Hot Dog Day, and a prison break never reported until this issue. With the passing of prom, our journalists also thought it would be interesting to let our readers in on what happens after the main event: a.k.a MORP. To top it all off, while learning and reading, you can also get some advice on how to make this Mother's Day the best. Whether it is learning about our faculty, or seeing what a senior trip is really like, the *Observer* staff keeps on giving. Happy Readings!

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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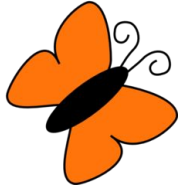
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Announcements

By Kalista Calkins
Staff Writer



Mr. Levey survived the **senior trip!**

Shake your tail feathers for **National Dance Like a Chicken Day** on May 14

Mother's Day is coming up on May 14, and **Memorial Day** is coming up on May 29. Don't forget about them!

The **Art Show** and **Ice Cream Social** will be on Tuesday, May 16 from 6-8.

May 19-21 the Hornell YMCA will be offering **lifeguarding classes**

May 22 is **National Buy A Musical Instrument Day**

Hug your brother on May 24, also known as **National Brother Day!/Hugeth Thy Broth'r Day!**
(If you don't have a brother just hug a random person because they are most likely someone's brother)
(The above note is just a joke, that would be harassment and you should definitely get a person's consent before touching them.)

High School **Band & Chorus Concert** @ 7pm on May 24 at Alfred-Almond Central School
The **strawberry festival** will be held during the **Band & Chorus Concerts** on the 24th and 25th

Varsity **Track Sectionals** will be held May 27

Don't forget to support A-A's **spring sports!** See the [school website](#) for the schedule!

The school year is almost over, **study hard** and push through!

Yearbooks will be **for sale** in Mrs. Valentine's room starting May 31.

Seniors! If you have any **lawn games** see Mr. Levey.
They are needed for the approaching senior day on June 2.





Hot Dog Day, an annual event in Alfred, NY, takes place towards the end of April/beginning of May. SUNY (State University of New York) Alfred State College and Alfred University unite forces to put together an event including a parade, live music, carnival rides, games, and of course, an overwhelming amount of hot dogs! Street vendors come and sell their merchandise, offering many different forms of art like glass, clay, and paint, and vendors like "Barbecue Bandits" sell their "1/2 racks of genuine southern style barbecued Pork Spare Ribs," to the mass of people that come to enjoy the event. Even though ribs are not hot dog related, they are still one of the crowd favorites.

Starting in 1972, Hot Dog Day has raised thousands of dollars every year for charities in or around Alfred, all while creating a fun and entertaining environment for community members and students. For \$25, you can rent a space if you sell for a non profit organization or if you are a current Alfred student; in other cases it costs \$55 for a space.

For a small town like Alfred, this influx of people is overwhelming for business owners. To make an analogy: it's like the superbowl. This year, going into the city of Houston, the superbowl caused such a commotion in the city that roads were shut down and businesses needed to make their budget fit the demands of this national event. The same goes for the businesses in

Hot Dog Day: An Alfred Tradition

By
Jack Castle
Copy Editor



Wellsville in Alfred? Wellsville participates in the annual Hot Dog Day parade
Photo Courtesy of Mae Backer



The Crowds Take Over Alfred People pack the streets on this weekend.
Photo Courtesy of Mae Backer



The Parade Students from Alfred-Almond who are a part of boy scouts storm the streets of Alfred.
Photo Courtesy of Mae Backer

Alfred that need to prepare staff and supplies for the irregular amount of people. The amount of money on this weekend people spend is a large spike in the average amount of money spent on a weekend.

After interviewing some AA students that went this year, Chase St. George said, "it is becoming more and more 'boring' as the years go by." He also says that it has turned more into a "college kids' event hosting big parties." Julia Price thought that in previous years, Hot Dog Day was "more fun and there were more activities to do than more recent years." She also said that "In the years previous, the location on Main Street Alfred was better than the college location."

To go further into what Julia stated, the event was recently moved away from Main Street Alfred because it caused a major road to be blocked off and no room for emergency vehicles to pass through due to the amount of people in the street. Now, the event switches from being hosted on the Alfred State campus to Alfred University campus every year.

In the future, as this event continues, it is hoped that more family and friends are drawn to this fun experience. This wonderful tradition has taken place in Alfred for the past 45 years, and should continue to be an annual pastime to get ready for the summer days that await all those who call Alfred their home.





North Korea: What You Need to Know

By
Cory Olix
Staff Writer

If you have followed recent news, then you know that North Korea is a hot topic. It is a threatening subject that is being read about, and also actively being dealt with by governments who could be affected by it. Kim Jong Un's family has been in direct conflict with the United States since the 1950's. Nobody's quite sure how the situation will be handled in today's world, especially with a new president. Below is a timeline to help understand the longstanding conflict.

1950-1953 - Korean War rages on the peninsula between China-backed North Korea and U.S.-backed South Korea at the 38th parallel that separates the two nations. The U.S. had taken measures into its own hands, with troops commanded by General MacArthur. He led the U.S. to the border of China but was relieved due to making statements against the Truman administration's policies, which started with avoiding all out war with China. The U.S. was eventually pushed back to the original 38th parallel, where the border of the two nations still stands today.

1968 - North Korea captures the USS Pueblo, an American intelligence gathering ship. The crew is eventually released but the ship remains in North Korean custody.

1969 - A U.S. plane is shot down by North Korea.

1994 - Jimmy Carter visits Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, to explore whether nuclear negotiations are possible. North Korea's founder and leader, Kim Il Sung, died shortly thereafter, but a deal known as the Agreed Framework was eventually signed.

International nuclear inspectors are invited in.

1998 - North Korea fires missile over Japan.

2002 - President Bush labels North Korea as part of the "Axis of Evil". James Kelly confronts Pyongyang about the existence of a uranium enrichment program (nuclear weapon program). Inspectors are kicked out and the Agreed Framework declared dead.

2003 - North Korea withdraws from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which is an agreement to not have nuclear weapons.

2005 - A Six Party agreement is reached in September on disarmament, but Pyongyang stops participating after the Bush administration leaves.



Warning! North Korea is dangerous and has capabilities of much destruction if not taken seriously Photo from CNN.com



Tensions High Above is the flag of North Korea
Photo from CNN.com



What's Next? What will the United States do to stop this threat from future intrusion? *Photo from Wikipedia.com*

2006 - North Korea fires more missiles in July, then tests its first nuclear device in October.

2008 - President Bush sends a letter to Kim Jong Il. A cooling tower at the Yongbyon nuclear facility is blown up in front of foreign television cameras, inspectors invited back in to monitor disabling of the facility. North Korea provides documents on its program and is removed from State Department's State Sponsor of Terrorism list.

2009 - More missiles fired as North Korea conducts second nuclear test in April. More U.N. Security Council sanctions come as a result, and North Korea pulls out of talks. In August, former President Bill Clinton visits Pyongyang to retrieve two American journalists who were detained there since March.

2010 - In November, American nuclear experts are invited to see uranium program, which is revealed publicly for the first time. Kim Jong Il's youngest son, Kim Jong Un, is presented as the leader's choice to take power after him. North Korea sinks a South Korean naval ship, the Cheonan.

2011 - U.S. and North Korea hold talks in New York over the summer and in Geneva in the fall, leading to what may be a breakthrough whereby U.S. food aid resumes and North Korea then halts its nuclear activities. Officials say that is sidelined for now after the news that Kim Jong Il has died.

2011- Kim Jong Il dies, sparking mass grieving in his country. His youngest son, Kim Jong Un, takes power.

2012- North Korea claims it has missiles that can reach the U.S. mainland. In December, North Korea successfully launches a "rocket mounted satellite" into orbit.

2013- Sole ally of North Korea, China, bans export to North Korea of items that could be used to make missiles or nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.



Location North Korea is located south of China.
Photo from Operation World



Missile Range Above is the missile range of North Korea
Photo from US- Korea Institute



Military Advocates *North Korea is driven by military force*

Photo from GlobalConflictTracker.com



North Korean Leaders *Above are the former and present leaders:*

Kim Il Sung; Kim Il; Kim Jong Un Photo from CNN.com

2014- North Korea and U.S. exchange accusations of cyber-attacks over Sony Pictures film “The Interview” mocking Kim Jong Un, prompting new U.S. sanctions the following month.

2015- U.S. imposes brand new sanctions on North Korea, targeting the country's banks and shipping companies.

2016- January - North Korean government’s announcement of first hydrogen bomb test met with widespread skepticism.

2016- November - U.N. Security Council further tightens sanctions by aiming to cut one of North Korea's main exports, coal, by 60 per cent.

2017- January - Kim Jong-un says North Korea is in the final stages of developing long-range guided missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

2017- February - Kim Jong-un's estranged half-brother, Kim Jong-nam, is killed by a highly toxic nerve agent in Malaysia, with investigators suspecting North Korean involvement.

2017- April- Donald Trump sends armada towards Korean peninsula to show strength. North Korea threatens to fire upon U.S. vessels. Congress meets at the White House to be briefed on the full situation.

U.S. tensions with North Korea at the moment are at a considerable high. What this could lead to is unknown, and many skeptics are nervous. Could this go nuclear? Could it lead to further war with China or Russia? Could a full out war call for a draft? Kim Jong Un is an indecisive figure, so we need to be careful. For all of the American people, hopefully a diplomatic solution can be found.



Time for Action *Hopefully Secretary of State Rex Tillerson can edge this problem diplomatically with Kim Jong Un*

Photo from TheHill.com



Arts & Crafts

Presidential



By

Bill Bacon

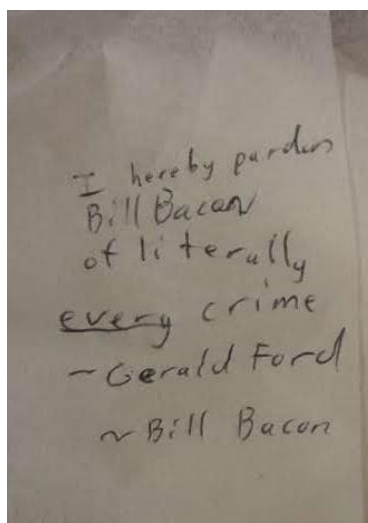
Unofficial Staff Writer

You might be wondering why I haven't written an article for the *Observer* in two months. Well I have a better question, why did I? I don't even go to school, let alone have a social security number. Honestly, I'm curious; if you have any theories, please send them to me at ReporterBillBacon@gmail.com. I was unjustly kidnapped by the "police." My plan was ingenious - but theirs was slightly more. My plan was to hide in the police station--right under their noses! Unfortunately, they had the audacity to look right under their noses... And that's how I went to jail - by going to jail. Fortunately for me, I learned a thing or two in the clink. In this article, I will be teaching arts and crafts as well as showing you how to assemble a presidential pardon.

Jail isn't so bad; I got free food, a free bed, and mandatory free company. Usually people walk away pretty quickly when I talk to them, but my new roommate was forced to spend all day and night with me. He didn't believe my Salad Flambée story, so I decided to show him. Regrettably, there weren't many McDonald's in the area. When I asked to go to one, I was told "Hehe, maybe if you get a presidential pardon, pal!" They weren't as nice the second time I asked, so I went with their advice from the first.

After looking at our president's reckless pardoning record, I decided to send in a request to be pardoned by our current president Gerald Ford, a true leader. But after a long enough silence from him, I decided to take matters into my own artisan hands. Knowing that Ford would say yes, I planned to make the pardon for him.

It was simple; all I needed was a pen and paper. I got the pen I wanted... all I had to do was disable the security cameras, memorize the guards' patrol routes, and crawl through the ventilation using the



*A bonafide Pardon Made by a professional
Photo Courtesy of myself*

screwdriver I secretly borrowed from a fellow inmate. I then realized I needed paper, so I repeated the process, even borrowing the screwdriver again. I had a friendly conversation with a fellow bathroom occupant dressed in blue. He wouldn't stop staring at me as I stuffed TP down my shirt, so I persuaded him to take a quick nap.

Not wanting to make him uncomfortable I put his uniform in the most convenient place, on myself. Also not wanting him to get fired for such an innocent transgression, I took it upon myself to stuff his body into the cleaning cupboard, where he wouldn't be caught by his supervisor. Great person, that guy. Never got his contact information though.

After completing my tasks, I constructed my pardon with my pen and TP. "I hereby pardon Bill Bacon of literally every crime - Gerald Ford" ~Bill Bacon. Although signing the quote myself does make the pardon look a little suspicious, it was better than risking plagiarism in case Mr. Ford had already signed my pardon. I hung it off my new outfit and walked out of the station while sticking my chest out. Upon seeing my presidential pardon, the guards treated me as one of their own. I then walked out of the station and went to McDonald's. Apparently I'm a celebrity now. They all took pictures of me, and kept saying that I was THE guy on the news! Unfortunately being a celebrity has its downsides; when I tried to get a salad, they called the police instead. Then again, I never returned the salad I secretly borrowed from them the last time.

Failing in my endeavor to make some good old Salad Flambée, I realised I had readers to tell my advice and recipes, so I quickly headed to the nearest public library to type out another article. I think this game of hide and seek may be longer than the last one.



The Father of all Bombs: Satan 2

Russia's New "Ground Breaking" Bomb

By Harry Robshaw
Staff writer

Earlier this April, a Russian missile manufacturer, Sarmat, released the first image of their RS-28 intercontinental ballistic missile nicknamed "Satan 2." Satan 2 is a missile that is capable of wiping out both the United Kingdom and France simultaneously an area roughly the size of Texas. It also has a range of 11,000 kilometers (6,835 miles), weighs 100 tons, and can reach many parts of the world from most Russian bases with no problem. This highly advanced missile makes the nuclear bombs used on Japan during World War II look like tin cans. The Satan 2 missile can hold ten larger warheads (the explosive or toxic material that is delivered by a missile) or sixteen smaller warheads. It can also evade all radar defenses and reach the East Coast of the United States.

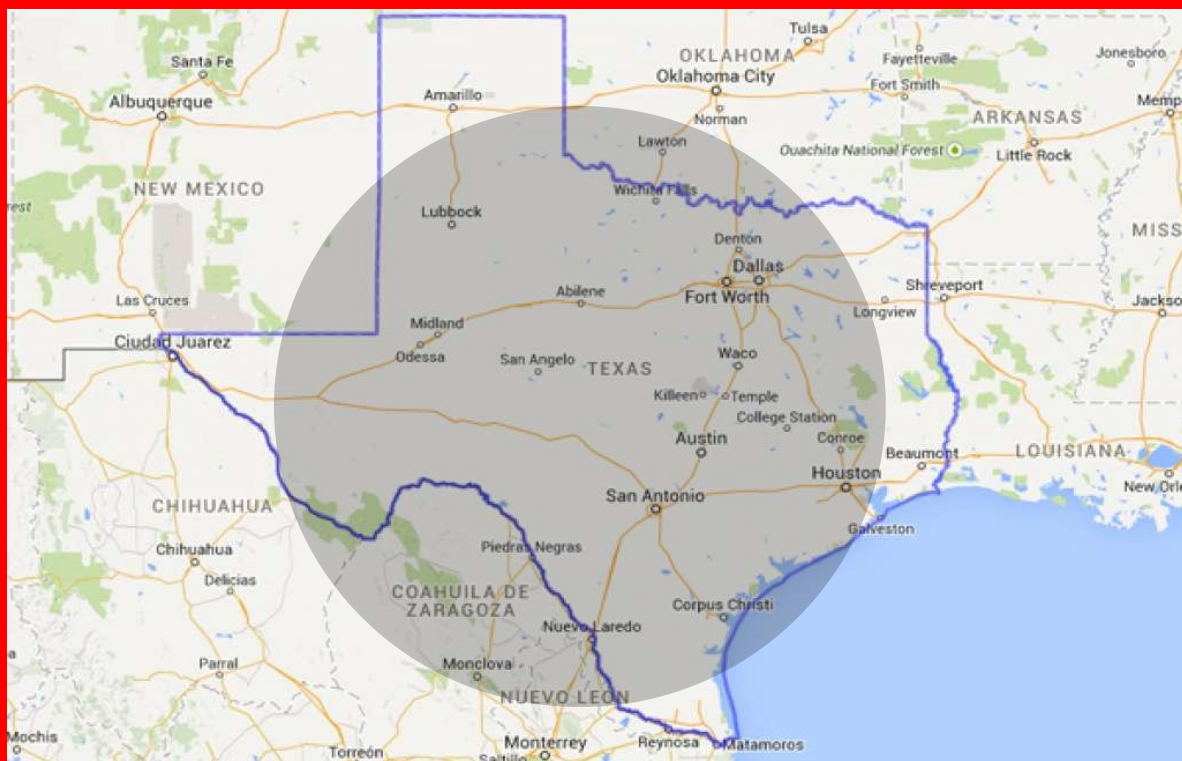


The Test Flight.

The Satan 2 missile taking off on its first test flight in February 2017

Photo from Cnn.com

Russia's recent actions with its growing military and its nuclear weapons programs has caused NATO's and Russia's neighboring countries' concerns to rise, causing them to heighten defences and worry about Moscow's military direction. Earlier in April, Russia suspended an arms reduction agreement with the United States. The agreement stated that both countries had to dispose of 34 tons of plutonium. That's enough plutonium for 1,000 standard nuclear bombs. The United States plans on retaliating with the Ordnance Air Blast bomb, or MOAB (Mother of all Bombs), which is the largest non-nuclear bomb used to date. And as tensions rise with North Korea, the thought of these weapons being used is becoming a much more real problem.



What in tarnation?

The blast radius of Satan 2 is enough to swallow Texas.

Photo from Nukemap.com



By
Charles Elliott
Staff Writer

言語は鍵です

Have you ever wondered what types of languages were out there, or what are the easiest and hardest for English speakers to learn? Well after reading this article, you'll know all about it. Also, the translation of the Japanese title is located on the picture on this page.

Easiest to learn for English speakers according to matadornetwork.com:

Danish:

- Danish has 6 million speakers as of 2012.
- It is spoken in Denmark, Germany, Iceland, and Greenland.
- It's also intelligible in Norwegian and Swedish.

French:

- French has 80 million speakers as of 2016.
- It is spoken in France, Luxembourg, Haiti, Canada, and 15 other African countries.
- The number of speakers has tripled since 1945.

Italian:

- Italian has 70 million speakers as of 2012.
- It is spoken in Italy and Switzerland.
- The language only has 21 letters in its alphabet.

Norwegian:

- Norwegian has 5 million speakers as of 2014.
- About 4 million speak it inside Norway and another million outside of it.
- Reading Norwegian is a lot like reading English; there are a lot of words that look and sound the same like "velkommen" means welcome, and "encyklopedi" means encyclopedia.

Most useful to learn:

Mandarin Chinese:

- The most widely spoken form of Chinese, with 1.2 billion speakers in 2001
- This form, as well as the other forms of Chinese (?), are tonal, which means that the word meaning changes according to its tone.
- There are approximately 40,000 characters, such as "漢字", pronounced as "hàn zì", meaning "Chinese Character"

Arabic:

- About 300 million people speak Arabic as of 2017.
- Its alphabet consists of 28 letters.
- It's written from RIGHT to LEFT and in a cursive way.
- Arabic is at least 1,500 years old, and it started in the 7th century.

Spanish:

- Over 400 million people speak Spanish as of 2016.
- 21 countries use Spanish as its official language, some of which are Mexico, Spain, Costa Rica, and Bolivia.
- Spanish is known by two names, Spanish and Castellano.

German:

- German has over 90 million speakers as of 2010.
- Mainly spoken in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Luxembourg
- German has many compound words such as "Glühbirne," which literally means "glow pear," but translates to "light bulb."





By
Charles Elliott
Staff Writer

言語は鍵です part 2

Most useful to learn:

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Obsolete Languages:

Sami:

- Approximately 25,000 speakers in 2013
- Spoken in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia
- There are over 300 words for snow, such as vahca, skava, and soavli.

Xhosa:

- Approximately 7.9 million speakers in 2002
- Spoken in South Africa
- It is pronounced through clicks made with the tongue and throat.

Yoron:

- Approximately 950 speakers in 2004
- Spoken in Yoronjima, a tiny island south of Japan
- It is essentially a Japanese dialect, but classified as its own language. It is a sub-branch of the Japonic Language Family.

Pirahã:

- Approximately 300 speakers as of 2009
- Spoken in Amazonas, Brazil
- The Pirahã language is one of the simplest languages phonologically.

For a game involving languages, check out the game page (35).

Photo from: www.duolingo.com





Take a Stand for SIT

By **Madison McCormick - Copy Editor**

Have you ever wondered who puts on some of the various events around the school? SIT. The Secondary School Improvement Team (SIT) is a collaborative group of faculty, students, and community members. The purpose of SIT is to bring engaging and educational experiences to the students and community of Alfred-Almond by addressing goals and maintaining a positive school culture. SIT meets monthly (on Wednesdays after school) to discuss upcoming events and opportunities. The committee was created in January of 1994 as a way to be compliant with the NYSED Commissioner's Regulations that stated that "each public school district board of education ... shall develop and adopt a district plan for the participation by teachers and parents with administrators and school board members in school-based planning and shared decisionmaking."

Many of the events that happen at the school are organized and run by the SIT; some of these events include: the first honors breakfast, open house, the Strawberry Festival Concert, and International Night. The committee also puts together the drunk driving accident simulation and the seminar on drug and alcohol abuse with the purpose to give students the resources they need to be able to make informed decisions and wise choices.

Another goal that the members

of SIT have is to "create positive change" and improve the quality of lives at school. The unique thing about SIT that makes it especially effective is that it considers multiple viewpoints on things - students, faculty, and community members all offer their innovative thoughts. All of these varying opinions help to give perspective to improvements that should be made. One thing that students like about being on SIT is that they have a voice.

The next upcoming event hosted by the committee is the Strawberry Festival Concert on May 24 at 7 pm in the school courtyard. This concert is the final concert of the year and is used to celebrate the graduating members of the school chorus and band. Funds earned during this event help to buy supplies and bring in guest speakers for happenings throughout the school year that do not earn money. Everyone is encouraged to come to the Strawberry Festival Concert to support SIT and our music departments.

One more recent goal of the SIT committee is to promote diversity. International Night, held in January of 2016, was an event that did just that. Though there is some diversity near us, the area immediately surrounding Alfred-Almond is not as diverse as some major metropolitan areas, and many students and community members are not exposed to differing cultures. International Night was an event that informed the community of different aspects of individual cultures that hold influence in the families around us as well as the world. France, Ethiopia, Scandinavia, Italy, and Mexico were some of the countries with displays that included food, photos, music, currency, and much more. Be on the lookout next year

for a repeat of this fun and tasty event!

Another thing that the SIT committee did this year to promote diversity was "Leave Your Mark." This wall mural is located in the cafeteria and has the fingerprints of every high school student and faculty member, as well as the year they graduated or will graduate, next to their initials. The idea for a mural started as an attempt to colorize the walls of the school, and from there it evolved into a type of social activism that doubled as art. The different colors on the mural help to show how different and diverse everyone is, but yet we all have something in common - our school. The Alfred University class, Drawn to Diversity, pitched three different mural ideas to the SIT committee, with "Leave Your Mark" being the winner.

Applications for student SIT members during the upcoming year will be put out toward the end of May. You can find out more information about SIT and all it does by talking to Ms. Backer or Mrs. Bain-Lucey. If having a voice in school matters sounds appealing to you, you should consider being on the SIT committee.

Members of the Committee:

Ms. Backer
Mrs. Bain-Lucey
Mr. Brady
Ms. Briglin
Mrs. Maria McMahon
Mrs. Theresa McMahon
Mr. Phillip Prigmore
Noah Briglin
Madge Chroniger
Maimi Fearick
Morgan Giglio
Shannon Heinig
Meghan Rodd
Grace Yarnall



"Leave Your Mark" SIT members and student contributors stand next to the finalized mural. Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Chambliss



THIS JUSTIN: BRADY? MORE LIKE BRAINY!

By
Justin Berry
Design Manager

I'm back baby! Last issue I spent my time writing you handsome readers a political satire - the likes of which no-one has seen. After creating such a masterpiece, let's just say that I'm raring to go and get back to my roots, the way it was meant to be, with a thought provoking *This Justin* about a well known teacher. For this rendition I will be talking about the man, the myth, the English teacher, Mr. Brady. Anyone who's been in this school for a good amount of time has no doubt heard about this class act of a man. He's taught a great number of people about looking deeper into things with an analytical mind - a very important skill to have. However, the million dollar question is, what kind of person is he on the inside? This article is meant to answer that question. Like a mailman during the holiday season, I'm here to deliver that package right to your metaphorical doorstep.

Mr. Brady strikes me as someone with a great deal of passion and energy, of which he uses in a great deal of commitments. It's similar to a large spoonful of jam spread along a very large piece of bread. He coaches tennis, while teaching Driver's Education and English. Alongside that he is also a member of the Secondary School Improvement Team (If you want to learn more about that then read Madison's article on page 12 as she goes into more detail). If all that doesn't spell out someone who puts



Quite the looker Mr. Brady knows when to put on the charm. *Photo Courtesy of Justin Berry*

their all into helping students develop important life skills, then I don't know what does!

As he answered my questions, I was able to learn a good deal about what kind of person he is. Mr. Brady values patience and keeping a level head above all else; he cites that as his biggest strength. He also stated that the ability to maintain good composure even in stressful situations is extremely important. I've seen this mental fortitude first hand while taking his Driver's Ed class, particularly with my brother... *ba dum tss.* On that note might I say that Mr. Brady has the reflexes of a skipper butterfly, one of the most reactive animals known to man; every time we would almost get into an accident he would instinctively pull his break and save the day, similar to a car themed superhero. I'm sure that many other

people have a story like that about Mr. Brady, and that fact in itself shows how many lives he has influenced in his many years of teaching. Along with his patient nature is his desire to never act or speak impulsively, if he can help it. Mr. Brady illustrates this with the word he believes describes him the best: circumspect (which means that his actions are deliberate and controlled). His attitude trickles down to every other facet of his life. Mr. Brady attributes a lot of what makes him the person he is today to his parents, who he describes as two "loving, morally upright parents who taught by example." He also went on to describe his mother as a saint. Clearly his parents and their commitment to teaching him how to be an upstanding person has impacted Mr. Brady a great deal, and it is equally clear that he tries to



BRADY? MORE LIKE BRAINY!, CON'T



Quite the Collector Mr. Brady has an incredible assortment of films. Photo Courtesy of Justin Berry

instill those same ideals into his students, whether that be in Driver's Ed, English, Film, or tennis.

Alongside Mr. Brady's patience, strength of character, and all around caring attitude rests the heart of an intellectual. Some of his favorite hobbies includes watching films and reading books, while his #1 hobby is playing tennis. This may sound a little bias considering I'm on the tennis team, however I would have to say that tennis is a very sophisticated sport and one that compliments his vast enjoyment of films and novels. Anyone who's taken Film or English with Mr. Brady will understand his enjoyment and passion for both subjects. As a member of the tennis team, I've seen firsthand what kind of coach Mr. Brady is. Generally he is an

exceptional, supportive, and all around stand up guy in regards to coaching the tennis team. Through his help I've personally learned a lot about how to play while improving considerably. In tennis, there is a term called Canadian Doubles, allowing 3 players to play together; fun fact about Mr. Brady, he had dual citizenship with both Canada and the United States. This means that he was both Canadian and American at the same time until he reached the age of 21, when he had to choose between the two. How do this relate to the previous stuff about Canadian Doubles? Well obviously both involve Canada and Mr. Brady's love of tennis, and that's about it... Either way I'm sure we're all happy that Mr. Brady decided to stay in America and teach us all. He enjoys

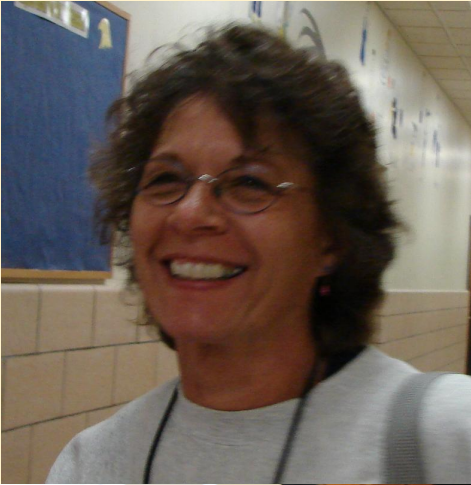
teaching people about literature and life respectively. His love of teaching ties into a piece of advice Mr. Brady wanted to share with all of us growing teenagers and that is this: Choose a profession based on what you love doing, not based primarily on salary alone. With advice like that, it's undeniable how much he cares about the well-being of his students and their development.

Overall, it has been a pleasure to learn more about Mr. Brady and I'm very grateful for everything he does. He is a very interesting and intelligent person so I'm sure he'd be happy to tell you all a little bit more about himself if you ask politely. I hope you've enjoyed this rendition of *This Justin*, almost as much as I enjoyed writing it. Thank you so much for reading.



A-A Says Goodbye

By Abbey Swackhamer and Janu Patel - Copy Editors



As the year is quickly coming to an end, we would like to recognize these ladies for their years of hard work, dedication and time spent at Alfred-Almond as they are retiring this year. They will have a lasting impact at A-A and will be missed! Happy retirement!



Sayonara Ladies! These ladies and their smiles will be missed greatly at A-A! Photos courtesy of ALCEN



Mrs. Booman

Mrs. Booman has been an art teacher for 25 years. She taught in the A-A high school for 12 years, A-A elementary for 10 years, BOCES art-on-the-cart for two years, and in a private school for one year. She has taught a variety of art classes including Drawing and Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Jewelry, Ceramics, and Sculpture, as well as the A-A Elementary Gifted and Talented Program. A favorite memory that stands out for her is seeing her students proudly show their artwork to family and friends at the Annual Art Show (which is held on Tuesday, May 16 this year). When asked to describe her worst day as a teacher, she told us about an experience she had as a new teacher in the elementary school. The principal at the time was conducting an observation, and her second grade class had just finished their "George Seurat paints with a dot" paintings. They placed the wet paintings by the window and the breeze blew the paintings onto the principal. Mrs. Booman was horrified by the contrast and texture the paint added to the principal's outfit. After retirement, Mrs. Booman plans on spending time with family and friends, travelling, and drawing. Her parting words for A-A are "No putdowns. Be kind to yourself and others. Look for the good in each person - it is there." She has made such a positive impact on our school and has been a great role model on how we should treat one another. We will miss her greatly!



Mrs. Booman She has been a teacher at A-A for a total of 22 years and has inspired many students with her positivity and encouragement. She has touched the hearts of many students and will be missed at A-A.

Photos courtesy of ALCEN

Thank you for always being supportive of my art. I really appreciate your hard work!

- Justin B.

Thanks for being a wonderful teacher and for all of the advice with drawing!

-Erin A.

Mrs. Booman, you really helped me gain confidence in myself. I will always be thankful. Much love.

-Bella P.

Thanks to Mrs. Booman for always helping me out, being so positive, and always putting a smile on my face.

-Kalista C.

Thanks to Mrs. Booman for always being a smiling face and a positive thinker. She always pushed me to do better than my best in art and was always there to comfort when AP art brought tears and stress! She is a true role model and I have always been inspired by the love she has to share.

. -Madge C.



Mrs. Oakley

Mrs. Oakley has been a physical education teacher for 32 years. She started when she was 30 and taught at a private school for the first five years of her career, and then switched to the NY state public school system, where she spent most of her time teaching elementary aged students. She also developed a curriculum for special needs kids and taught a swimming program for physically disabled adults. Prior to teaching, she worked as a skills instructor for special needs kids. Though she has many fond memories from her career, her favorites include receiving a wonderful letter from a 10th grade student who thanked her for her support and encouragement while in elementary school, and the time when a group of seventh grade girls wrote her a note that included a “salad Frisbee” and a necklace. When asked about what she will miss most about Alfred-Almond, she was unsure. She has had a great experience at A-A and is ready for the next stage in her life. She mentions that she is excited to look back on A-A with a smile! After retirement, she said she plans to do “what I want, when I want” - something we all dream of! She is looking forward to not having to wake up at 5:00 am for the three hour round trip drive from Batavia and back. She plans on gardening, travelling, and golfing with her husband, as well as spending more time with friends and family. Her parting words for A-A are “Always remember that life is a journey, every day is a new day and a chance for a fresh start.” She also says, “As the years pass, we somehow learn to treasure the simple things and not sweat the small bumps in the road.” We are excited to see what the future has in store for Mrs. Oakley, and are thankful for the impact and commitment that she had at A-A!



Mrs. Oakley After 32 years of working as a Physical Education teacher, Mrs. Oakley is ready to relax and retire! Thank you for everything Mrs. Oakley! Photos courtesy of ALCEN

She's a nice teacher!
-Ezi B.

Mrs. Oakley is the most fashionable teacher in the elementary!
-Zavier R.

Thank you for the pictures and for dealing with us crazy kids!
-Charles E.

Thank you for the encouragement with the sit and reach during elementary school!
-Madison M.

She always takes time to help us & is really encouraging!
-Ella N.



Ms. Soule

Ms. Soule has been a Physical Education teacher for 29 years. She has taught Pre-K through 12 Physical Education as well as Health, Intro to Occupations, and Computer Literacy. When asked what her favorite memory from A-A was, she said that it would be impossible to name! Each day she finds at least one moment that makes her smile, whether it is when a student finds excitement in achieving a goal, recognizing success, learning something about themselves, or sharing a laugh. She describes those as her favorite memories. After retirement, she plans on spending more time with her family, children, and grandchildren as well as enjoying travelling and painting. And, of course--she can't wait to relax on the beach! She will definitely miss the students and her colleagues the most. Her parting words for A-A are, "Appreciate one another, both as students and colleagues, as you have a unique opportunity to learn from one another, to make each day better, and to establish enduring friendships for the future." Ms. Soule has been a great asset to our school and will be missed by many!



Ms. Soule *One of the most stylish physical education teachers with a great smile!* Photos courtesy of ALCEN

"You always brighten my day when I see you. You smile and say "hi" even though you don't know me very well!"

-Abby G.

"She always helps me improve in P.E."

-Ella N.

"My first year in junior-high was made a lot better with Ms. Soule as one of my teachers!"

-Claire V.

"You were always there to support me and make gym fun!"

-Garrett L.



Mrs. Sprague

Mrs. Sprague has been a district aide for 23 years. She enjoys talking to students, and loves when they think she has read every book and that she remembers all the books they have taken out from the library. In fact, her favorite memory from being an aide is when students ask, "Do you remember the book I took out when I was in first grade? I would like to read it again, will you please help me find it?" Sometimes she does actually find the book! After retirement, she plans on learning how to sleep in for at least one day a week. She also plans on travelling as much as she can with her husband. When asked what she would miss most at A-A, Mrs. Sprague responded "Of course I will miss the students, faculty, and staff. I will miss it all. I have really enjoyed my time here." When asked to describe her worst day as an aide, she told us she hasn't had a worst day yet, and she believes the worst day will be on June 23, 2017. Her parting words for A-A are "Thank you for a great 23 years. I have been very blessed to have worked with the staff, faculty, and administration at A-A." Mrs. Sprague's humorous, light, and fun personality will be missed by the A-A community.



Mrs. Sprague Many laughs and memories have been shared with Mrs. Sprague in the library! Photos courtesy of ALCEN

"Thank you Mrs. Sprague for always being super helpful in the library."

-Alex D.

"Thank you for many memories made in the library and for letting me in even when I didn't have a pass! I hope you have a great retirement, wherever it brings you!"

-Brendan W.

"She has a big heart and is kind."

-Zane J.

"Mrs. Sprague is very nice and funny!"

-Rishi P.

"Thank you for being so patient and for letting everyone work in the library."

-Austin S.

"Thanks for putting up with everyone in the library!"

-Cory O.



MRS. WILLIAMS

Mrs. Williams has been a teacher at A-A for 33 years. She has taught AP Math, Geometry, Computer 8, Web Programming, Computer Publications, Computer Applications, Drawing and Design, Photoshop, Multimedia, Game Design, Animation, and Numeric Computer Applications. Her favorite memory from her teaching career is watching students build an antenna from wire clothes hangers to enable them to use as a radio modem to connect with students in South Carolina. In order to use the radio modem, they had to get a Hertz-Armstrong-Marconi (HAM) radio operator's license, and she remembers her students helping her review A LOT of physics in order to pass the test. On the contrary, Mrs. Williams' recalls her worst day to have occurred in the early years of teaching. She arrived at school extremely exhausted and unprepared for the day when much to her dismay, the principal was waiting outside her door to do an unannounced observation. Though she was panicked for not having a math lesson prepared, everything turned out okay! However, the lesson she learned was, "always do your homework!" After retirement, Mrs. Williams plans on reading books, organizing her home, trying recipes from her cookbooks, and spending time with family. When asked what she will miss most about A-A, she said "I will miss the people, especially the students. I learn from them everyday." Her parting words for A-A are "I feel very fortunate to have had the pleasure of teaching here for nearly my entire career, and to be able to develop courses based on students' interests. It's been challenging and fun. I will miss it dearly." We will miss her dearly too!



Mrs. Williams *She has always made her classes fun and exciting!* Photos courtesy of ALCEN

"Thank you for teaching us computer stuff and inspiring me to go to college for computer engineering."

-Charles E.

"You have been an amazing teacher to me all the years I've had you and I hope you have a wonderful retirement."

-Erin A.

"She is a great computer teacher!"

-Duncan B-C.

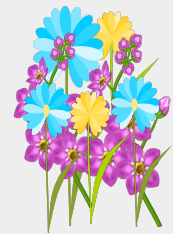
"She is always so helpful and handles situations in a positive way!"

-Veronica M.



Mother's Day

By: Brendan Walsh
Editor-in-Chief



The month of May brings about many days. Some of these are not even recognized due to their lack of importance, but some are widely recognized, like Memorial and Mother's Day. For this article, I will focus on Mother's Day. This is a very important day because it is entirely dedicated to all of the mothers out there who do so much for their families; and they deserve to be recognized. Sadly, many times mothers spend their day doing exactly the same thing they do every other day: cleaning, preparing meals, and taking care of their children - and they may only get an hour off instead of the whole day like they should. On the bright side, YOU can help give your mother a great Mother's Day this year! You can help her have a relaxed day by making the house look good, cooking for her, watching the kids while she goes out to a nice dinner, and letting her do whatever she wants to do on this day. This would be a nice thing to do for your mother, who greatly deserves it!

In the interest of this special day, I thought it would be compelling to go around and interview some mothers here at school. I asked them what their dream Mother's Day would be, what their typical Mother's Day is, and the likelihood that their dream Mother's Day would become a reality. Because of available time and proximity, I chose to interview Mrs. Turner, Ms. Backer, and Mrs. Palmer. Here are their responses, and some of the dream Mother's Days, of these great mothers.

Mrs. Turner: Dream Mother's Day - chance - 32.1%

Perfect Mother's Day

- Sleep in (house silent until at least 9 a.m.)
- House sparkling, smelling of Gain laundry detergent
- Fresh flowers in multiple rooms
- Fresh high octane coffee in my hand, consumed on back porch (preferably with multiple members of my lower lawn deer family in view).
- Appointment for a facial and a massage
- Lunch at Bully Hill Vineyard
- Boat ride on Keuka Lake with family
- Board/Card games with family/friends
- Dinner at Union Block Bistro
- Bonfire at cottage on Keuka
- Sleep



Reality

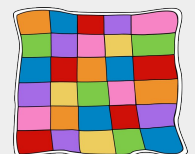
- Cards, church and brunch

(Mr. Turner you have NO excuse this year... Also I expect extra credit for the inside scoop... But we can discuss that later. ~Brendan)

Mrs. Palmer: Dream Mother's Day - Chance - 85%

Perfect Mother's Day

- Wants kids to be taken care of: one to nap, one to play, one for Dad to entertain
- Sew quilts
- Spend time alone and relax
- Last year this happened - it was the first time that there were no young kids with her so it was possible for her to relax.
- Hopefully this year will be another like last!



Reality

- Birthdays take place right before Mother's Day so it gets overlooked due to all of the other things happening.



Mother's Day

Ms. Backer: Dream Mother's Day - Chance - 20%

Perfect Mother's Day

- Sleep in until 9am or so
- Have breakfast in bed! Coffee and whatever the girls throw together... as long as there's coffee, the food doesn't really matter!
- The day will be sunshiny and warm, allowing us to spend the morning basking in the sun and playing outside with just the three of us.
- Neighborhood friends come over with their kids... kids play, moms relax, dads make lunch (and dinner, later!)
- Spend the day outside, floating on the pond.... friends, food, music...
- I discover that a surprise gift is waiting - what's this, a dock has been built for the pond? And a sandy beach has been created?!? Woohoo!
- The girls promise that they will always stay sweet and listen to their mother...
- I go back inside to find the house has been visited by a cleaning fairy...
- After dinner (which would involve steak & seafood), friends go home...
- Girls and I watch a movie & go to bed!



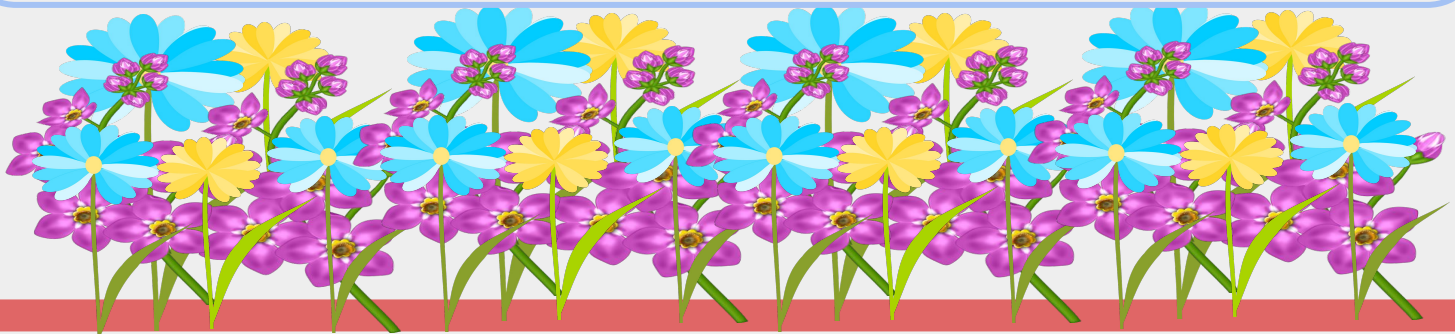
Reality

- Hand written card (yay! ~Brendan)
- Responsibilities (boo! ~Brendan)
- "Mundane"
- Hour of celebration instead of a day

These are just three examples of Dream Mother's Days, from real mothers. What would your mother want for her day? Flowers always works, thats a good idea. You could always clean and help cook, because no mother wants to spend her day doing that. Maybe you can plan her a surprise, or ask her what she wants for her day, and help make her dream Mother's Day a reality! You could even use some of the ideas above as well! Whatever you do, make sure to treat your mother well on her day, because I bet she would give you the world on yours. So wish your mom a big "Happy Mother's Day," and make sure she has a good one!

Gift Ideas for Mother's Day

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Flowers</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Coupon book with chores + favors</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Breakfast</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hand-written/made card</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>A CLEAN HOUSE!!!</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Chocolate</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Quiet</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Something hand crafted</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>A positive attitude!</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Whatever mom wants!</i> |





5th Graders' Bucket List



By Kalista Calkins - Staff Writer

Bucket list: A number of experiences or achievements that a person hopes to have or accomplish during their lifetime (in this case, before high school).

My question to the fifth graders was,

"What would be the **FIRST** thing you would do before you finish 6th grade?"

- ☐ Hmm... that's a hard question. I guess I would have to be to have an easier band lesson or test because I think when we get into the high school the tests and band lessons get A LOT harder.
- ☐ Know how to solve all kinds of Rubik's cubes
- ☐ Grow my hair out really long... As of right now it is pretty short. I will grow it to my waist. Cross your fingers!!!!
- ☐ To travel around the world. I want to travel to places like Paris, Venice, Fiji, Rome, and Brazil.
- ☐ Get all of my grades to a 90 or above before I finish 6th grade
- ☐ Buy everything in the school cafeteria
- ☐ Read 23 chapter books and finish them
- ☐ To go to and see Mt. Rushmore this summer on our family's road trip
- ☐ To go to Paris
- ☐ Eat two whole pounds of chocolate in 4 minutes
- ☐ Finish my math and social studies homework
- ☐ Try to learn and remember everything from K-6th grade
- ☐ To go visit every elementary teacher I had
- ☐ To give happy thoughts to all the people who have made it through elementary with me and are now going to highschool with me
- ☐ To build a \$52.00 Y-wing
- ☐ To go around the elementary and see all my old teacher to say "Bye"
- ☐ To go to Disney World again and have just as much fun as I had the first time I went
- ☐ Make sure I did well in all of my classes before finishing 6th grade
- ☐ Help Mrs. Powers in the art room for the day



WHAT IS MORP?

By Madge Chroniger ~ Public Relations Manager



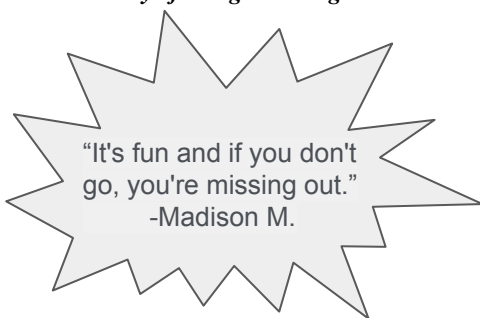
Tired Twins Working hard to solve a puzzle for the escape room
Photo courtesy of Madge Chroniger



"Highly recommend it to anyone planning on going to prom!" - Dominique M.



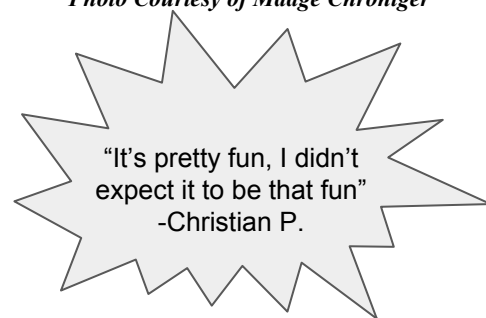
Team Three Trying to get out of the escape room
Photo Courtesy of Madge Chroniger



"It's fun and if you don't go, you're missing out."
-Madison M.



Prizes Galore The many prizes given away at MORP
Photo courtesy of Madge Chroniger



"It's pretty fun, I didn't expect it to be that fun"
-Christian P.

What is MORP? First of all, let's talk about the name - it's simply prom spelled backwards. MORP is an all night party held after prom at Alfred-Almond Central School. The party includes pizza, games, door prizes, game prizes, movies, and so much more! All those who attend the Alfred-Almond prom are invited to attend MORP, which was created by our local churches' pastors when they realized there was a need to provide a safe and fun place for students to go after prom to prevent dangerous activities such as drinking and driving. Creating this safe environment at the school allows students to have fun with their friends without the possibility of making bad decisions, all while giving their parents the comfort of knowing their child is protected but having a good time. In 2014, Pastor Ken Chroniger planned the first after-prom lock-in, and the following year, when no one could plan the evening for the students, Pastor Ken Shutt volunteered. After a few trial years, MORP came into being. This was MORP's third year, and it continues to get better and better. Pastor Ken Shutt, who was in charge of the party this year, says that he and the other pastors involved in the planning "hope that MORP will continue for many years to come! In fact, we would love for MORP to become part of the culture at AACS and that it will be even more anticipated than prom!" This new event could eventually become the after prom norm to the AA students.

Even some of the teachers get involved; at last year's MORP, Miss Acker, direct consultant teacher at Alfred-Almond, was one of the MORP staff members.

She shared her feelings on the event, saying "MORP is a great thing to go to; you can be busy and active all night if you want to be. I wish there was a MORP party when I was in high school . . . MORP is a whole new level of fun, and you get free stuff."

Of course MORP comes with a list of rules, but don't let that deter you from coming to the party. The MORP rules simply condone mutual respect among students and the MORP staff. The rules are as follows: no profanity, no drugs or alcohol, no PDA (others don't want to be grossed out by your lovey-dovey atmosphere), and last but not least, you can't leave the party unless a parent gives the MORP staff direct permission.

The main attraction at MORP this year was an "Escape Room," which was a chance to spend an hour with your friends trying to get out of a locked room. Meeting this challenge while being sleep deprived was the ultimate way to have fun after dancing the night away at prom! No one was able to escape but it was a huge hit with three teams competing. There were also over \$2,500 worth of prizes given away throughout the night. The prizes and food are all donated by many of Alfred-Almond's local businesses, churches, and other community members. Without the help of our community, MORP would not be as excellent as it is. Make sure to come hang out at MORP if you're attending next year's prom! You don't even have to sign up - you can just show up after prom for a sleepless night full of fun activities!



Seniors See Baltimore: In Record Time

By Jessica Flaitz - Editor-in-Chief (Lite)

4/22/17 T-minus one day until our senior trip. I am all packed, but I have had many encounters with my peers who have told me they haven't even started yet. We are expected to arrive at the school at 6:30 a.m. tomorrow morning (Saturday) for bag check, with a 7:15 a.m. departure time. Hopefully we leave on time because I have a feeling it will be a very, very, long ride.

4/23/17 And we're off! We had a timely departure at 7:30 a.m., and to my own surprise, a group of the boys had more stuff to carry than the girls did - mostly because they felt they needed giant Yeti coolers to carry their "Dew." Typical. After a short five minutes of finding our seats on the bus, everyone was snuggling down to endure the five hour ride.

What a day! When we got off the bus, we were given a short history of Fort McHenry from our tour guide, and then we were allowed to break off into groups and explore the historical site. When it comes to an educational field trip, some would call the Class of 2017 a "speedy group," so we were ready to move onto the next outing about half an hour early. After fighting through the terrors of city traffic, we arrived at the National Aquarium. SO MANY PEOPLE. I didn't think there could be so many people and fish in the same building all at once. After navigating through the sea of people, we headed to Camden Yards to watch the Baltimore Orioles take on the Boston Red Sox. Once we got there, all of us used our \$15 of meal vouchers to eat dinner, and found our seats. At the 7th inning stretch, we pushed and rushed through the crowd to get to the bus, which we were late for due to some confusion about where not to go. Lesson learned, if the bus is parked at the other end of the park, DO NOT LEAVE THE PARK WITHOUT THE GROUP; you won't be able to get back in and then you'll have to walk all the way around the stadium.



Shipping Out! We were all required to be at the school at 6:30 a.m., and as you can see we were all so anxious to get going that it led to an unforgettable (and much appreciated) photobomb
Photos Courtesy of Jessica F.

At the Old Ballgame At Camden Yards, Abbey S., Jack C. (not pictured), and I treated ourselves to a sugary treat to get through the cold rainy weather
Photos Courtesy of Jessica F.



4/24/17 Today, we are off to an early start and have a packed day. It was an hour bus ride to Six Flags, which upon arrival, was directly followed by a group photo. I've never been one to particularly like roller coasters, but it turns out that when you combine peer pressure and strong friends that drag you to the ride, roller coasters aren't that bad. After many rides, lunch, and more rides, Kalista, Janu, and I found the teachers hiding away in an ice cream shop.



We convinced them to go on the Joker, a very intense roller coaster (in my opinion). Unfortunately, for them to agree to go on the Joker, us girls had to agree to go on the Superman. At first we regretted agreeing to the deal, but afterwards it was definitely another great memory that I'll never forget. Realizing we only had 15 minutes to get back to the bus, we started heading back, and then got easily sidetracked to go on on The Joker one last time, which made us late to the bus... sorry again to the chaperones. After Six Flags, we took a bus to the Hard Rock Cafe for dinner, where the entire restaurant gave Christian P. a big birthday shoutout, per the chaperones' request. We were then given time to wander around the Baltimore Inner Harbor. Even though most of the stores were closed, we walked around the Inner Harbor for a while.



Freefalling *One of the very first rides we convinced the teachers to go on was the Voodoo Drop...not pictured is all of our faces after we were let go from 140 ft. at 56 mph*
Photo Courtesy of Jessica F.

"Everyone get in!" Most already know that Mr. MacAneney is quite the photographer so you can bet that we never missed a group photo opportunity
Photo Courtesy of Mr. McAneney



4/25/17 The last day arrived and we had yet another early morning, and headed off to the Maryland Science Center. Like I said above, we could be considered a "speedy group" when it comes to educational field trips, so four hours at the museum turned into an hour and a half. Since we left the museum, we walked around the Harbor and actually went into the stores and ate lunch at whatever restaurant we found first. This led me to my first meal at Five Guys. Henceforth, I most likely will not be going there again since the bag was dripping with grease from the fries; not really my type of restaurant. After more shopping and of course ice cream, the group reconvened at the Science Museum and boarded the bus to head home. I slept most of the way, so I don't remember much about the drive home, but I do know that when we pulled up to the school we were all ready for a shower and a nap. Needless to say, the 2017 Senior Trip was a success!



"Biking around the Inner Harbor because we got to see a lot more of the city!"
- Mariah H.

Favorite Memories



"Riding bikes at night around the Inner Harbor" - Harry H.

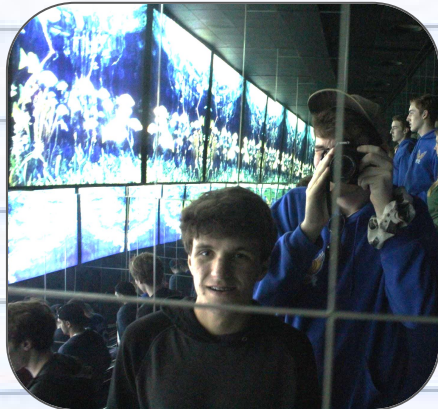
"Seeing kids who've never done those activities and seeing how much they enjoyed them." - Mr. McAneney

"Walking around the amusement park with my peers." - Jack C.



"Taking numerous 'Mom Pics' everywhere we visited." - Abbey S.

"Spending time with all the students, riding the roller coasters, and just having fun,"
- Mr. Levey



"Persuading the teachers to go on rides they didn't want to go on."
- Brendan W.

"Playing Mad libs with Jack, Brendan, and Christian."
- Alex D.



"Having the freedom to walk around and explore the beautiful city of Baltimore."
- Dustin K.

"Seeing the dolphins at the aquarium because they are my favorite animal and I've never seen one before." - Madison M.

"The Sugar Shop, and finally being taller than a security guard." - Owen C.



"Riding The Joker 6 times." - Janu P.

"Exploring Fort McHenry because I'm a National Anthem Geek." - Madge C.

"Riding the roller coasters with you guys (and being scared on the roller coasters with you guys)." - Ms. Carretto



The summer movie season is one of the biggest of the year. Five out of the top 10 grossing movies of all time came out between May and August. This is a time when people have the most free time, and movie studios use this opportunity to release their most expensive projects hoping for a large payout. The movies that will be discussed are movies that have a production budget of over \$100,000,000, are part of a franchise, (or a series of films such as *Marvel*, *DC*, *Harry Potter*), and are expected to make an abnormally large profit.

Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 2 is set to release on May 5 of this year, and it follows the very successful *Guardians of the Galaxy*. The film stars Chris Pratt (*Parks and Recreation*, *Passengers*) as the hero named Starlord, Zoe Saldana (*Star Trek*, *Avatar*), Vin Diesel (*Fast and Furious Series*, *xXx Series*), Bradley Cooper (*Silver Linings Playbook*,

The Hangover), and Dave Bautista (WWE, *Spectre*.) The five of them play an odd set of heroes who stop evil throughout the galaxy. The first of these two films was released in the summer of 2014; it made over \$300,000,000 and had a budget of nearly half of that. This film's success was a huge surprise considering it wasn't part of a franchise. The only selling point was being part of Marvel's Cinematic Universe. Chris Pratt wasn't a big name at the time, and neither was the director/screenwriter James Gunn (*Dawn of the Dead*, *Scooby-Doo*, *Slither*). Marvel took a

risk with this film, and it paid off, because it's the ninth most successful Marvel film out of over 40 projects that their company produced. In *Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 2*, director/screenwriter James Gunn returns to helm the film, which is ideal for viewers seeking comedic action space operas.

Cars 3 has a lot of anticipation riding on it for many reasons. One reason is that it's a Disney film, and another reason is that it's the third film of the *Cars* series that's earned billions of dollars in global retail. According to the *Hollywood Reporter*, it's one of Disney's most successful franchises. While the production budget is unreleased, one can predict that it would be very large because of its predecessors' budgets. *Cars*' budget was \$120,000,000, and *Cars 2*'s budget was \$200,000,000. In terms of casting, *Cars 3* has some new voices in addition to the old cast. Reprising their roles as

Summer Blockbuster Preview

By
Owen Curtin
Design Manager



From zeroes to heroes: Pratt (left) and Bautista (right) both had their careers launched by the first *Guardians of the Galaxy*. Since then, Pratt was the lead in *Jurassic World*, and Batista was the villain in the most recent Bond film *Spectre*. Photo from imdb.com



Love is on the Screen: In the third installment, Lightning McQueen (right), played by Owen Wilson has a love interest, Cruz Ramirez (left), played by Cristela Alonzo. The first *Cars* film also had a love interest for Lightning.

Photo from imdb.com



Lightning McQueen and Mater are Owen Wilson (*Zoolander*, *Midnight in Paris*) and Larry the Cable Guy (*Tooth Fairy 2*, *Jingle All the Way 2*). New voices include Nathan Fillian (*Firefly*, *Castle*) as Sterling, and Armie Hammer (*The Social Network*, *The Lone Ranger*) as Jackson Storm. *Cars 3* releases June 16, and while this movie is targeted for children, it will most likely be enjoyed by all ages.



Back from the Dead: Paul Newman's unfortunate death in 2008 caused him not to be able to star in any of the *Cars* sequels. By using unused voice footage from the first film, the filmmakers were able to dub in his voice for his character in this film. *Photo from imdb.com*

Transformers: The Last Knight is the fifth installment of the Transformers franchise that launched in 2007. All of the *Transformers* films have been directed by Michael Bay (*13 Hours*, *Armageddon*) including this fifth one. The first *Transformers* was well received by critics and made over \$300,000,000, doubling its \$150,000,000 production budget. The next four films were received much more poorly, but still made the same absurdly high amount of money. Just by ticket sales alone, the franchise has made over \$1,000,000,000. The first

two *Transformers* movies starred Shia LaBeouf (*Disturbia*, *American Honey*) and Megan Fox (*Jennifer's Body*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*). Fox dropped out of the *Transformers* sequel after the second film and was replaced by Victoria's Secret model Rosie Huntington-Whitley. LaBeouf dropped out after the third film. Both LaBeouf and Fox claimed their reasoning to be pursuing other projects. Ever since the fourth film, the franchise has recast the protagonists. For the past film, and the upcoming one, Mark Wahlberg (*Boogie Nights*, *The Fighter*) has become the protagonist. The production budget of the fifth film is \$260,000,000-the largest budget for any of these films. The last most expensive movie in the franchise was its predecessor, *Transformers: Age of Extinction*, and its budget was \$50,000,000 less than this one. This film is designed for movie goers who love insane and mindless action.



Type Cast: Michael Bay has directed every single *Transformers* movie; he's become known for it. I bet you couldn't name another film he's directed. *Photo from collider.com*

If you're interested in any of these films, your local movie theatre will probably be playing them considering their fame. Local theatres tend to play the more famous movies for the bigger payout. If they're not playing around here, they'll definitely be playing in theatres in Elmira or Rochester. I hope you enjoy and support these films!



A Twist for the Ages: Based on the trailers, it seems that Optimus Prime betrays his fellow Autobots, something new for the franchise which has many excited. *Photo from gamesradar.com*



Bengal, Siamese, Sphynx, and Savannah Cats

By Erin Anderson Staff Writer

Bengal: Bengals originated in the United States. They were bred to look like jungle cats such as leopards, ocelots, and margoys. The Bengal is a cross between the Asian Leopard Cat (ALC) and a domestic cat. Breeders achieved their goal of making an ambitious, healthy, and a kind cat with vivid markings. The name came from the genealogy name of the ALC, *Bengalensis*. Bengals have a wild appearance thanks to their distinctive markings and colors; they come with brown toned or gray/silver toned fur. Since the Bengal is a mixed breed of wild and domestic, the further away you get from the original cross-breeding, the more domestic the cat will be. They are very social cats and they love most people that they meet. They can be very vocal with beautiful meows, or can be obnoxious with their loud voices that help get your attention about something they want or don't want. They also don't mind water; they will even sometimes get into the shower with their owners and get fairly wet before they want to get out. My Bengal, Nala, is very friendly and has a beautiful meow. She loves to play with water and is an F2 generation *see Savannah's on next page*, so she still acts a bit wild sometimes. I wouldn't want my Bengal any other way.



Bengal Nala

Nala standing in the yard watching one of my other cats run

Photo courtesy of Erin Anderson



Siamese Elphie

Elphie staring up at me a couple days before I left for camp in 2015.

Photo courtesy of Erin Anderson

Siamese: The Siamese originated in Thailand. They are one of the most recognized Asian breeds, which became very popular in Europe and North America in the 1800s. The modern Siamese are refined, so they have a slimmer body and face. Most Siamese have distinctive blue eyes and light coats. Modern Siamese show little resemblance to their original style because the original Siamese from Thailand had rounder faces and bodies. They have different colored coats, like lilac, blue, seal, cream, red, tortoiseshell, and tabby. They can be social cats but they typically tend to give all of their love to one person - it just depends on the personality of the cat. Siamese can also be very vocal with medium meows. Some do not meow loudly or at all, but instead use actions to get your attention (like grabbing you). My Siamese, Elphie (short for Elphaba from the musical *Wicked*), tends to only hang

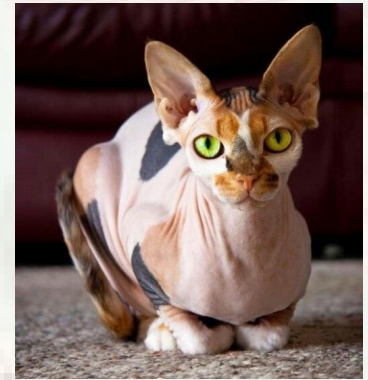
around me and follows me everywhere I go, although she also likes my mom. She does like certain strangers right away, like my sister's boyfriend, Simon. She is also very beautiful and loves to play or just sit around in the sun. She doesn't tend to meow a lot, but when she does it's very cute and soft.



Cats, Continued

Sphynx: The Sphynx is a hairless cat that originated in Europe. Starting in the mid 1900s, breeders were beginning selective breeding to achieve a hairless cat. Since Sphynx are almost completely hairless, they are fairly good for people who want a cat but are allergic to cat hair or cat dander. The texture of their skin is like that of goat or sheep skin, due to the very fine hairs on their bodies. They do not always have whiskers due to the genetics that make the cat hairless in the first place. The color of their skin replicates what their fur would look like, with typical cat markings. Since they don't have fur they lose most of their body heat. Therefore, they are warm to the touch and usually seek heat because of their lack of hair. Many owners put their Sphynx cats in sweaters to keep them warm and apply sunscreen to them before they go outside because they burn easily, too. The Sphynx are typically known for their outgoing

behavior, high energy level, intelligence, curiosity, and affection to their owners. They are similar to dogs in how they act when they greet their owners when they come home as well as friendliness towards visiting strangers. I do not own a Sphynx, but I do have a couple friends who want one because of their uniqueness.



Sphynx Cat

A tabi skin colored Sphynx

Photo from Pinterest.com



Savannah Cat

Due to the Savannah cats size it is bigger than this little girl, which is very typical for these cats to be very big, almost as tall as a grown adult.

Photo from Pinterest.com

Savannah: The Savannah cat originated in the United States, and is a cross breed between a Siamese domestic cat and a Serval (medium sized, African wild cat). The cross breed became popular in the 1990s, and in 2001 the Savannah became accepted as a new breed by The International Cat Association (TICA). Later in May of 2012, the Savannah was a championship breed. Savannahs are tall and slim, which gives them an appearance of being bigger than they actually are. Their size is dependent upon their sex and their generation. When a Serval and a domestic cat breed and have kittens, those kittens are an F1 generation, so for example the grandchildren of the F1 Savannahs would be F3 Savannahs. The largest are typically the F1 males, which are the children of the original crossing between the Serval and the domestic cat. The Savannah normally has a spotted pattern, which is the only pattern accepted by the TICA breed standards. The non-standard

patterns and colors include: rosetted, marbled, snow, blue, cinnamon, chocolate, lilac, and other watered down colors from the domestic sources. Savannah cats are often compared to dogs in their loyalty to their owners and their tendency to follow owners around the house. They can even be trained to fetch and walk on a leash. They are very social cats and most are friendly to new people and other cats and dogs. Some might not be very friendly to strangers, though, and may run away and hide or even hiss when seeing an unfamiliar face. Due to the Savannah cats' size, they are known for their incredible jumping abilities, reaching heights up to about 8 feet from a standing position. They are very curious cats, and can learn how to open cupboards and doors. Most Savannahs don't fear water; in fact, they love to play in water and sometimes submerge themselves in it. They will even get into the shower with their owners, like Bengals. The generation can play a role in whether they chirp or meow. The older generations tend to chirp more, and the younger generations tend to meow more. I would love to have a Savannah cat one day.



What is Sports Night?

By Dylan Griffin Staff Writer

The Hornell Community hosts a Sports Night dinner to honor local athletes and teams every year with the proceeds going to the Special Olympics. This year the Alfred-Almond Boys Varsity Soccer team split the **Team of the Year** award with the Alfred University Football team. The five captains were asked to attend to receive the award. The recipient of the **Male Athlete of the Year** award was Jake Weyand of Hornell for his performances in football, basketball, and baseball during this school year. Erin Congdon of Canisteo-Greenwood was the recipient of the **Female Athlete of the Year** award for her success in volleyball that spanned all six years of high school.

The dinner was an experience that I had never been involved in before. The dinner was based around Bruce Smith, as he is a legend to Bills fans. When he was announced, the crowd echoed in a joint chant of "Bruce, Bruce, Bruce.." which at first sounded like boos that caught us all off guard. Any time his name was announced the whole dining room could only hear that single word. When Bret Saberhagen was being announced, and the dining room heard he was a former Boston Red Sox, he was actually booed, which led to ironic cheers when he was announced as a New York Mets player. The Mets are close city rivals of the Yankees.

There was a small salad for a starter, then followed stuffed chicken with a side of mashed potatoes and corn followed as main course. A slice of white cake with pink frosting and red sprinkles was dessert. A rather large raffle followed dinner that was full of sports items liked signed baseballs and pictures. Mr. Mac, who was attending with Mr. Turner, won a baseball signed by eight time All-Star Darryl Strawberry. An auction followed where a couple thousand dollars were spent on autographed sports items. All of the celebrity guests gave speeches after the auction, and they were brief and to the point. Bruce's speech was the one that stuck with me the most. He spoke of how a family was formed with his teammates. It made the most sense to me after the similar experience I had this fall and throughout my senior year. The dinner led me to be even more grateful for what the team I was a of member had achieved.

Bruce Smith played in the National Football League for 19 seasons. He was a member of 11 pro bowls and named to nine pro bowl teams. He was defensive player of the year in 1990 and 1996. He is a member of the 1980s' and 1990s' "Team of the Decade." He was known for being a member of the Buffalo Bills team that lost four consecutive Super Bowls. He holds the current record for most career sacks (tackles on the quarterback) at 200, and had 13 seasons of double digits in the sack column. He was taken first overall by the Buffalo Bills from Virginia Tech in the 1985 NFL Draft. He was voted into the NFL Hall Of Fame as soon as he was eligible in 2009.



Brilliant Bruce Smith is one of the most loved Bills players of all time. Many think he deserves a statue outside Ralph Wilson Stadium.

Photo from SportsIllustrated.com

Bret Saberhagen was taken as 479th in the 19th round of the 1982 Major League Baseball Draft. He made his MLB debut for the Kansas City Royals on April 4, 1984. He played for the Royals for seven seasons, winning the American League Cy Young Award in 1985 and 1989. In 1985 along with his Cy Young win he was a member of the Royals World Series winning team and was named the MVP of the championship series. In 1989 he was the American League leader in ERA (Earned Run Average) and the MLB leader in wins. He won his only Golden Glove Award that season. A Golden Glove is given to the best fielding player in each position. In his final season as a Royal he pitched a no hitter against the Chicago White Sox. He is the last player to date to throw a no hitter for the Royals. After the Royals, he spent four seasons with the New York Mets, one season with the Colorado Rockies, and four with the Boston Red Sox. His last game was August 7, 2001. He was a three time All-Star over his career. He is now a member of the Kansas City Royals Hall of Fame.



World Series MVP Saberhagen was instrumental in the Royals championship win. He won both games he pitched in the seven game series.

Photo from SportsIllustrated.com



By Alex D
Copy Editor

The Ballad of FAT MICHEL

Banana. A word so easy to spell, yet awkward to pronounce. A fruit so simple in its design, yet curiously complex to eat. This layered, multi-faceted produce has yet another hidden complexity: its history. The banana has gone through a long, harrowing battle throughout its relationship with humankind.

For as long as humans have had access to bananas, they have tried to eat them, but that wasn't always so easy. While bananas have been cultivated since approximately 8000 BCE, ancient banana ancestors are nothing like bananas today. Bananas in these ancient times, in ancient Papua New Guinea, were much shorter in length, had a much tougher and fuzzy exterior, and the interior was dotted with seeds throughout. It also produced a very strong odor. This was not much fun to eat, but it was technically edible, so its cultivation continued.

The banana spread to sub-Saharan Africa, Madagascar, Persia, and South America via the travel of Southeast Asians, all within 1000 BCE - 1 AD. Alexander the Great came across the vivacious fruit on his travels throughout the Persian kingdom, but it would take much longer for Europeans to cultivate the banana since it was not able to grow in the continent's colder climate. Portugal was the first to take up the banner of European banana-hood by planting bananas in both Brazil and its West African colonies (By the way, the word banana comes from the West African language Wolof). Bananas, while not the most pleasant food at the time, had many uses in plantations. For example, cocoa plants required constant shade in order to be grown efficiently. The



trees on which bananas grew were perfect for this task, since they could protect the cocoa plants and produce fruit of their own.

Fast-forward to post-industrial society. Modern mechanical technology has allowed many a fruit to be cultivated en masse, and bananas were no exception. Up to the 1950's, people almost exclusively ate *Gros Michels* ('Fat Michel,' in Spanish). The banana had been selectively bred into perfection. The fruit became long, seedless, and much easier to open, thanks to the handlebar shape at the top of the crop, along with a lack of fuzziness. Most importantly of all, Fat Michel was tasty.

Alas, all that lives is cursed to die. Not long after the general public had been given access to nearly limitless Fat Michels, they were taken away violently. In the early 1950's, a disastrous fungal disease called the Panama disease

A Slice of the Past

Ancient banana, seeds and all
Photo from Hutchingson.org

spread to nearly every Fat Michel with brutal force. By 1955, 99.9% of Fat Michel's had fallen to the plague. While not extinct, the *Gros Michel* is now quite rare.

Due to this tragedy, farmers were forced to move to a species resistant to the Panama disease. Enter the Cavendish banana. While resistant to Panama disease, the Cavendish was less healthy and less flavorful than its fat cousin. To this day, the artificial banana flavor we put in our GoGurts and various other sugary dairy drinks is based on the much tastier flavor of the *Gros Michel*, while the bananas we eat today are much more bland in comparison.

We should never forget the tragic loss of one of our planet's finest fruits, and be wary of the loss of the next bastion of banana-hood in case of future plagues.



Acknowledgements

By Erin Anderson Staff Writer

Thank you to **Mr. Levey, Ms. Carretto, and Mr. McAneney** for being the chaperones on the Senior Trip. – **Senior Class**

Thank you **ALSTOM** for providing the AACS Varsity soccer team captains with tickets to a recognition dinner. – **Jack Castle**

Good job to the girls modified softball team on their hard work and improvement this season. – **Mr. Donlon**

Congrats to Prom King **Christian Powell** and Prom Queen **Abby Fancher!** – **Owen Curtin**

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Thank you to everyone who helped work on the mural in the cafeteria and inspiring people to "leave their mark" on Alfred Almond! – **Harry Robshaw**

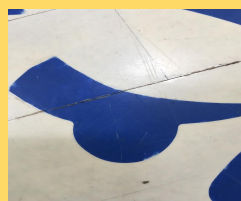
Thank you to **Miss Ryan** for making the art room a fun place even in Mrs. Booman's absence. – **Madge Chroniger**

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Thank you **Mrs. Valentine** for wrapping up the yearbook – **Yearbook Staff**

Thank you **Gregory Boardman** for writing a gosh darn article for once! – **Justin Berry**

April Photo Challenge Revealed



May Photo Challenge



Left to Right: Sand on a prom poster, light from Mr. Rech's chemistry sign, and decal on the gym floor.

Find these places around the school! Discover their locations in the next edition of the *Observer*.



Match the Languages





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OBSERVER

HAVE WE GOT NEWS FOR YOU...

**Cheese fries from
Maier's Market in
Andover, NY**

Cheese fries have nothing to do with this issue, but they made your day better, didn't they? You're welcome.

- Harry