

Flip the page and get engaged!

Observer



**DECEMBER 2018
VOL. 8, ISSUE 2**

**+ MIDTERM
ELECTIONS**

**+ UPCOMING
DECEMBER
MOVIES**

**+ MEET MR. DINEEN
AND MR. LEVEY**



**WINTER
SPORTS
EDITION**

**SWIMMING
DOWNHILL SKIING
GIRLS BASKETBALL
BOYS BASKETBALL**

Contents

Cover: Design by Abigail T.

Source of photo: Unsplash
(public domain images)
By Maarten Duineveld
License: Unsplash License

- 3: Announcements
- 4: **National News** - Election
- 7: **National News** - Scouting
- 9: **Sharing Our Reading:**
Kurt Vonnegut Jr.
- 11: **Reading the Library**
- 13: **Club Column** - Braille
- 15: **Staff Profile** - Dusinberre
- 17: **Staff Profile** - Dineen
- 18: **Staff Profile** - Levey
- 20: **Winter Feature** - Fitness
- 22: **Winter Sports** - Skiing
- 23: **Winter Sports** - Wrestling
- 24: **Winter Sports** - Swimming
- 25: **Winter Sports** - Boys
Basketball
- 27: **Winter Sports** - Girls
Basketball
- 29: **Winter Feature** - Driving
- 31: **Feature Column:** The
Actual Daytrip King
- 33: **Winter Feature** -
Thanksgiving
- 35: **Winter Feature** - Holidays
- 38: **Winter Feature** - Christmas
- 40: **Movie Review Column** -
The Grinch
- 42: **Entertainment** - Upcoming
Movies
- 47: Acknowledgments
- 48: Games

Dear Readers,

The Alfred-Almond Observer staff invites you to enjoy the content inside the 2018 December issue. This issue compiles holiday specials, an insight into winter sports, faculty, movies, midterm elections, and much, much more. The articles that make up this issue are a very unique and heartwarming collection. You might notice that we have a new specialty writer. Alfred-Almond's own librarian, Mr. Hall, is contributing to the Observer. We are very excited about this newest addition and can not wait to see the material that he produces. All of the staff has worked diligently to produce high quality, effective, informative, entertaining and creative articles. We hope you enjoy reading these articles as much as we enjoyed creating them.

Ali Fancher



Mission & Vision

Flip the page and get engaged!

The *Alfred-Almond Observer* strives to inform, entertain, and unify the members of our school and our community. Our aim is to provide local and national stories that relate to our readers, are unbiased, and engage our audience through truth and transparency.

Observer Staff

Meme-Stream Media

Co-EICs	Conner Griffin Hanna Tormey
Copy Editor	Nora Looney
Design Managers	Joe Miletta Wesley Dennison
Staff Writers	Ali Fancher Olivia Ormsby

The Newsies

EIC	Sarah Johnson
Copy Editors	Alex Comer Spenser Ormsby
Design Managers	Davon Bloom Dylan Guthrie
Staff Writer	Lindsey Allen

The Write Brothers & Sisters

EIC	Gabe Empson
Copy Editors	Gabe Marcus Parsa Rashidi
Design Managers	Amya Snyder Abigail Tarun
Staff Writer	Arnold Saint-Phard



ADVENT CALENDAR



DECEMBER 6, 2018 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEC. 6

MAKE
HOT
COCOA



HANUKKAH
(OBSERVED
DEC. 2 - DEC. 10)

DEC. 17

WRITE HOLIDAY
CARDS TO
FAMILY AND FRIENDS

JR/SR HOLIDAY
CHORUS
CONCERT

DEC. 7

CHILL
BY THE
FIRESIDE



DEC. 18

MAKE
GINGERBREAD OR
SUGARCOOKIES



DEC. 8

LISTEN TO A
CHRISTMAS
CAROL



DEC. 19

SET UP
CHRISTMAS
STOCKINGS



WINTER
CONCERT
OF BANDS

DEC. 9

GO SKIING/
SNOWBOARDING



DEC. 20

EAT A
CANDYCANE



DEC.
10

NHS BLOOD DRIVE
BINGE
CHRISTMAS
MOVIES ON
NETFLIX



HUMAN
RIGHTS
DAY

DEC. 21

LAST
DAY OF
SCHOOL!

EXCHANGE
GIFTS W/
FRIENDS AND
TEACHERS

DEC. 11

REDECORATE
YOUR HOUSE W/
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



DEC. 12

SHOP CHRISTMAS
GIFTS FOR A
FRIEND

SPRING
MUSICAL
AUDITIONS

DEC.
13

SET UP CHRISTMAS
TREE AT HOME



DEC.
23

WRAP
GIFTS



DEC. 14

WATCH
THE NEW
GRINCH MOVIE



SPRING
MUSICAL
CALLBACKS

DEC. 24

THROW A
CHRISTMAS
PARTY POTLUCK

DEC. 15

MAKE A
WISHLIST

DEC. 16

DONATE FOOD,
CLOTHES, MONEY,
TO PEOPLE IN NEED

DEC. 25

MERRY
CHRISTMAS!





A guide to the 2018 midterm election

By Hanna Tormey
Co-Editor in Chief

On Tuesday, November 6, the polls were open and CNN reported that roughly 113 million people took to the polls to make their voices heard. This article will give a brief overview of what happened that day, and the implications it will have on you and the country.

Congressional House Race in the 23rd District:

The race pit the incumbent*, Tom Reed, against the challenger, Tracy Mitrano. Reed, a Republican based out of Corning, New York, has been in the House of Representatives since he replaced the former representative, Massa in 2010. On Election Day, Reed received 55 percent of the vote, while Mitrano garnered 45 percent of the vote giving the election to the Republican. The Republican's website (tomreedforcongress.com) gives a broad view of his stances on current issues. Reed believes in the importance of balancing "the budget to achieve financial stability." He also stands for repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act. The Republican also stands strong with his belief in the protection of the right to bear arms. Additionally, Reed supports President Trump's tax plan. The Human Rights Campaign has given him a rating of 48 percent, while the group Americans for Prosperity has given him a rating of 79 percent. Tom Reed served on the House Ways and Means Committee and was a part of the Problem Solvers Caucus for the 115th Congress. The challenger, Tracy Mitrano, is a Democrat headquartered in Ithaca, New York. Mitrano is a cybersecurity expert who received her law degree from Cornell University. On Election Day, Reed received 55 percent of the vote. Mitrano garnered 45 percent of the vote. This means that Tom Reed will be the Representative of the 23rd District in the House for the 116th Congress.



Representative Tom Reed
The Representative of the 23rd District in the 116th Congress, and winner of the previous election.
Photo from oleantimesherald.com



Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
The Junior Senator representing New York in the 116th Congress.
Photo from future.wikia.com

Senate Race:

Kirsten Gillibrand, the Democrat incumbent faced the Republican, Chele Farley. The Democrat defeated her opponent by a margin of 32.9 points.* Gillibrand served in the House from 2007 to 2009, and then began serving in the Senate later in 2009 where she replaced Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. Gillibrand voted against the appointment of controversial Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. The Democrat has pledged to protect the environment and fight climate change while serving on the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. On the subject of immigration, Gillibrand believes in creating opportunities for immigrants, defending DREAMers*, and supporting refugees and vulnerable immigrant populations. The New York Senator believes in the woman's right to choose to have an abortion and against the global gag rule, which according to Planned Parenthood restricts access to information around the world. On the issue of medical marijuana, Gillibrand has worked to help pass the CARERS Act which recognized states' "responsibility to set medical marijuana policy and eliminate potential federal prosecution," "allows states to import cannabidiol, as a treatment for epilepsy and seizure disorders," provide medical marijuana access to veterans, and expand opportunities and research. This information and more can be found at gillibrand.senate.gov. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand also serves on the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, on Armed Services, and on Aging.

* see third page for definitions



New York State Senator Race:

This saw current Governor Andrew Cuomo, Democrat, against Marcus Molinaro, Republican. Molinaro served as the youngest mayor in the United States at age 19, as the mayor of Tivoli, New York. In the primaries, Molinaro was unopposed while Cuomo ran against Cynthia Nixon, whom he defeated by a margin of 31.2 points. Cuomo was victorious on Election Day over Molinaro by a margin of 20.3 percent. Governor Cuomo stands for a \$15 “living wage,” an expanded anti-homeless program, and free college for New York State students. More information regarding New York State Governor Cuomo’s political stances can be found at andrewcuomo.com. Finally, Cuomo is very proud that during his tenure as New York State’s governor that the state has become, “the first large state to pass marriage equality,” as well as, “prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity, transgender status, or gender dysphoria.”



Governor Andrew Cuomo

Cuomo will again serve proudly as the Governor of New York State.

Photo from ballotopedia.com



New York State Capitol

This building has been the home of our state government since the 1880s.

Photo from therealdeal.com

New York State Government Elections:

New York State’s government is set-up in a way that nearly mirrors the United States Federal Government as both have Legislative, Judicial, and Executive Branches. The Legislative Branch of the New York State Government is split into two chambers: the Senate (63 members) and Assembly (150 members). The 2018 Midterm decided that the next Senate would be controlled by Democrats who are in control of 40 seats*, leaving the GOP in control of the remaining 23 seats. The Democratic and Chronicle of Rochester reported on the nobleness of Democratic control in the Senate, as this chamber has been Republican controlled for much of the last century. Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins will be the first African American to serve as the majority leader in the State Senate. In the New York State Assembly, Democrats will control 106 seats, the Republicans 43 seats, and one seat belongs to Fred Thiele of the Independence Party. After this election, Democrats will be in control of both the State Senate and Assembly along with the Governorship. With their majority, State Democrats plan to codify abortion rights into state law, allow undocumented immigrants tuition assistance, and create legislation promoting election reform.





Democrats face an unfavourable Senate map, but will look to gain control of the House and numerous governorships

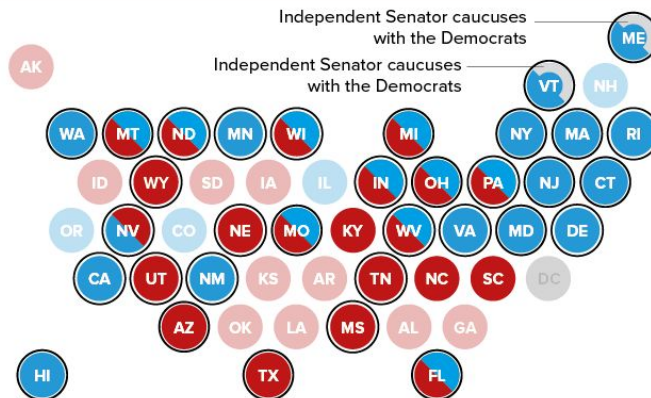
Senate races, 2018

2016 Presidential elections

- Voted for Donald Trump
- Voted for Hillary Clinton

2018 Senatorial elections

- 2018 Senatorial election state
- Republican currently holds seat up for election in a state that voted for Clinton
- Democrat currently holds seat up for election in a state that voted for Trump



230

House districts
voted for Trump

205

House districts
voted for Clinton

24

Seats needed by
Democrats to take
control of the House

12

House Democrats
represent districts
that voted for
Trump

23

House Republicans
represent districts
that voted for
Clinton

Competitive congressional races, 2018

Districts without a strong lean towards either party will be the key battlegrounds

Cook Political Report competitive races

- Likely Democratic ●
- Likely Republican ●
- Lean Democratic ●
- Lean Republican ●
- Democratic Toss Up ●
- Republican Toss Up ●

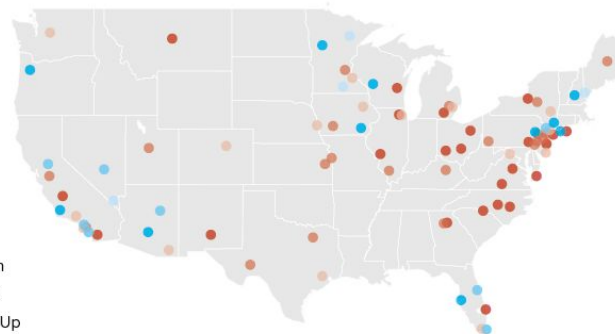


Photo from of dailybrief.oxan.com

Federal Government:

In the Senate, the Republicans were able to expand their majority by gaining two seats. This gives the GOP a 53-47 seat majority over Senate Democrats. In the House, Democrats were able to regain control for the first time since 2010 by controlling 230 seats with the remaining 198 belonging to Republicans. This switch of majority gives the House Democrats control of every committee belonging to the House. This is extremely important to the power of the Democratic Party. It is likely that the future Speaker of the House* will be Nancy Pelosi from Maryland. After this election, it is unclear which party was the true “winner” of the election or if there was a winner at all. President Trump tweeted out the statement, “Tremendous success tonight. Thank you to all!” seeming to state that Republicans were victorious, while Nancy Pelosi commented, “Today is more than about Democrats and Republicans. It’s about restoring the Constitution’s checks and balances to the Trump administration.” No matter who you thought won the night, there were many victories relating to the diversity of the 116th Congress. Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar were the first Muslim women ever elected to Congress, while Sharice Davids and Deb Haaland were the first Native American women elected to the Congress. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is now the youngest woman ever elected to Congress at age 29. The full effects of this election will not be felt until January 3, when the 116th Congress begins its first session.

*Terms to Know:

Incumbent- the candidate who held the seat previously

Points- percentage points showing the margin of victory

DREAMers- undocumented students or youth allowed to stay in the country

Seat- represents one member of Congress

Speaker of the House- Leader of the House of Representatives, belongs to the majority party

Majority Party- the political party with the most representation in either chamber of congress (minority party is the opposite)



War between scouts

By Conner Griffin
Co-Editor in Chief



Logo from girlscouts.org

In November Girl Scouts of America (GSA) filed a trademark suit, claiming that dropping “Boy” from the name would infringe on their right to provide a leadership program against the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). This lawsuit came a little over a year after the BSA announced their decision to admit girls into their flagship program, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. The other three programs of BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts, and Explorers, had all been co-ed since their founding. The decision to permit girls into the program came after increasing pressure from families to permit girls formal admittance to the program. Girls have been at Cub Scout events with their families for years. It was only logical to admit, them to the program This lead to the adoption of “Family Scouting,”a program that is available for whole families to participate, which is scheduled to take effect in February.

After the decision was made, tensions immediately escalated between the two organizations that once cooperated and partnered on community projects. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts had once gone on joint campouts and held events together. In the recent years, however, tensions have risen as the programs started to drift apart. BSA has kept its roots in the outdoors and the skills and leadership taught in the outdoors. Rank requirements almost always include first aid skills and many of the lower ranks include knots. GSA has redefined the setting of their program. Focusing more on the business world, they have added programs in STEM, Entrepreneurship, and Life Skills along with their Outdoor Program. This is designed to promote the youth to become leaders and to prepare them for their careers and futures after they leave the their youth behind.

These similarities in the programs, is the leading cause for the rivalry we see today between the two organizations. When the two organizations had closer programs there was an unspoken agreement that they had their



Logo from scouting.org

respective audiences. Now with both organizations continuing to decline in membership both are looking for ways to improve. With this drift apart it was only logical for one to broaden their scope. BSA already has the infrastructure under within their organization to take in girls, with youth protection already accounting for girls in programs.. While it may be detrimental to Girl Scouts in a general sense, they have programs that are more specific and arguably better than their counterparts in BSA. The STEM program for example is more developed and stressed more heavily than in BSA. This gives the youth an option for what kind of program they desire and what they want to focus on. Both programs still stress being active in the community and what it means to be an excellent leader. Both require service projects to earn their highest awards, the Gold Award for Girl Scouts and the rank of Eagle in Boy Scouts. These core values are in both programs and it may be positive that BSA is allowing girls as it would be unfortunate to see either program dissolve.



I interviewed Kaitlyn Cook, a Gold Award Recipient, and Silas Cochran who had achieved the rank of Eagle, to find out their thoughts on the lawsuit.



Photo courtesy of Kaitlyn Cook



Photo from ne3a.org

I asked Kaitlyn her initial reactions, and she was disappointed overall. She believes that GSA is supposed to be an organization that represents what it means to be a kind, growing adult, and how important respect is. Girl Scouts throwing a “corporate hissy fit” goes against the ideals. SHE believes instead of an unfounded lawsuit they should look for ways to improve their program instead of ways to stop BSA.

When I asked her about what her program means to her and what she has done, She explained how experiences have given her the leadership skills necessary for when she is an adult. While a participant she had opportunities to travel to Chicago, Cape Cod, and Washington D.C.

The last question I asked was her thoughts on BSA’s decision to admit girls. She believes it will be good for youth to be able to work together and learn that people aren’t that different. She believes that the eventual breakdown of gender barriers outweighs the fact it will most likely hurt GSA in the long run. The process could have been better though, she admits.

When I asked Silas the same questions, his initial reaction was not of disappointment, but that he just didn’t understand the grounds. His thought was it was a pointless lawsuit that really didn’t hope to accomplish anything. He doesn’t understand the need for a rivalry either. At one point, a merger would have been the best option for both organizations. With decreasing numbers, access to both organizations resources would have been a great option.

When asked about the changes himself, he believes that everyone should have the option to earn the rank of Eagle. It is a fantastic accomplishment that follows you through your life and is recognized. However, he believes it should have been through a different avenue, for example Venturing, an already coed program in Scouting. Boy Scouts should have maybe stayed for Boys, but the changes coming in February are still positive and should help the organization overall.



Sharing Our Reading: Kurt Vonnegut Jr. Found Me

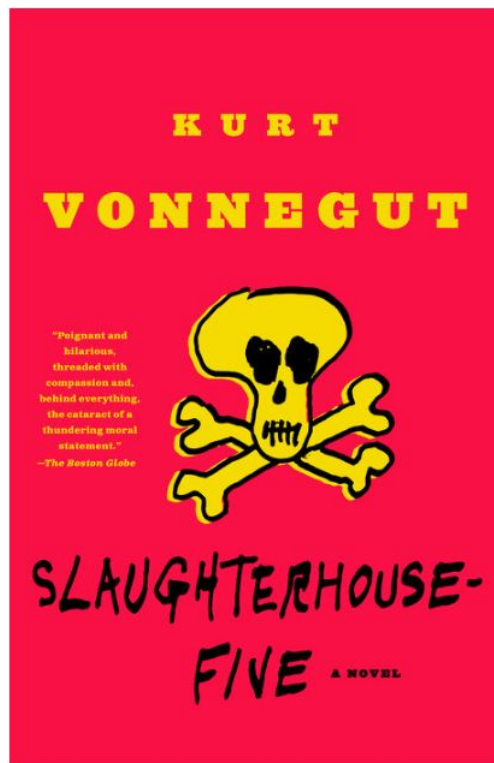
By Mark Hall - Librarian and Contributing Writer

Welcome to the first installment of "Sharing Our Reading," a column which invites any member of the AACCS community to write about any reading experience which has made a deep impression on his or her life. We at AACCS recognize that each person's reading brings out reactions, thoughts, and feelings which help each individual's growth as a unique human being.

We hope that, by sharing our experiences, we will deepen everyone's response to reading and inspire everyone to seek out even wider and richer adventures in books.

In 1970, Kurt Vonnegut Jr's novel "Slaughterhouse-Five," or "The Children's Crusade," helped me become unstuck in time and changed my life forever. So it goes. I was 20 years old and had been hiding from Vonnegut and his novels for some time because I had heard that he was devilishly clever and I was frankly afraid that I wouldn't get most of his jokes. When I finally worked up the nerve to read it, I found that I could no longer look at war, people, or myself in quite the same way as I had before. It became clear that a writer could come closer to telling the truth about a painful experience by making up a wild story, combining real details and science fiction with broad comedy, to find meaning in the worst sort of massacre. In the bewildering confusion of a worldwide conflict against an alliance intent on world domination and genocide, even the good guys could find themselves committing atrocities. In a world where wars seemed as inevitable and unavoidable as glaciers, the only way to remain human might be by looking out for the dignity of other human beings and refusing to participate in their persecution and wholesale slaughter.

Near the beginning of "Slaughterhouse-Five," Vonnegut writes



that it took him twenty-three years, much money, and much trouble to write about his experiences at Dresden, because there was really nothing intelligent that you can say about a massacre; everyone is supposed to be dead, and "all there is to say about a massacre is what birds say: poo tee weet!" In a preface to the actual story, Vonnegut tells the reader about his consultation with his fellow former

POW, Edward Ohare and Ohare's wife, Mary, about how to write about the war. Mary Ohare is outraged, at first, by the thought that Vonnegut will sentimentalize his memories and make the war seem like a glamorous adventure. In response to Mary Ohare's outraged complaint, he promises not to turn his book into something that could be made into a movie with John Wayne and Frank Sinatra, making combat and its effects so attractive that youngsters will be sent to fight and die in future wars. The author subtitled his novel "The Children's Crusade" on the assumption that all wars are actually fought by young men in their late teens or early twenties who are, in Mary Ohare's phrase, "just babies." Vonnegut does not wish to inspire another Children's Crusade.

Since first reading "Slaughterhouse-Five" nearly fifty years ago, I've known enough combat veterans to conclude that nobody is ever the same after being in combat. Vonnegut, who served as an infantry Scout, was captured by the German army during the Battle of the Bulge, a nightmarish German counter-offensive which took place at Christmas time in 1944. As a prisoner of war, he witnessed the Allied firebombing of Dresden, survived by



Sharing Our Reading: *Vonnegut Continued*

taking shelter in the cellar of his slaughterhouse living quarters, then took part in cleaning up the effects of a bomb attack more devastating than the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan. Dresden, a beautiful city, of little military significance, with a mostly civilian population, was reduced to a rubble field closely resembling the surface of the Moon. Vonnegut and his fellow POWs literally dug mines in the rubble to recover the bodies of dead women, men, and children. I believe this experience shaped Vonnegut as a future writer, and as a person with a dark but compassionate view of the human condition.

Although "Slaughterhouse-Five" was not Vonnegut's first novel, I got the impression that he became a writer with a distinctive worldview largely because his experiences scarred his soul for life. In most of his other novels, like "God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater," "Mother Night," and "Deadeye Dick," characters struggle to find meaning in life because they've either witnessed or participated in horrible, violent acts. In 1968, twenty-three years after his World War II experiences, Vonnegut found his country in the midst of the Vietnam War, in which there were nightly television reports of battles and (yes) even massacres being carried out by the Armed Forces of his own country - acts which apparently reminded him a great deal of what he had witnessed and done during World War II. It doesn't take a great deal of imagination to see that Vonnegut was also commenting on the Vietnam War. While supposedly protecting the rights and freedom of the people of Vietnam, American servicemen were carrying out acts which seemed like the massacre of helpless men and women.

Vonnegut skillfully avoids glamorizing War by describing his own War experiences from the perspective of Billy Pilgrim. He is a kind of

holy clown, who witnesses the firebombing of Dresden and its aftermath, returns home to go through a series of experiences which include mental breakdowns, personal tragedies, and great financial success as the owner of a string of Optometry practices. Pilgrim is kidnapped by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore and placed in a zoo with a beautiful actress for the entertainment of Tralfamadorians. Along the way, Billy absorbs the Tralfamadorian perspective about the universe: that all events are random, free will does not exist, and that all events past, present, and future have always happened and are happening still. This concept of time and space is summed up by the repeated phrase: "And So It Goes." Pilgrim (and Vonnegut too by implication) comes to the conclusion that the only way to deal with the catastrophes and massacres of this world is to focus one's attention on the pleasant moments (like the ones Pilgrim eventually experiences on Tralfamadore) and try to ignore the rest. Vonnegut does contrive a happy ending (of sorts) for Billy Pilgrim and the kidnapped actress, Montana Wildhack, making their joint captivity on Tralfamadore one of the pleasant experiences they can focus upon while ignoring much of the pain and chaos they have experienced in other times and places.

Each time I reread this novel I'm touched by Vonnegut's portrayal of people who take war seriously or try to sentimentalize it and behave as if they were in some kind of war movie. They come off seeming either monstrous or pathetic; sometimes both. The captured colonel of a regiment obliterated by the German counteroffensive wanders about telling other POWs, "Just ask for Wwild Bob if you ever get to Cody Wyoming!" before showing up dead in a later scene. Roland weary, a fat, sadistic misfit of a replacement soldier who imagines himself as one of a group of lifelong

soldierly comrades but keeps getting dumped by everyone whom he attempts to befriend, dies of infected feet, bitterly blaming Billy Pilgrim for simply stumbling onto Weary's feet while being herded along by German captors through the snow. Polly Lazaro, the captured American soldier who harbors fantasies of dire revenge on anyone who has ever offended him, vows to take vengeance on Billy Pilgrim for the death of Roland Weary (whom he hardly knew). Edgar Derby, an idealistic former high school teacher, who enlisted in the army to promote democratic ideals, falls victim to an ironic fate, shot for "looting" a teapot from Dresden's ruins while Lazaro scoops up a bag of priceless gems and emerges unscathed. Vonnegut, repeating what he was told by his University of Chicago Anthropology professors after the war, claims that there are no heroes or villains in his story. There are only human beings caught up in the illusion of free will in a universe whose true nature they are ill-equipped to perceive, much less understand. So it goes.

It is said that the books we need to read have a way of finding us rather than us finding them; however that may work, I felt fortunate to find "Slaughterhouse-Five" when I was searching for answers about how to be a decent human being. I do find that his device of having Billy Pilgrim literally leap backward and forward to isolated moments in time reminds me of how my own memories and imagination often carry me abruptly backward and forward during most days. While I do not agree with Vonnegut's implication that the Allies behaved no better than the Germans in World War II, I do contend that Vonnegut found something intelligent to say about one specific massacre. He also convinced me never to participate in any future massacres, and to protect the dignity of every person I met.

And so it goes.



Reading

the

Library



BY MARK
HALL -
LIBRARIAN AND
COLUMNIST

LIBRARY TIPS

1) As you may have already guessed, the letters and numbers on the book's spine are guides to where the book can be found: F ALE is in the "A" part of the Fiction section on the extreme southern wall of the library).

A book marked 921 CRA would be an autobiography about someone whose last name begins with the letters CRA, and would be located along the north wall of the library. If that still seems puzzling, just ask one of us in the library to guide you

2) To find a book in the library, you can either locate it yourself by going to the AACS Homepage, look under Library in the departments section and open the OPAC Setting. On OPAC, simply type in the subject, title, and author of the book you want. If we don't have it, check Interlibrary Loan or Overdrive. If none of those solutions work, see Mr. Hall, Mrs. Burch or Mrs. Parry.

3. To check out a book, see Mr. Hall or an aide; to renew an overdue book, follow the same procedure. We will check out or renew books from our Mandarin workstations upon request.

YES! THAT TITLE IS NO TYPO. EVERY LIBRARY HAS TO HAVE ITS CONTENTS "READ" REGULARLY, TO INSURE THAT THE SHELVED ITEMS ARE IN THEIR PROPER ORDER- AND THAT THE ITEMS ON THE SHELVES ARE THE ONES WHICH WILL ATTRACT AND BENEFIT LIBRARY PATRONS THE MOST! TO THAT PURPOSE (AND BECAUSE, AS A CONFIRMED BOOK FANATIC, I CANNOT HELP MYSELF), I'VE SPENT THE FIRST FEW WEEKS OF MY LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT "READING" THE SHELVES AND PULLING OUT ITEMS I WANT TO READ. THIS WILL SERVE TWO VERY PRACTICAL PURPOSES, IN THAT I'LL SOON KNOW FIRSTHAND WHAT THE LIBRARY HAS TO OFFER, AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT ITEMS NEED TO BE ADDED. I'M HOPING THAT THE MEMBERS OF OUR NEW LIBRARY LITERACY CLUB WILL ACTIVELY AID THAT PROCESS TOO.

WELCOME TO THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF A NEW FEATURE ABOUT READING AND THE BOOKS WAITING TO BE READ AT THE AAHS LIBRARY. THIS YEAR THE ALFRED-ALMOND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS SEEKING TO INTENSIFY AND AUGMENT ITS ON-GOING SUPPORT FOR LITERACY IN GENERAL, AND THE ENRICHMENT OF INDIVIDUAL READING EXPERIENCES IN PARTICULAR.

LET ME START WITH A CONFESSION: IT IS MY JOB TO GET EVERYONE AT ALFRED-ALMOND TO READ MORE (AND ENJOY IT MORE TOO), SO THIS COLUMN, AND THE ONES WHICH I PRAY WILL FOLLOW IT IN FUTURE ISSUES, WILL BE ONE CONTINUOUS COMMERCIAL FOR BOOKS, READING, AND OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY. IN SHORT, I AM A SALES "REP" FOR LITERACY! FRANKLY, IT IS A JOB I WOULD WILLINGLY

DO FOR FREE, BECAUSE, FOR ME, READING IS JUST AS NATURAL AND NECESSARY AS BREATHING, AND I LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN HELPING OTHER PEOPLE DEVELOP THE READING HABIT AND ENJOY THE BENEFITS WHICH FLOW NATURALLY FROM READING

WHAT OTHERS HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ALIVE. THIS YEAR WE AT THE LIBRARY ARE WORKING TO FILL OUR SHELVES WITH THE KINDS OF BOOKS WHICH STUDENTS BOTH WANT AND NEED TO READ. OUR GOAL IS TO ENCOURAGE ALL STUDENTS TO DEVELOP, SHAPE, FORM, AND INCREASE THE LIFELONG READING HABIT AS AN ESSENTIAL FEATURE OF THEIR LIVES. TO THAT PURPOSE, ONE GOAL OF OUR NEWLY FORMED AACS LIBRARY LITERACY CLUB WILL BE TO SEEK SUGGESTIONS FROM ALL STUDENTS ABOUT THE KINDS OF BOOKS THEY MOST WANT

TO READ, THEN IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND THE BEST TITLES TO PUT ON OUR LIBRARY SHELVES. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS READY AND EAGER TO DO JUST THAT VERY THING, WITH THE HELP OF OUR STUDENTS, SO PLEASE COME TO OUR CLUB MEETINGS READY TO DISCUSS THE KINDS OF BOOKS YOU WANT TO READ!

IN THE MEANTIME, THIS MONTHLY COLUMN WILL FEATURE READING SUGGESTIONS DRAWN FROM THE BOOKS WHICH WE ALREADY HAVE. WE ARE

INCLUDING THE CALL # INFORMATION (EXAMPLE: 921 CRA - AUTOBIOGRAPHY SECTION) TO HELP INTERESTED STUDENTS ACTUALLY FIND THE TITLES SHELVED IN THE LIBRARY. IF A BOOK IS IN OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COLLECTION, THE LETTERS ELs WILL BE FEATURED.



"ARCHY AND MEHITABEL" DON MARQUIS

817 MA- LITERATURE SECTION

The title is deliberately not capitalized because these short stories were supposedly typed after hours by archy, a deceased free verse poet reincarnated into the body of a cockroach. Archy's two best friends are mehitabel, a cat who claims to be the reincarnation of queen cleopatra, and freddy, a rat, who in his earlier life as still another free verse poet, was archy's bitter rival. Their adventures and observations on life and the universe are fun to read!

"MY FAMILY AND OTHER ANIMALS" GERARD DURRELL

914. 955 DUR- AUTOBIOGRAPHY

From 1935 to 1940, the author and his family lived on the Greek island of Corfu, where the author, then ten years old, kept a collection of local wild animals as pets. According to Durrell, "Living on Corfu was like living in one of the more flamboyant comic operas." This book inspired the PBS series "The Durrells on Corfu."

"TWENTY-ONE STORIES"

GRAHAM GREENE

SC GRE- LOOK IN THE STORY
COLLECTIONS SECTION

According to the New York Times, "...each one is a compelling entertainment and unmistakably the work of one of the finest story tellers of the (Twentieth) century." Just ask Mr. Brady about this book!

Suggestions for Reading

"GIFTS"

URSULA K. LE GUIN

F LE- MAY BE IN THE NEW

BOOKS DISPLAY

This novel (set in a mythical fantasy world which resembles the Highlands of medieval Scotland), is tale of magical powers, clan warfare, and the difficulties of young people with unique abilities. It is a magical tale in several senses of the term!

"THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN"

SHERMAN ALEXIE

F ALE - FICTION SECTION

Junior, the main character of this novel, becomes a "part-time Indian" when he dares to leave his substandard school on the reservation and realize his potential as a budding cartoonist and student athlete in a nearby "white" school. The bold ideas and language in this novel were enough to get it banned from some libraries, but don't ban it from your personal reading!

"AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS"

GENNIFIR CHOLDENKO

F CHO- FICTION SECTION

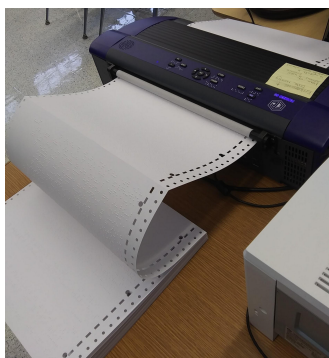
This is the first in a series of novels about a teenage boy who lives with his family on Alcatraz Island in the 1930s, where his father is part of the prison staff. The title character, Al Capone, is a federal prisoner who is the focus of everyone's attention and curiosity; he plays an important role in shaping the life of the boy and his family, although he is usually well out of sight behind the prison walls.



A New Feeling for Language

By Wesley Dennison
Design Editor

If you're anything like me, you're curious about what happens during activity mod beyond frantically doing the homework that's due in 45 minutes - 44 minutes and 55 seconds actually, so you'd better do your homework before reading this (I'm one of those kids too). I'm here to inform you about what happens in some of the clubs at AA, and help encourage more students to join.



Typewriter Mk. 2

This is the machine known as a "braille writer" it is similar to a type writer
Photo courtesy of Wesley Dennison

Many, if not all, high schools have in-school organizations, or clubs, and Alfred-Almond is no exception. Our school has numerous teacher and student organized clubs to join if you're looking for something fun to do for a break in an otherwise drab week in school. Each month of the *Observer* will feature one such club, in order to better acquaint yourself with the Alfred-Almond environment.

Braille club is hosted every other week in Mrs. Conklin's room 260, aptly named, the club is a half hour of learning all three levels of English Braille. Not only will club members participate in reading, but also writing in the all-but foreign language, on a special machine called a 'braille writer.' I myself attempted to write a few words in Braille, and it's no easy feat, but it's almost trivial compared to actually using your fingers to read. Both Mrs. Conklin and I agree that Kiana in fact has a superpower, with her heightened sense of touch that most people must spend years training for. With her skills, "Kiana is my assistant." says Mrs. Conklin, and "She is equally the teacher of the club." Braille club is the newest addition to the club scene in Alfred Almond. The head of the club, Mrs. Conklin, is one of the nicest people I've meet.



The President of Braille Club

Mrs. Conklin on the job, working hard to aid several students in their education
Photo courtesy of Wesley Dennison



Global History Vol. 1

This collection of books is the translation of Kiana's history textbook - rather, it's only one half of the textbook.

Photo courtesy of Wesley Dennison

She aids a fellow student, 7th grader Kiana Yezarski, in her homework, tests, and studying by giving all her worksheets in braille. She also helps Kiana around the school. Prior to her work in Alfred Almond, Mrs. Conklin worked as a veterinarian, and in the U.S. air force. This lasted a number of years until a tragic car accident caused her to be unable to do her work. Out of a job, she found work at Alfred Almond and has been a teacher's aid here for a total of 20 years. Three years after she joined in 1998, she learned that a blind student would be coming to the school, and she had to take courses to be able to teach her effectively. Now she, along with Miss. Mormino, Mrs. Frew, an expert in the field with 17 years of experience teaching the visually impaired, assist Kiana in school.



Use these two keys to decode
the attached secret message!

THE BRAILLE ALPHABET

a b c d e f g h i j k l m

n o p q r s t u v w x y z

NUMBERS

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Literary Code

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Nemeth Code

ncoesc.org

	but	can	do	every	from	go	have		just
knowledge	like	more	not		people	quiet	rather	so	that
us	very	it	you	as	wil				
and	ar	by was	cc con	ch child	com	dd dis	ea	ed	en enough
er	ff to	for	gg were	gh	in	ing	of	ou out	ow
sh shall	st still	the	th this	wh which	with				

omniglot.com

The original code of what we now consider Braille was first conceptualized by Charles Barbier in the early 19th century by request of the French Emperor, Napoleon. Napoleon desired a way of communication which could be used without light and without sound. Barbier created "night writing." This used a cell with twelve dots to represent all of the sounds in the French language. Napoleon was dissatisfied with the system because it proved too difficult for the soldiers to learn and understand. Despite its rejection by the French military, Barbier introduced the night writing to the Royal Institution for Blind Youth, where it was received favorably. Soon after, a child named Louis Braille, from which the language gained its current name, was studying at the institution, and proposed two major changes to the system. The first was halving the number of dots in a cell from 12 to 6, to make three rows of two, and the second was changing the phonetic nature of the code to a correspondence with each letter of the alphabet. These changes made each cell easier to scan with one's finger, and easier to remember with fewer symbols. Since then, several languages have since been encoded in braille, including Japanese, English, Korean, and French.



Determined Dusinberre

By: Amya Snyder, Design Manager

Who is Mr. Dusinberre? Many might ask. As a student of Alfred Almond, this question lingered in my mind upon hearing of a new principal in the elementary. The PK-6 side of the central school has become less known to me since moving on to the high school. Where did he work before? Did he always want to become a principal? What's his vision for Alfred Almond? These questions were answered during my conversation with him one early morning, just after the second bell rang.

Brett Dusinberre started his journey with education at Alfred Almond. In 2001 he was a student teacher for Kristen Merry who taught second grade. She later went out on maternity leave, and Mr. Dusinberre took over for the remainder of the year. His job of being a principal began at Bolivar Richburg, and was the last place he worked before coming back to Alfred Almond. Learning these things led me to wonder if he always wanted to be a school principal. To that question he answered "No...My undergraduate degree is in sports medicine, but I also took my classes to be a teacher as well." After learning about all of the traveling it would involve to be an athletic trainer, he transitioned into elementary education.

Now that I knew a little bit



Happy Halloween

Brett Dusinberre getting ready to wear his Halloween themed suit to school.

Photo Courtesy of Casey Dusinberre



Festive Football

Mr. Dusinberre and his two daughters Gracen (left) and Ella (right) dressed in Buffalo Bills gear to support the team.

Photo Courtesy of Casey Dusinberre

of his backstory, I wanted to find out more things he does around here at school. After asking around the halls, I've heard several people talk about the festive suits he wears.

I realized I never saw this for myself and had no idea that this was well-known to the other students. To find out more, I decided to ask Mr. Dusinberre on my own. He went on to tell me about how he wears suits everyday, and since he didn't have a halloween costume, he thought it would "be neat" to celebrate it in this creative way. I quickly discovered that the suits don't stop there. On top of the Halloween suit he has a Christmas suit (which he plans on wearing again this year), a Buffalo Bills suit, a Marvel Comics suit, a Star Wars suit, and is looking into a possible Valentine's Day or Shamrock suit.



Many kids attend the same school where their parents work. I have always wondered what it was like seeing parents in their work environment compared to home. This caused me to think about what it would be like to have a parent as a principal. Since Alfred Almond is such a small school, people pointed me in the direction of seventh grader Gracen Dusinberre, who you can guess is Mr. Dusinberre's daughter. I asked her what it like to have him working here and she responded, "...he's in the elementary so it's really weird. When he comes into the lunch room, he sneaks up behind me and tries to scare me."

I went on to ask her if things in her life were different now, and she explained to me that things haven't really changed. The only thing that's different is simply that her dad now travels to school with her.

To wrap up the interview, I wanted to understand Mr. Dusinberre's vision for Alfred Almond. He says that we definitely do well for our region, but has a dream of our school competing with bigger schools. As for test scores, he thinks overall students are successful and seniors do well, but he'd like to see the elementary test scores improve a little. His plan is to "continue on the path we are on to get better." He thinks that A-A is a good school, but could be a really great school.

**"...continue on the path
we are on to get better."**



Five-Star Family

Standing in a group photo Mr. Dusinberre and his wife (Left) Casey, and three kids Gracen, Noah, and Ella.

Photo Courtesy of Casey Dusinberre



There's a New Teacher In Town

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Mr. James Brody Dineen was born January 21, 1989 in Canisteo. As a young man he frequently enjoyed hangout out with friends in the community. He attended Canisteo Greenwood Central School. After graduating high school, Mr. Dineen traveled to Pittsford, New York to attend Saint John Fisher College for his teaching degree.

WORK AND SCHOOLING

About a month after he graduated college he got a call from Mr. Calkins about a substitute position in room 257. He took the opportunity and went in, and he ended up staying in the position the rest of the year. While here Mr. Dineen coached modified baseball and basketball. Mr. Dineen then parted ways with Alfred Almond and took up a job at his alma mater Canisteo Greenwood.

While at Canisteo, Mr. Dineen got a call from Scio Central School, home of the Tigers, asking him to fill an opening. He also coached a lot of sports while away from Alfred Almond. He coached football in Hornell and basketball at Canisteo.

Mr. Dineen worked jobs besides just schools. Many of students at Alfred Almond have a job with Aces at Alfred State. He also worked there once a long time ago. He also helped plant and cut trees for the "Canisteo living sign," a massive thirty-nine thousand square foot sign made out of around two-hundred and sixty pine trees growing on the hillside.

By: Joe Miletta, Design Manager



Three Amigos
History Department all together
Photo courtesy of Joe Miletta



New Teacher on the Block
Mr. Dineen prepping for his classes.
He teaches 7th grade history and Global 1.
Photo courtesy of Joe Miletta

ADJUSTING

Mr. Dineen brought up the point that there is a learning curve everywhere you go, just like if you were a new student going to a new school. Luckily, Alfred Almond thinks of this and every new teacher gets a mentor in the department to help them with anything they need, such as school policy, fire and lock down drill procedure, and any tips for dealing with stress. Mr. Dineen's mentor is Mr. Turner. I asked Mr. Turner to answer a few questions about his mentee. He gave his first impression as an "intimidating physical presence." He also said that now that he has gotten to know Mr. Dineen he thinks "he is smart and super nice."

FUTURE PLANS

I asked Mr. Dineen what his vision for his future at Alfred Almond entailed. He responded saying that he expects to spend the majority of his career here and that all the other places he worked were leading up to come back to Alfred Almond saying that "the end goal was to work at AA." I then followed up with a simple "Why?" He instantly knew, saying that Mr. Calkins and the school board of Alfred Almond gave him his first shot and he feels like he has a debt to repay. Mr. Dineen also loved the atmosphere of Alfred Almond. He also says that everything has lived up to his expectations, stating that things have changed since his first stint here but the people are still just as welcoming as ever.



A Clear-cut View of Mr. Levey's Classes and What They Have to Offer

By Parsa Rashidi
Copy Editor

Mr. Levey started off our interview by introducing himself a little bit and giving his background story. He has worked at Alfred Almond Central School for the last nineteen years as a teacher in technology education and has dedicated his time and effort to giving students the best learning experience. When I asked him what inspired him to pursue technology education, he told me that he was always interested in manufacturing and technology, especially during high school which he claims was his favorite selection of classes to take. During his senior year of high school, his main goal was to work as a construction worker, but he also found interest in becoming a firefighter or teacher.

Over his entire time working as a teacher, Mr. Levey found that working with 7th graders and working



Photo courtesy of Parsa R.

with power tools as well as teaching the curriculum is most enjoyable for him. However, he also finds enjoyment in his other classes, for example his transportation and manufacturing classes. The projects they work on range from designing things on the laser engraver and 3D printer to flying drones and experimenting with CO2 car designs.

Mr. Levey also offers all students the chance to participate in the Robotics Club, hosted during Activity Mod. It revolves around the usual activities done in his Robotics class, such as working with robots and designing algorithms to efficiently move them on the ground. Students who usually find joy in this curriculum participate in the club just for more hands-on experience and to have fun. It overall helps students build problem solving skills while also regularly holding competitions to see who can create the better robot.

Activities Performed in Robotics Club

- Design robots that can travel on the floor
- Hold competitions to see who can build the most efficient robots

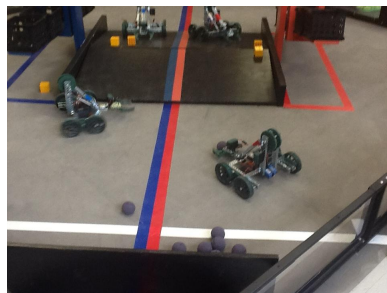


Photo courtesy of Mr. Levey



Photo courtesy of Mr. Levey



When selecting courses for every following year at Alfred-Almond, it may be necessary to take one of Mr. Levey's courses to graduate, but he encourages students to take his courses not only as a requirement but to help build real-life skills that are necessary for jobs. Being exposed to applications like 3D printers, drones, band saws, etc. can easily help students get more familiar. However, if you aren't interested in more physical labor/work, he offers courses like Technical Drawing, which are more based around making replica drawings of blueprints for different objects/applications. All exams/projects that receive a lower score or have minor errors, all have the chance of being corrected for more points. Mr. Levey seems to be one of the few teachers who provides this to his students, and even allows students who want a higher grade to complete extra credit.

Common Projects Done In the Woodshop

- Projects like wooden trucks and CO2 cars are done in the shop
- Variety of tools to select from and use, as well as machines

"Being exposed to these skills and technology in high school can be a potential career choice for students when they decide to go out into the real world with experience"

- Mr. Levey

Mr. Levey's favorite project throughout all years of teaching has been the CO2 car. This project challenges students to create the best design of their own cars that they think will travel fastest compared to other students. This is a competition held every year within the transportation and 7th grade class, and Mr. Levey finds it exciting to see people come up with different car models each year to beat their old ones. Mr. Levey himself competes in this competition to see who has the fastest car, and he usually wins among everyone else with the same car he has used for several years, only with some modifications.

A typical day in one of Mr. Levey's classes is twenty-five minutes of lecture, twenty-five minutes of work, and lastly ten minutes of cleaning up. However some days which are busier than others, or the class is behind on a project, lectures are shortened for the majority of class to be focused on working on a project. Mr. Levey's class also consists of three different rooms for different activities; the shop, the lecture room, and the drawing room. No matter a student's interest, they're sure to learn something important in one of Mr. Levey's many classes.



Build that snowman, build yourself

By Sarah Johnson
Editor in Chief



The luring smell of Christmas cookies, the inviting warmth of a fireplace, cozy socks, and hot cocoa... A list that makes you want to just cuddle up on the couch and watch Hallmark movies while your glistening Christmas tree creates a glow in the corner of your living room, right? I am going to just make the assumption now that if you are still reading, it is because you are wondering how in the world I just predicted your entire winter. No, I am not a fortune teller or a time traveler. In fact, I am a normal human being, just like you; hence the reason why I know what your winter will consist of. For just about everyone, the traps of the holiday season, like staying cozy, eating goodies, and basically hibernating until the sun and warmer weather make us feel obligated to go outside, are just about as easy to escape as Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas Is You" around Christmas time. However, I, and a few of my fellow A-A members, want to give you a bit of a boost in regards to staying motivated and in shape during a season that makes those tasks so difficult to accomplish, should you desire to do so.

Take On A Winter Sport

Specifically for our students, one way to stay in shape during the winter is joining a winter sport. Alfred-Almond offers a variety of winter sports, including basketball, wrestling, skiing, and swimming. Each sport provides a multitude of drills, plays, and events that result in improved physical fitness for each and every athlete. I spoke to a few of these athletes in order to get some behind the scenes practice details to learn how exactly they stay in such good shape during the winter.

Lindsey Allen (basketball player) : "We do lots of running, either in the form of sprints or in drills. The consistent practicing and games really help me stay in shape. I play basketball, so even if I do eat Christmas cookies and stuff, I can work it off during practice."



Grinding Alex Comer definitely isn't flexing as he makes his way into the weightroom for an intense wrestling practice.

Photo Courtesy of Sarah Johnson

Dylan Guthrie (basketball player) : "Other than drills in practice and playing games, I do nothing to stay in shape really... it's just God-given. Wish it wasn't as easy as it was, but it is." (Keep in mind that not all of us are this fortunate.)



Layups, Not Laid Up Lindsey Allen gets her version of a winter workout in by taking shot after shot in practice.

Photo Courtesy of Sarah Johnson

Alex Comer (wrestler) : "We do a lot of conditioning. We also lift a lot. You have to drink lots of water in order to last through a practice because there is a lot of drilling, which gets really intense."



Pos(t)ing Up Former player Austin Swackhamer and current baller Dylan Guthrie prepare for an intense game.

Photo Courtesy of Dylan Guthrie



Become Your Own Trainer

An alternative that is inclusive of just about anyone that reads this article and that is helpful for those who do not wish to participate in a winter sport is working out on your own. This can be done in a variety of ways. You can join a gym, go to the weight room or fitness center after school, or even create your own workout routines that can be done at home. Along with providing my own tips, I got in touch with a known champion of physical fitness that also chooses to not participate in a winter sport.



Keeping a Routine Sarah Johnson studies her workout routine from Coach Gemmell to stay in shape for the upcoming softball season. Photo Courtesy of Lindsey Allen

Sarah Johnson (non-winter athlete) : From my own perspective, I find that training and preparing for my upcoming softball season in the Spring really helps to keep me fit and motivated during the winter. I do my best to stick to my own workout routine or one that my coach creates for me, each one involving workouts that target my abs, legs, arms, and back muscle. I also like to incorporate cardio, which assists me in getting outside and breathing in air that isn't filled with the taunting scent of holiday treats.

Ethan Hann (non-winter athlete) : "The best way to stay in shape as a non-winter athlete is to find something that motivates you... there needs to be a goal in order to successfully stay in shape. Enjoy your holiday season, but don't let the holidays be an excuse to not get to the gym. The winter can be the hardest time to stay in shape. The world going crazy over the holidays, work, and the cold can all drain your motivation to exercise; however, by starting small and being consistent anyone can stay in shape."



Getting Down To It Ethan Hann takes his mark in the snow as he prepares for the Spring track season. Photo Courtesy of Sarah Johnson

Some extra tips from people that literally majored in educating us physically:

Mr. Cook (phys. ed. teacher, wrestling coach, boys' track coach) : "I think the hardest aspect of staying fit in the winter is the inability to get outside. I believe that people need to mix it up. Do some indoor and outdoor activities or buy some exercise dvd's. Don't get caught doing the same routine everyday. When we do the same activities every time we work out, they become monotonous and we begin to lose interest and then just stop. Having a workout partner that shares many of the same interests can also help."

Mrs. Soppe (phys. ed. teacher, girls' modified basketball coach, varsity softball assistant coach) : "Embrace the cold weather and use it to keep you active. Go hiking, snowshoeing, or cross-country skiing. That's what I used to do."

Now, would you look at that? That tempting image and seemingly inevitable future that I presented to you at the beginning of this article doesn't seem so inescapable anymore, does it? There is no need to fret over those cookies or cups of hot chocolate. Through sports, workouts, and different winter activities, you can stay healthy and in shape while still enjoying all the gifts that come with the holiday season!



If you're not skiing, you're wasting your time complaining about a cold season. Skiing in the winter allows you to embrace the cold weather, while having a fun time doing it. It is more enjoyable than most people think it would be. It consists of good times with friends, whether it's bombing down a hill as fast as you can go or long rides on the ski lifts back to the top of the hill. The winter season is full of things to do, but the best is definitely to go skiing. You are always improving yourself and setting records for yourself, while still creating bonds and memories with various people on the slopes.



The Actual Ski King Gabe Marcus expresses his excitement for the season through a thumbs up for the camera.

Photo Courtesy of Spenser Ormsby

I interviewed Gabe Marcus and asked him some questions about ski team and skiing in general. I asked him when he started skiing and what he thought of it. He shared with me that he has been skiing on ski team for four years. He learned to ski when he lived in North Carolina. Gabe explained that when he moved to Maine, "Everyone knew how to ski and in that town it was like the thing to do." This being the case, he was very happy he knew how to ski. Coming to Alfred-Almond, he had heard that there was a ski team, so he joined in 9th grade. Gabe loves being able to experience the open and cold weather delightfully and he enjoys having a fun time while it's cold out. He feels that ski team makes it feel more like a private retreat because of how informal it is compared to all the other sports. Gabe also gave his thoughts on Mr. Bialecki, the ski coach. He stated that he is "quite legitimate as a coach, he is very optimistic about our team." I, and many other ski team members, would have to agree. To the surprise of no one, the ski season looks promising when it comes to the competitiveness and the good times.

Ski season is for racing through poles down a hill as fast as you can go. If you are on a team, it can also include competing for a better time. The first run done by skiers is the placement round. The higher they place, the earlier they move onto the second round. This is extremely competitive. There are two different types of races. There is GS which is Giant Slalom. This just means that they go down headwalls with poles on them, their goal obviously being to get through the poles. A headwall is the top of the hill that is like a wall in the way. It goes straight up and down and leads into the normal slope. Slalom is a race where there is no headwall and they just have to go down the slope through the poles. It is a little bit faster than GS in time because it is shorter, but GS is faster in speed because they have to go down a giant hill and the regular course at that speed.

Out of the gates & through the poles

By Spenser Ormsby
Copy Editor



Gearing Up Pictured to the left are the main essentials for skiing.
Photo From sportsdirect.com

Whether you are skiing competitively or just for fun, by taking on this sport, you can make it possible to enjoy the winter season instead of staying inside and dreading the cold.

What You'll Need:

In order to be a racer and have a good time you must have sharpened skis, a slalom suit which is just a skin tight suit that makes the person wearing it more aerodynamic when going down the hill at high speeds. These items are more helpful than people would think because they cut a good amount of time off runs.



Blood, sweat, and tears

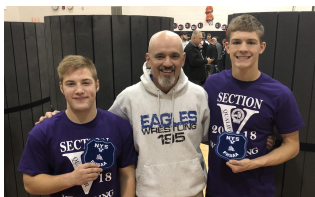
By Alex Comer
Copy Editor

Although it may be cold outside, the gym and weight room always keep wrestlers nice and warm.

This year's wrestling team is very young and missing a lot of weights. Coach Cook explained this by saying, "Our team is going to struggle as an overall team, we are beginning the season with five forfeits in the weight classes." Some of the team has not matured fully and are inexperienced with the varsity level, which will make it harder and put more pressure on the teammates coming up to varsity. Ethan Hann had said, "Because of all the missing weight classes it will put more pressure on the individual performances, which will boost the morale and hopefully lead the team to victory."

A typical practice with the team is usually pretty tough, there are about 30 minutes of straight drilling, which is high paced practicing moves. Coach then likes to incorporate new moves during a technique session, a slower paced session so they can really get the moves down and learn every part of the move. After the technique session, coach has us do live wrestling. Ethan explained this as "small matches with your teammates around your weight." After live wrestling, they sometimes do something called PTA (pain, torture, and agony).

PTA is when the wrestlers do extreme conditioning, and every other practice they use the last 30 or so minutes to go to the weight room and lift. Coach likes to use some of his past practice plans and incorporate them into the new practices. Coach Cook said, "I keep all my practice plans from years past, so I can look back at what we did in previous years. I kind of use it as a guide, I don't do it exactly the same, I like to incorporate different things."



Champions Coach Cook with 2017-2018 Class B sectional champions Evan Wood and Alex Comer.

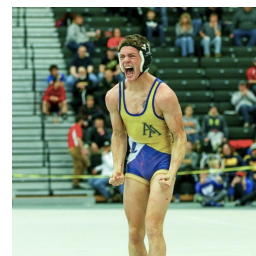
Photo Courtesy of Alex Comer

Preparing for a match can be very difficult, Coach Cook always looks back at past times that they faced that team and where they moved some wrestlers around. For the wrestlers preparing for the match, it physically starts in practices before the match; they need to practice hard and be on weight. If they have to cut weight, there are many ways to do it. Ethan commented on people having to cut weight, "The main thing about cutting weight is really just watching what you eat, it's mainly diet. People feel the need to consume more calories because they are burning more than they usually do during a practice."

Mentally preparing for a match comes right at the beginning of the season, they need to have goals and they need to learn how to work and earn those goals. They need to learn that they are the only one who can earn their goals, there are no teammates on the mat with them and they have to really earn it by themselves.

Coach used to choose his lineup by using wrestle-offs, but he started getting away from that. Now he chooses his lineup by choosing who is performing best on the mat and who he thinks can do the best against an opponent. He really watches during practice to see who is improving and who is working hard to help improve themselves and their teammates. In order to make it far you have to be prepared to give every last ounce of energy and power. Luckily last year, Evan Wood had made it to the state tournament by winning both the section V class B tournament, and the Section V tournament.

Wrestling is much more than sweaty bodies on a mat. It comes with ups and downs, wins and defeats, and a lot of blood, sweat, and tears.



Headed to States Evan Wood goes crazy after winning the Section V State Qualifier tournament in the 2017-2018 season.
Photo Courtesy of Evan Wood

SWIMMING IS AN INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM SPORT. I HAVE TO BE HONEST I DIDN'T KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT THIS SPORT UNTIL I INTERVIEW COACHES AND THEIR ATHLETES. AFTER THIS INTERVIEW I THEN DEVELOPED A NEW APPRECIATION FOR THIS SPORT.

Coach Flaitz Q & A

Q: How do you plan practices?

A: Well there are many different ways I plan practices. There are four strokes in swimming and many different events. I try to mix up practices to cover all these strokes as well as working on things such as turns, stroke techniques and breathing. There are different distances to try to train for also. Once the season starts we will work on things we were deficient in during our meets.

Q: What goes into a typical practice?

A: Usually our practices start with a stretch. After that we will warm up and then do a main set. The main set is usually the hardest physically. This will be followed by a recovery set. Usually this is kicking, pulling, or both. Then we do another set that is similar to the main set but usually shorter, followed by a warm down.

Q: How do you think the team will be this year?

A: I think our team has a lot of potential this year. Swimming is interesting because I can write the hardest practice on the board to do but if the Swimmers don't push themselves to go past their comfort zone, they won't make the advances that they need to. We are off to a great start this season though. I have been very pleased with the teams willingness to learn and work hard.

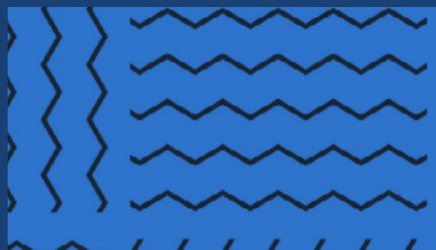
Q: What do you do to prepare for a meet?

A: Preparing for a regular season meet depends a lot on the situation and the team we are swimming. Usually you know how competitive the team and swimmers individually will be against our opponent. Sometimes you have to set up your strongest lineup to try to win a meet. Other times you try to have people try new events and some different things to see what they may be good at. Sometimes when people try a new event they can really surprise themselves and be really good at something that they may not have thought they were.



INSIDE THE POOL

BY DAVON B.



JESSICA DWYER IS FORMER AACS RECORD HOLDER AND CURRENTLY COACHES THE AACS MODIFIED SWIM TEAM AND ASSISTS WITH THE VARSITY TEAM. SHE TEACHES KINDERGARTEN HERE AT AACS. SHE ONCE HELD A RECORD IN THE 100M BUTTERFLY WITH 1:04. HER RECORD WAS BROKEN BY LAUREN BONFE. WHEN ASKED HOW SHE PREPARES FOR PRACTICE SHE STATED THAT SHE PLANS THROUGHOUT THE DAY, BUT HAS TO BE FLEXIBLE THAT THINGS COULD CHANGE. A TYPICAL PRACTICE FOR THE MODIFIED SWIMMERS INCLUDES: WARM-UPS, MAIN SET (20X25 SPRINTS ON :30), KICK SET, PULL SET, SWIM SET AND WARM DOWN. THIS IS ABOUT 2500 YARDS IN AN HOUR AND A HALF. SOMETIMES THEY PLAY GAMES LIKE MARCO POLO, WATER POLO, OR SHARKS AND MINNOWS. MRS. DWYER THINKS THEY WILL HAVE AN EXCELLENT TEAM THIS YEAR.

Swimmers

Questions:

1. How are you guys feeling about this year/how do you guys think you'll do this year?
2. What do you guys do to prepare for a meet?
3. What's your favorite part about swimming?
4. Do you work on swimming outside of the season? If so, what do you do?
5. What made you want to be a part of AA's swim team?
6. Why do you like swimming at AA?

Logan Dwyer's Responses

1. I feel this year will be very good because we have a lot of talent and a lot of potential.
2. The night before I will go to bed earlier and right before a meet I like to listen to music to help me focus.
3. My favorite part about swimming is getting in really great shape.
4. I do, over the summer I swim on a club team called KVAC at Alfred-State and I also do a preseason at Alfred-state in October.
5. My mom had done it when she was in school so I also wanted to.
6. Everyone on the team are great people and it is always fun

Alyson Campbell's Responses

1. I feel pretty good about this year, I think with all of our improvement and positive vibes, we'll do the best we can as a team.
2. Warm up, think of a song to get stuck in my head that will keep me at a good pace while swimming, and eat a sandwich (I love sandwiches)
3. The meets and team bonding. I love not having to swim the whole time at meets, that way I can catch my breath and cheer on my team. Our team bonding (Chinese dinner) is the best!
4. Do you work on swimming outside of the season? If so, what do you do?
Outside of the season, I go to AU and swim. I also work on weight lifting to help build my arm muscles up for the next season.
5. I always loved swimming, being on a team just sounded really fun. Plus, swimming was the first school sport I ever did.
6. I like swimming at AA because we have a good coach, we have great jokes, we always have fun, we work hard, and we are just a small bunch of great people. I couldn't think of a better team to be on for high school swimming.

Anna Curtin's Responses

1. I think this is going to be great because everyone is working so hard and everyone is improving a lot.
2. We usually do a warmup before a meet and try to focus on making a best time.
3. The best part about swimming for me is being on the team with everyone
4. Some of us do a swimming program called KVAC that has a pre-season in October and another season in April through July. It is basically the same thing as the regular swim season, we just have practice almost every day and swim at meets.
5. Swimming has been my favorite sport for about ten years and I have been doing it ever since. Since I go to AA school, I thought it would be a great thing to do the swim team as well, since it is my sport.
6. I love being on the team and I think it is a great way to stay in shape and our team is like a second team to me. Being on the AA swim team is an awesome way to stay in shape and make awesome friends.



Dub Season: An insider's perspective

By: Dylan Guthrie
Design Editor

The new basketball season started on November 5th. With originally 13 people signed up to play, the season was looking promising. After showing up on the first day of practice, however, there were only 5 people there. This was a big problem because this would not be enough for a team. After doing some recruiting, we obtained Logan Whittall and Zach Patterson. Both of these boys had never played Basketball so I applaud them for joining and helping the team. After the first couple practices, it was rough because there were kids that haven't played. It was expected that there would be struggles, but it is exciting to see that everyone is improving everyday. The new season is looking very good as of right now. There is a lot of heart and passion and people who will work extremely hard to win games. We have the skill and size to back that up. We have already started to bond and become united. It is intriguing to watch as everything falls into place. After the game on November 30 you can tell this team was on a mission. The team was hustling against the opponent Andover, and ended up pulling out the victory 53-51.

The past basketball teams have lacked the skill of the team we have now. There has been a decent player or two, but never really a whole team, which I believe this year there is a complete team. This year we will try to change this mindset that people have about Alfred-Almond Basketball. There are always tough teams that will be played and in my opinion there can be many of those tough games counting as wins. Another exciting thing that is happening differently this year is the uniforms. There will be different jerseys that are already on their way.

Practice, practice is what is so important when it comes to being the best team we can be. With the roster consisting of Kyle Margeson, Davon Bloom, Isaac Little, Zach Patterson, Logan Whittall, Arnold Saint-Phard, and Dylan Guthrie it is crucial to getting better and bonding together. As with most things there is frustration, but we get through the frustration together. With there being new players on the team everyone needs to be patient and work together to be the best version of us that we can be.



Dylan Guthrie and Davon Bloom
look to the camera after a
dramatic win

Photo courtesy of Celeste
Badeau



I am hoping that this season can inspire some kids from this school to start playing basketball. I am hoping that these kids will see a game and it will show them how fun the sport is. This season will set up a bunch of good seasons for basketball at Alfred Almond and hopefully change the opinion about the sport here.



Interview with the players

1. How are you guys feeling about this year/how do you think you guys will do this year?
 - **"I am feeling good about this year. To be honest I was nervous about how our first game would go, but I was pleasantly surprised, and proud of our team that we got the dub. If we continue to play like that, then we will give teams a run for their money". - Isaac**
 - **"I think that this year will be great! I have a feeling about being a very good team" - Zach**
2. What do you guys prepare to do for a game?
 - **"We go into the locker room at halftime, and listen to music to get hyped for our game. I personally stretch, and prepare myself mentally for the game, and try to keep my brothers (teammates) positive". -Isaac**
 - **"To prepare for a game I start by bumping the playlist and getting in the right mindset" -Zach**
3. Do you work on (sport) outside of the season? If so, what do you do?
 - **"Of course!! During the season and offseason I work on my free throw shooting constantly because those are free points that can win or lose a game". -Isaac**
 - **"I work on my handles by using a tennis ball" -Zach**
 -
4. Expectations?
 - **"My expectations are to stay united as a team, build lasting relationships, and ultimately to win". -Isaac**
 - **"To win the league and go to sectionals" -Zach**
5. Anything else...
 - **"We hit those" -Zach**



The Alfred Almond basketball team
gets a team picture after the first of
many dubs in dub season
Photo courtesy of Celeste Badeau



High Hopes

By Lindsey Allen
Staff Writer

Many people have high hopes for the girls' basketball teams this 2018 season. Trying to get the inside scoop, I asked the girls' basketball coaches and a few of the players some questions about their teams and about the sport in general.

VARSITY

I talked to the girls' varsity coach, also known as fourth grade teacher Mr. Weller, how he plans a typical practice. He responded with, "In the beginning of the season we focus on basic skills/drills. Shooting form, passing, dribbling, layups, man and zone defense. We then put more focus on plays and scrimmaging. I look at our strengths and weaknesses and that dictates our practices." I then asked him how he thought his team would be this year, and he told me, "I have high hopes for this team. If they continue to work hard and focus on what needs to get done, we should be successful. I don't want our opponents to look forward to playing us. I expect us to compete with every team we play and I expect us to be tough."

Coach Weller believes his team will work hard this year, and so does junior basketball star Luci Lee. This is Luci's second year on the varsity basketball team, and when I asked her how she felt about her team this season



Swish JV girls' basketball player Andrea McMahon reps the number 14 jersey as she sinks her two foul shots.
Photo Courtesy of Lindsey Allen

she replied with, "I think that we have better leadership than last year, that will help us in the long run, and that will help us work together as a team on the court." Luci has a special ritual she does before each game, unlike most other basketball players; she eats frozen waffles. She says they are her "lucky food." Other than eating her Eggos to prepare for a big game, Luci said she also enjoys "getting hyped up with my team in the locker room. I sing, I dance, you know, the usual."

**"I HAVE
HIGH
HOPES
FOR THIS
TEAM."**

I then asked Luci what her favorite part about basketball was, and her response was not because she's so good at it, but because she loves her team. "My favorite part about basketball is being with my team, like for real, it's a good vibe." Mr. Weller and Luci both believe in this team, and I would assume the rest of the team feels the same.

JV

After asking Coach Weller questions about his team, I asked another known elementary teacher, Mrs. Chamberlain, about her junior varsity girls' basketball team. I asked her how she thought her team would be in this 2018 season, and she told me, "Losing Zoe and Avery will hurt, but I think the freshmen will help us out. So only time will tell, but I think okay. I believe that we will have good defense and hopefully we will have some shooters, so offense will be good too." Like Mr. Weller, Mrs. Chamberlain also has high hopes for her basketball team this year. I then asked her what she does to prepare for a game, and her response was, "I think of how the team played us last year and try to prepare the team for that. I try to get the team working on what we are weak on - shooting for one. I do feel we will have a strong defense." After hearing what



Coach Chamberlain had to say, I thought I would interview a player on her team. I asked sophomore Andrea McMahon a few questions about her basketball team. When I asked her how she thought her team would be this year, she replied with, "I think that we have a strong team, we need to work on our shooting and plays but I think that we are defensively sound." Andrea gave an interesting answer when I asked her what she does to prepare for a game. She said, "I usually have a certain routine, I always put my hair up with a special hair tie and my game headband. I always wear my lucky socks, you can never be too prepared." Most basketball players enjoy shooting, dribbling, and making baskets, but Andrea enjoys the defense aspect of basketball. However, she says, "I don't like the 5 fouls rule, it is very restrictive, in my opinion." The JV girls' basketball team is looking forward to a successful 2018 season.

MODIFIED

The modified girls' basketball team contains the newest members of the high school, and is coached by a fairly new member of the staff as well. I asked gym teacher and modified coach Mrs. Soppe, previously known as Ms. Curtis, a few questions about her team. I asked her first how she thought her basketball team would be this

*"... it's a
good vibe."*



*Ballers Senior Olivia Ormsby (left) and junior Luci Lee (right) pose for a shot before a big home opening win against the Bolivar Richburg Wolverines.
Photo Courtesy of Lindsey Allen*

*"... you can
never be too
prepared."*



season, and she said, "I have some returning girls that have improved so that will help us, I anticipate giving the teams we play a competitive game." When I asked her how she prepares for a game, she replied with, "We will work on and talk about stuff from the previous game, we walk and run through plays, we have a game plan." I asked her one tough question that I wonder, and that many others may wonder: how do you choose your lineup? She gave me a fair and honest answer when she said, "I choose based on work ethic in practice, the level of improvement I see, and which five work well together." After interviewing the coach, I asked a player, Isabel Badeau, a few questions about her team as well. I asked Isabel how she thought her team would be this year, and she said, "I think we will be good and try our hardest to win." I also asked Isabel what her favorite part about basketball was, and she told me, "Working as a team and getting the experience to play." A good answer that I assume most basketball players would have to agree with. The modified girls basketball team hopes to work hard and have a victorious year.

After speaking to the coaches and a few of the players on the girls' basketball teams, I can assure you that there will be hard work and high hopes for this season.



WICKED WINTER WEATHER

By: Olivia Ormsby
Staff Writer

AS WE FACE THE WRATH OF THE TYPICAL WINTER WEATHER IN NEW YORK, THERE ARE A FEW MAIN TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND, SPECIFICALLY INVOLVING DRIVING IN THE SNOW, WHAT TO KEEP IN YOUR CAR IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT CANCELLATIONS. SLUSHY ROADS, FREEZING TEMPERATURES, AND NEW TEEN DRIVERS MAKE FOR AN INTERESTING SITUATION.

DRIVING TIPS

"SLOW DOWN, DOUBLE COMMUTE TIME, DON'T CROWD THE PLOW, BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS IN SLUSH."
-MR. LEVEY

"DECREASE SPEED, AVOID DRIVING WHEN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS ARE DECLARED BY OUR COUNTY, AND AVOID PASSING OTHER CARS."
-MR. BRADY

"DURING A SKID MAKE SURE YOU STEER IN THE PATH YOU WANT TO GO AND KEEP BOTH HANDS ON THE WHEEL."
-MR. LEVEY

MR. LEVEY IS THE DRIVER'S EDUCATION TEACHER AT WAYLAND-COHOCTON AND HAS BEEN TEACHING DRIVER'S ED FOR 10 YEARS. MR. BRADY IS THE DRIVER'S EDUCATION TEACHER AT ALFRED-ALMOND AND HAS BEEN TEACHING FOR 20 YEARS.

WHAT TO KEEP IN YOUR CAR

FLASHLIGHT KEEP CELL PHONE AWAY FROM DRIVER'S SEAT

SNOW BRUSH

JUMPER CABLES

FIRST AID KIT

TRACTION MATERIAL
(KITTY LITTER, SAND, ETC.)

FLARES

BLANKETS/WINTER COAT

WHERE TO LOOK FOR CANCELLATIONS AND DELAYS

Digital sign in the front school lawn

"12 different radio and tv. Stations including WLEA, WKBQ, etc."

-Mr. Calkins

[Alfred Almond Facebook Page](#)



SNOW DAYS AND DELAYS?

During the winter season, school officials constantly keep an eye on the weather forecast. But what are the ultimate factors when deciding whether to delay school or cancel it because of the weather? I sat down with Superintendent Mr. Calkins to discuss some important considerations.

DECIDING FACTORS

"Safety of our students, staff and personnel is the main factor when determining snow days. We also take the community into consideration.

We want to save parents of young children the stress of finding a place for their kids to go if a snow day is issued and they can't stay home because they have to go to work."

AMOUNT OF SNOW DAYS ALLOWED

"We have to have 180 days of instruction or else we have to take some time from spring break or other breaks. In my 20 years this has only happened once. Often times a delay is only necessary because the road personnel only need a couple hours to get the roads under good enough condition to drive on compared to a whole day."

SPREADING THE WORD

"There's an automated system where you enter passwords and can record messages to specific groups of people such as just to staff or just to the elementary or senior high."

CHECKING THE FORECAST

"We always keep an eye on the forecast especially when there's a significant amount of snow expected. We normally don't call snow days until morning because weather changes so fast. Also, Mr. Burdick, the leader of the bus garage is out on the roads to see if it is safe for buses to be traveling on dirt roads. On these occasions my day normally begins at 4:30 with constant contact with other superintendents and highway watch officials."

HERE ARE SOME WINTER WEATHER FUN FACTS!

Snowflakes aren't actually white they're translucent meaning they reflect some light to appear white.

The lowest natural temperature ever directly recorded was -128.6°F at the Soviet Vostok Station in Antarctica

The first day of Winter in 2018 is Friday December 21 (winter solstice).



The Actual Daytrip King

By Gabe Marcus
Copy Editor

Everyone knows Black Friday is a legitimate day to celebrate in the consumer obsessed United States. Many people take trips to heavily crowded supermarkets, malls and shopping centers. I actually took a trip to the shopping center this most recent Black Friday to spend money that my parents gave me. I knew that it would be stereotypically hectic at the Elmira Arnot mall, it was actually quite pleasant to visit. I got a few surprises every now and then. Transporting myself to the mall by bus and walking around Best Buy, Target, the mall and the grocery store got me leaving home at 7:25 am and returning at 10:15 pm. This is my recollection of the day.

The proposal to my idea was very carefully scheduled, as transportation, finance and safety were among the most important factors when I asked my parents for money to do this trip. My parents did allow me \$200 to spend at the mall, which was very generous of them. Walking around Walmart on Thanksgiving Night was entertainingly



National
Consumerism
*This is the
retail mall
in which I
was
walking
around on
Black
Friday*

Photo from
wsj.com

hectic and unorthodox. My parents were extremely giving, bought me a computer because it was a fun night. I used that computer to make a very detailed list of notes including: the schedule, finances and times for events. I slightly deviated from my plan to allow more time for food, which was necessary because I enjoyed my food at a fantastic eatery.

At 7:15, my mom drove me to Alfred so I could meet a Coach USA bus that travelling from Olean to Binghamton, and ultimately onto New York City. Paying out of pocket, I was forced to pay for my trip to Elmira at the Hornell Station. The told me to not lose my ticket, which I did not lose in the entire journey of the trip. I arrived at Elmira at 9:45 and surprisingly enjoyed

a local Thanksgiving Parade. Then, I payed and boarded a city bus into the mall, with a great diversity of people and cultures. I entered the mall for an hour and looked around. Not many stores appealed to me because either the products couldnt fit in my backpack or they were simply not to my fancy. Then a familiar face appeared and stopped me at the mall. One of my great friends approached me and said Hi. I definitely wanted that to prove why Black Friday was so popular. In the mall, I only purchased a nice Dakota watch for \$25 and a sandwich from Burger King at the food court. I boarded a bus for tops, and for some reason, I only bought Smartfood and orange San Pellegrino. It would fit in my backpack and was simply the right choice. I



The Actual Daytrip King, continued.

then walked across the shopping center looking for Barnes and Noble and could not locate the store.

Using my moms tablet, I was able to keep in contact with my parents in case of emergency. While I could not find the store, I was hungry. I noticed a Target, Best Buy, Five Guys and Panera Bread. At the Panera, I ordered a delicious bacon macaroni and cheese meal with baguette and a cookie with the drink of organic lemonade for about \$10. While the service was good, so many people were dining there that the server set me up a makeshift table in the establishment. After eating, I traversed next door to Best Buy where I spent \$29.99 plus tax on a tablet, \$20 on headphones and \$10 on a mouse, unfortunately the latter I lost on the way home. There was a Target, which many people would consider very hot for Black Friday in which I purchased a \$25 eBay gift card in which I will use at some point in time. I spent about \$170 of my \$200 for transportation, items and food.

Going back home is where the story gets interesting. I was supposed to take the coach bus home to Alfred at 3:25 and return at 5:10. I boarded the city bus back into the city at 2:30. I had some time to wait, so I found this event center called the Clemens Center. After a 20 minute delay, a Coach USA bus pulled in, didn't open the door and had a sign denoting that it was heading to Binghamton, about an hour east of Elmira. The truly unfortunate truth is it was actually heading west, which was false

advertising. The bus monitor promised an announcement, but the bus pulled in while she was cleaning the mens restroom. The lady made some phone calls and made a statement that it was not my fault and I would have to wait until 7:45. Then approximately an hour later, waiting in the terminal with my items, the lady told me to follow her and board a bus east to Binghamton then turn around at Binghamton and head home so I could have a comfortable seat instead of a bare bench chair. I accepted and went East. Again, I was kind of confused as I didn't want to end up 120 miles away from Almond. About 45 minutes later watching TV in the terminal, noticing a headline of two individuals stabbed at a mall in Syracuse, my route was called, going west toward Olean. I hopped on and fell asleep. I woke up in Elmira, fell asleep again, and woke up again. Getting off the exit and going through Almond, I noticed my moms car in the driveway, so when I got to Alfred, I wanted to wait somewhere while I emailed her. The Terra Cotta, which closed at 10:00 was just minutes away from closing, my mom's tablet, which I gave back to her was on 1%. I then went on the top deck at 10:00 at night, setup my new tablet which was difficult because it was very snowy out and about 10 degrees out. Luckily, my mom picked me up in Alfred and transported me back to my house, so I entered my house at 10:15. I was so glad I had the freedom and opportunity to venture like this by myself. It was a fantastic trip.



End of a Year, Start of a Feeling

By: Arnold Saint-Phard

Start of a wonderful season

The end of Halloween is the start of a thankful season, and through that thankful season, awaiting on the other side of the carriage of holidays, Christmas is ready to tickle our fancy. That season is Thanksgiving. Not a lot of people see Thanksgiving as a transition into the next holiday, but believe it or not, the sequence of Halloween to Thanksgiving to Christmas is a great combination. Halloween marks the end of a materialistic period in the year, and yet it marks the beginning to a season of both giving thanks and gifts. Thankfulness is the first half that prepares us for the season giving.



Obama Cares

Former president Barack Obama celebrating the holidays by giving back.

Photo courtesy of obamawhitehouse.archives.gov

Second half - Opening of Hearts

Christmas is the the second half of the end of the year, and final transition. It marks a season of giving, a mass of generosity where people buy gifts in order to bring joy to others. It is a great way to end the year with feeling joyful and to start anew with high hopes. During this cold and depressed time of the year, people become generous; giving gifts, helping those in need, and spreading joy. Thus the second half has begun already, so try to make it your goal to spread some joy and kindness. During this time, some people aren't as fortunate as some of us to enjoy Christmas to its fullest extent. Try bringing the Christmas spirit to them, sing some carols, bring them in the house, and maybe even make them part of the family.



'Tis the season

Great holidays with purposeful weather makes a great combo.

Photo courtesy of pixabay.com

First half - Thankfulness

Who do you invite to the thanksgiving table? Friends, family, lovers, pets, just people in general. Inviting or bringing all those people together, to be thankful brings togetherness. I spoke to a few teachers and students of Alfred-Almond to give me some good insight on their thoughts of Thanksgiving and its transition. Mr. Brady, a wonderful English teacher, said "Food, family, and football, the three F's of Thanksgiving" is what makes his thanksgiving. I even asked about how the transition was from being thankful to being generous. He said it was the perfect transition from the season of thankfulness to the season of giving.



Joyful generosity

At the end of the year especially around Christmas time, people tend to be more nice and giving

Photo courtesy of sabastianandmillicent.com



What are you thankful for?

Nora Looney

I am thankful for being alive,
education, family, friends,
community, food, music, and
everything.



Mae Backer

I am thankful for Renee, the
opportunities to do everything
I can do, and life.



Amy Powers

I am thankful for living in
a place where people care
for each other.

Matt McAneney
Health and family!

Isaac Little

Arnold, I am thankful for
you.



Kaitlyn Hatch

I am thankful for my friends,
my bff Miss Sick, my
boyfriend, my dogs, my job, my
students, and her majesty
Queen Elizabeth.



Mark Hall

My family and the good
fortune that brought me to
teach in this school district
for many, many years.



Annie Lloyd

I am thankful for puppies.



Holidays 3.0

Here are three holidays that are celebrated globally that you might not know about.....

Celebrated
from
December 26
to January 1

Traditional
Food:
Okra
Grits
Jollof rice
Collard Greens

This is an African
American and
pan African
celebration. This
is a time for
people to
celebrate their
African heritage.

The main colors
that represent
Kwanzaa are
red, green and
black.

Kwanzaa

The seven principles*

1. Unity
2. Self-determination
3. Collective Work and Responsibility
4. Collective Economics
5. Purpose
6. Creativity
7. Faith

*These are the seven basic principles of African culture. This is a time of year to remember the core values of African culture.

This a Kinara, each candle represents one of the seven principles and one candle is lit each day for the seven days of Kwanzaa.

Red= Is for their
struggles in the
past
Green= Hope and
prosperity for
the future
Black=
Represents the
people



Information from officialkwanzaawebsite.org and
holidaykwanzaarecipes



CELEBRATION LASTS FOR
8 DAYS AND NIGHTS. IT
CAN FALL ANYWHERE
BETWEEN NOVEMBER
AND DECEMBER.

DURING THIS
HOLIDAY PEOPLE
WILL SPEND TIME
WITH FAMILY AND
FRIENDS. GIFTS ARE
EXCHANGED
DURING THIS TIME.

Hanukkah is
celebrated by
Jewish
people all
over the
world.

Hanukkah

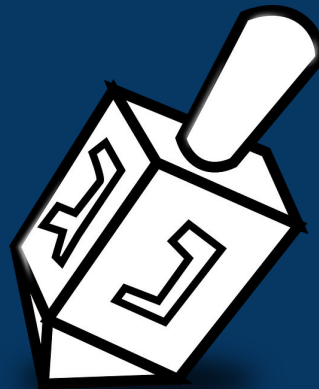


*This is a
menorah.
It is tradition to light a
candle everyday.*

TRADITIONAL FOOD

- **Potato Latkes**
- **Doughnuts**
- **Brisket**
- **Matzah Balls**

THIS IS A PICTURE OF A DREIDEL, IT HAS FOUR SIDES AND PEOPLE PLAY WITH THEM DURING HANUKKAH. THE 4 SIDE HAVE A DIFFERENT HEBREW LETTER THAT CONTRIBUTES TO THE GAME.



**This year
Hanukkah is
from
December
2-10**

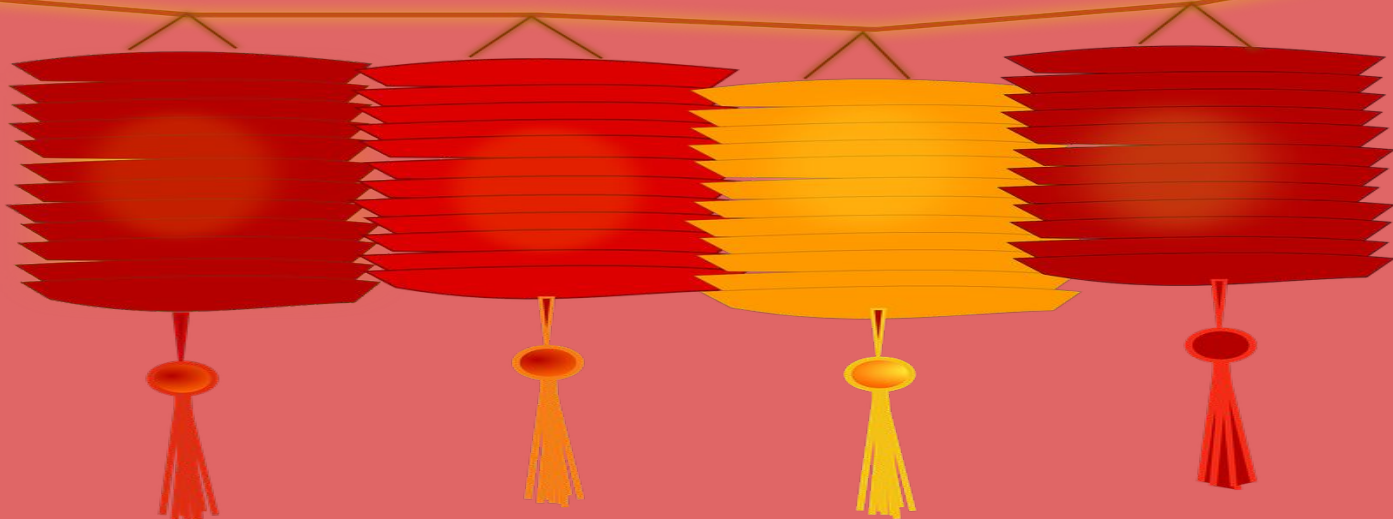


Chinese New Year is celebrated anywhere from January 21 to February 20. The celebration last for 15 days. Each year is celebrated by one of twelve animals. 2019 is the year of the pig. Lucky things to give other people are money and packages wrapped in red. Another thing to do for good fortune in the New Year is to eat catfish on New Year's Eve.



Chinese New Year is a time to spend with family and friends. This holiday is very important in Chinese culture. Most of China is on a seven day holiday. This is a public holiday in China. China is not the only country that celebrates Chinese New Year, other Eastern countries do as well. There are parades out in the streets. Firecrackers and fireworks are set off in celebration.

CHINESE NEW YEAR



Traditional Food:
Fish-(increases prosperity)
Shrimp
Dumplings -(to help bring great wealth)
Chow Mein
Eggrolls

Red is the main color for decorating, to represent good luck.

On the last day of the festivities there is a lantern ceremony.



THE WARMTH AMIDST THE COLD

*A Reflection By: Gabe Empson
Editor In Chief*

What is the Christmas season? To me, it is a warm and peaceful time. The crackle of the fireplace, the slow and steady fall of the snow, and the cool crisp winter air. Christmas is not just a day, but something built around the day. I remember when I was little in Kentucky, the snow would trickle down as the school principal sent out the call saying school was canceled. After waking up the second time, making a seasonal cup of coffee, and putting in my favorite Christmas movie, I was in true bliss. It wasn't the coffee, nor was it the lack of school, not the movie, the snow, not even the tree that made me happy, but it was the combination of all things big and small. Christmas is important to me, and I was curious to find out what it meant to other people.



When I go to malls around this season, I always get a glimpse of the bustling friends and family out to give to one another. "Oh, they're going to love this!" People would say as they find the perfect gift for their loved one. It's a time of the year where people are out to give. Money is worked for, then used only to buy something you don't plan to own, all for the sake of giving. When I drive around the neighborhoods, I often see houses decorated in a variety of ways. Some have nothing at all while others are decked out sparing no expense. It seems a time of happiness, and people express it and obtain it in a variety of ways. With that being said, there are those who are not happy in the cold, crisp season. Some have everything and curse the world, while others can have nothing yet still be happy about everything. To find out more about the emotion of the holiday, I asked a few of my peers to paint their perfect Christmas. After several short interviews, I noticed a common theme most brought up when asked about what makes Christmas happy. "The Christmas vibe". Perhaps a social crowd behavior of general happiness being passed like a contagion, or perhaps something more spirited is behind it all, like a childlike wonder that was never killed off. When asked what their favorite part about Christmas was, I received a spectrum of answers.



No two people were the same. One student exclaimed that seeing family they never get the chance to otherwise is very important to them, while another expressed their love for the decor, describing it as if they were a “kid in a candy shop with endless aisles.” If I were to give you my personal favorite, I would tell you that it’s the seasonal coffee that brings me a special feeling, but all aspects of Christmas make my eyes sparkle more than the 4th of July. After putting my responses together, I was surprised to see that not a single person I had asked chose the gifts as their favorite part of Christmas. The gifts I’m sure are greatly appreciated, but they did not seem to come to mind when discussing the best parts about Christmas. Perhaps it had to do with the age group I interviewed being less materialistic, but it brought me peace of mind that without Santa’s yearly visit, Christmas would still stand strong.

After my investigation, it seems that Christmas really is what you make it be. You have an opportunity to reflect and be thankful for the smallest of things. People love themselves and the things around them, Christmas is the time where that comes out. Dreams of amazing and wonderful worlds come to life. And the lights create a twinkle in our eyes that go a little deeper than a reflection. Life is amazing, and Christmas is just a time to celebrate it. Have a very merry Christmas, everyone!





Nora and Conner: Scholars, Athletes, Friends, Upstanding Citizens, and Now...Film Critics??

Dearest Reader,

Hello. Welcome. Our names are Nora and Conner. We are more than delighted to introduce you to our tastes and opinions, and give you a glimpse into the depths of our imaginations through the art of movie reviews. The two of us are tremendous movie lovers. While our preferred film genres differ, the love for cinema that stirs in our hearts is equivalent. Since December is upon us, we are starting off our column, with a Christmas themed review.

One cold evening after school in mid November, Conner and I headed over to the Spotlight Theater in Hornell to view this highly anticipated film. We brought along our friends, Nathan and Hanna, in order to get some outside perspectives. We walked into the theatre with no expectations. We had both seen the previous two "Grinch" films, and were curious to see how the most recent one would differentiate itself from the others. Let me just say, it did exceed any expectation we could have had.

As the credits rolled, we were in awe of how enjoyable the movie was. If I could describe The Grinch (2018) in a few words, they would be fun and feel good. Our post-movie conversation and reflection in the car were



This month's review:
The Grinch
2018

"I'd give that
thing an Oscar."
-Hanna Tormey

"It's a well
adapted
version that
lives up to the
original."
-Nathan Grove

ways in which the Grinch character from this film was unique from the past two. He seemed much less cynical and much more likeable than what the Grinch is typically known to be. Key moments that truly defined the new Grinch were actual insights into his life as an orphan and how that impacted his view on Christmas. These flashbacks into his childhood allowed the audience member to understand the Grinch on a deeper level and develop feelings of empathy. This empathetic nature that plays a role in the latest film is not as apparent in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" from 2000, and 1966.



Another trait that is noteworthy from the newest grinch movie is the music that is featured. The soundtrack is fun, modern, and filled with catchy bops that are sure to make you smile. Tyler, The Creator, Brockhampton, and Pentatonix are some of the artists that contribute to the musical components of the film. We appreciate the present-day twist that was implemented into the classic story that we all are familiar with. These modern aspects kept the movie fresh, and prevented a dull, overtold storyline.

The live-action rendition of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* was once thought to be a tremendous adaption of the original, bringing in modern notes and actors like Jim Carrey. As this movie aged, like all do, it really started to decay. When I watched this movie last year all I could think about was how horrific the characters in the movie really are. The “Whos” taken out of an animated context are strange and almost merit a feature in a horror film, not a children's movie. If it wasn't for Jim Carrey's performance and excellent acting, this movie surely would have tanked and wouldn't be regarded in such a high prestige as it is. The new Grinch takes the excellent performance by Benedict Cumberbatch and expounds upon it with fantastic actors like Rashida Jones and Kenan Thompson, bringing new characters to the forefront of the movie. These new characters bring more to the original story than Jim Carrey or Benedict Cumberbatch could ever do alone. With more to the story than just the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who, it gives new meaning to the story that was lost in Jim Carrey's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

Dr. Seuss' original *How the Grinch stole Christmas* will forever be a classic. For the time it was created, it featured tremendous animation and Boris Karloff, a prominent actor in the horror industry at the time. His voice brought out how cruel the Grinch really was in the eyes of Dr. Seuss. This really brought out how much of an impact Cindy had on Grinch that Christmas Eve. It is also the perfect length for a good story, and doesn't require the commitment that the modern Grinches take.



Photo from play.google.com



Photo from nps.gov

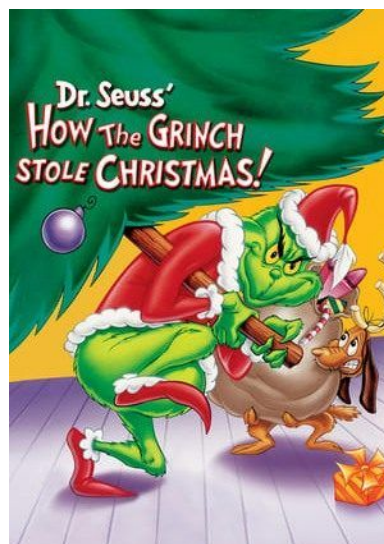


Photo from play.google.com





Fresh Movies to Watch in December

Five family-friendly movies that I recommend you watch over two weeks of break.

By Abigail Tarun
Design Manager

No. 1 *Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse*



Starring:

**Shameik Moore, Mahershala Ali,
Jake Johnson, Liev Schreiber**

Rating: **PG**

Release Date:

Tuesday, December 18

Brooklyn teen Miles Morales (Shameik Moore) learns to become the next web-slinging hero as he encounters an older Peter Parker (Jake Johnson) from another universe. Under Parker's guidance, Miles becomes a member of the Spiderverse to team up with its unlikely heroes from their own universe

in order to protect New York City from getting overtaken by its mobs of supervillains.

As a fan of the superhero genre, I cannot tell you how excited I am to see an animated Spiderman film. The trailer blew me away with its comic book-like visuals, fast-paced storytelling, and amusing jokes between the characters. I love how every portrayal of each Spider-man has their own fun personality and own superpowers that isn't just the typical web-slinging ability. For someone who has read Spiderman comics, even I'm

Worlds Collide

Alternate heroes of the Spiderverse join rookie member, Miles Morales (from left to right): Peni Parker aka SP//dr from Japan, Gwen Stacy aka Spider-Gwen, Peter Porker aka Spider-Ham, older Peter Parker as Spider-Man, and the mysterious detective, Spider-Noir.

Photo courtesy of [The Daily Dot](#)

not too acquainted with the different Spiderverse characters. You'll just have to see this movie in order to find out who they are.



**100% Rotten
Tomatoes**

"Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse matches bold storytelling with striking animation for a purely enjoyable adventure with heart, humor, and plenty of superhero action."

-[Rotten Tomatoes](#) critic consensus

1 of 5
Continued...



No. 2 *Mary Poppins Returns*



Starring:

Emily Blunt, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Meryl Streep, Dick van Dyke, Colin Firth, Angela Lansbury, Julie Walters

Rating: **PG**

Release Date:

Friday, December 21

Decades after her initial visit, Mary Poppins (Emily Blunt) comes back to depression-era London to visit Jane and her brother Michael (now a father of three) to show them the joy and wonder that has been missing in their lives ever since the nanny's departure.

For those who have watched the classic *Mary Poppins*, this movie will fill you with nostalgia and a trip down memory lane. Who could ever forget *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* and *A Spoonful of Sugar*?

While *Mary Poppins* hasn't aged since her first visit to the Banks household, Jane and Michael have grown up the last time we saw them as children chasing a broken kite. The long-awaited sequel made some nice homages to the original film. There's even a close connection the sequel makes to the longtime friend of Mary Poppins and jack-of-all-trades, Bert the chimney sweeper, one of the main characters in the original film. His former apprentice, Jack (Lin-Manuel Miranda), the optimistic lamplighter, will join Mary Poppins and the kids. The sequel will also introduce Mary Poppins' looney aunt named Topsy, played by the phenomenal Oscar-winning actress Meryl Streep. I'm really interested in how this sequel will show off these new characters and at the same time bring in the familiar ones that we all grew to love from the original film. Expect this sequel to make you laugh, possibly cry, and sing along to catchy children's music.

Déjà vu (Already seen)

A whirlwind of blue flowers dances around Jack (gentleman) and his acquaintance, Mary Poppins. Pictured beside them are Michael's children; (left to right) Georgie, Annabel, and John.

Photo courtesy of [People Magazine](#)

[Variety Magazine](#) on
Hollywood's Anticipation

“*a bona fide best picture Oscar player this year*”

“*Mary Poppins Returns will be a massive hit..which will drive the point home all the more: Audiences want a movie like this right now. Critics, even the most cynical of them (whether they admit it or not), want a movie like this right now.*”

[IndieWire](#) Reaction

“*[Emily Blunt] portrays the iconic nanny with such confidence and charm that she could land a Best Actress Oscar nomination*”
-**Bill Desowitz, writer**

2 of 5
Continued...



No. 3 Aquaman



Starring:

**Jason Momoa, Amber Heard,
Willem Dafoe, Patrick Wilson,
Nicole Kidman, Yahya
Abdul-Mateen II, Ludi Lin**

Rating: **PG-13**

Release Date:

Friday, December 21

Half-human and half-Atlantean Arthur Curry (Jason Momoa) discovers his birthright as the heir to the King of Atlantis and controller of the seven seas. Having been neglectful of his own kingdom, Arthur must overthrow his half-brother, King Orm (Patrick Wilson), who conspires to take over the surface world believing that men have corrupted the oceans. Joining Arthur to help reunite the seas is his veteran ally and former teacher, Vulko (Willem Dafoe), and adept warrior, Queen Mera (Amber Heard).

Aquaman doesn't receive nearly as much popularity as the Marvel franchise heavy hitters like Iron Man or Thor. It's unfortunate that people stereotype him as someone who talks to fish and rides a chariot of dolphins in a bright orange suit. But the truth is, Aquaman is a powerful superhero in the DC Universe who fills a unique position as King of Atlantis. According to the site [Ranker](#), Aquaman has extraordinary superpowers that include commanding all forms of aquatic life telepathically and wielding the powerful Trident of Neptune which can conjure magic lightning bolts and force fields. That's why, I think it's really exciting to see an underrated superhero finally get a solo movie that will hopefully, be what the fans want from a serious Aquaman movie.

Beneath the Surface

Star Trek and Fast and Furious director James Wan works with actors (left to right) Amber Heard, Game of Thrones star Jason Momoa, and Willem Dafoe to frame the perfect shot in a sunken ship.

Photo courtesy of [Entertainment Weekly](#)

From what I've seen from the trailers, the imagery of the underwater kingdom looks very real and immersive. There's plenty of action-packed sequences, impressive stunts done by the actors, as well as set pieces and costumes that replicate the comics. Speaking of which, the casting fits well for many of the characters (especially Aquaman). I'm really crossing my fingers for this movie so that it does well in the box office.

"the best DC movie since The Dark Knight. [James Wan] delivers a swashbuckling epic full of big emotion, gorgeous undersea visuals, exciting action, and lots of laughs. WB should be handing the DCEU reins to James Wan, he's proven he can, ahem, right the ship."

-IGN, Tom Jorgenson

3 of 5
Continued...



No. 4 *Bumblebee*



Starring:

Dylan O'Brien, Hailee Steinfeld, Jorge Lendeborg Jr., John Cena, Peter Cullen, Angela Bassett, Justin Theroux

Rating: **PG-13**

Release Date:

Friday, December 21

Twenty years before the events of the first Transformers film (now 1985), a broken-down Bumblebee (Dylan O'Brien) is hiding from a secret government agency known as Sector 7, led by Agent Burns (John Cena) who is hunting down Autobots. Bumblebee disguises himself in a small town junkyard where young Cali teen Charlie Watson (Hailee Steinfeld) takes him in for repair. As the two are on the run, they both discover that there are more Autobots lurking on the Earth and that many of them could be potentially dangerous.

The *Transformers* franchise isn't for everyone. Its heavy non-stop action and the slew of explosions in nearly every scene can be quite exasperating to many viewers. There are also pretty women who are sadly objectified by their looks and not their capabilities. But that doesn't seem to be the case for this *Bumblebee* spinoff. In fact, I'm quite confident that this movie can distance itself from the past movies in the franchise.

For one thing, *Bumblebee* will have a more self-contained story not directly related to the concurrent films which means that casual viewers can jump right in if they haven't watched the other *Transformers*. Still, watching them will help make sense of some minor references to the other established films.

The Yellow Camaro

Bumblebee shows some affection to his only companion on Earth, Charlie Watson.

Photo courtesy of [Yahoo Movies](#)

This time around, *Bumblebee* won't be directed by Michael Bay who came up with the ridiculous explosion counts. Instead, Travis Knight, director of the stunning animated flick *Kubo and the Two Strings*, will take Bay's director chair. The new trailer seemed surprisingly wholesome with Hailee Steinfeld playing an innocent teenager and mechanic, Charlie Watson. I also love how Knight portrayed Bumblebee as a friendly yet protective robot to his companion, Charlie. [That was quite adorable in my opinion, and I didn't see any huge explosions in the trailer which was awesome!] Although the trailer was less saturated with action sequences, the movie might still be gritty to younger audiences. Either way, I think casual movie watchers should give this movie a shot for something new and exciting to watch.

"In that sense you really get to watch Bumblebee be lovable, be kindhearted, be sweet, be tough, be a warrior, be protective. We get to see a lot of him in different guises."

**-Film producer,
Lorenzo di
Bonaventura**

4 of 5
Continued...



No. 5 *Welcome to Marwen*



Starring:

**Steve Carell, Leslie Mann,
Diane Kruger, Janelle Monae, Eiza
González, Gwendoline Christie**

Rating: **PG-13**

Release Date:

Friday, December 21

After suffering a traumatic brain injury, real-life artist Mark Hogancamp (Steve Carell) imagines himself as a decorated World War II veteran backed by a corp of inspiring female commandos who will be the heroes of a wondrous town called Marwen. The female commandos are a testament to some of the most powerful women he knows in real life, while the setting draws influence from his many past life experiences.

Roleplay

Photographer Mark Hogancamp documents his fantasy life as a World War II hero and a suave lady-lover.

Photo courtesy of [Slash Film](#)

Welcome to Marwen is based off of a tragic incident in which artist Mark Hogancamp was nearly beaten to death outside of a bar where he lost most of his memories. During his recovery, Mark would make handmade dolls to create a diorama fantasy world where he would take frequent pictures, making his imagination come to life like an actual storybook. While the movie is sad, it's both optimistic and more inspiring to see how a debilitated man draws the strength and courage from his own mind.

As a story, Mark's fantasy becomes fully fleshed out in animation with the life-like movement of the dolls thanks to Oscar-winning director Robert Zemeckis of *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*? While this movie might seem weird and a little unorthodox, I'm very much interested in seeing the vivid action sequences between Mark and the fantastical dolls of his own world. Who knows? You might even learn something or be inspired by this movie. ♦

"Acclaim was never Hogancamp's goal. His photographs sprung not from his desire to share his world with others, but from a private process of healing."

- From [Artsy Editorial](#)



Acknowledgements

I'd like to acknowledge Mr. Dineen in his enthusiasm in joining the history department this year.

-Mr. Donlon

All the students for making me love Alfred Almond my first year.

-Mr. Dineen

I would like to acknowledge our Jazz band and Mr. B because he is my favorite teacher.

-Donata Koegel

I acknowledge Sidney for being the best friend ever.

-Noah Napolitano

"I'd like to thank Nathan and Ali for being the best lab partners and friends ever. You da best. #naan4lyfe"

-Nora Looney

"Shout out to Ms. Backer for being awesome."

-Mrs. Snyder

"Thank you to all the students for being patient as I learn the bus routes, and thank you to all of the bus drivers and Mr. Burdick for all they've done for me."

- Mr. Levey

If you would like to make an acknowledgement for the next issue, please contact a member of the *Observer* staff or fill out this [form](#).



Games

Match the quotes with the correct movie!

___ Elf

___ How the Grinch Stole Christmas

___ Home Alone

___ Polar Express

___ A Christmas Story

___ Frosty the Snowman

___ Charlie Brown Christmas

___ Rudolph

- a. “Aren't you going to laugh at my nose, too?”
- b. “Fra-gee-lay... That must be Italian!”
- c. “Happy birthday!”
- d. “It’s not a dress. It’s a kilt. Sicko!”
- e. “Merry Christmas, ya filthy animal.”
- f. “I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love.”
- g. “I am a cotton-headed ninny-muggins!”
- h. “Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see.”

Try to escape the maze!

