

Observer



Vol. 9, Issue 1, Nov. - Dec.

Meet the Staff

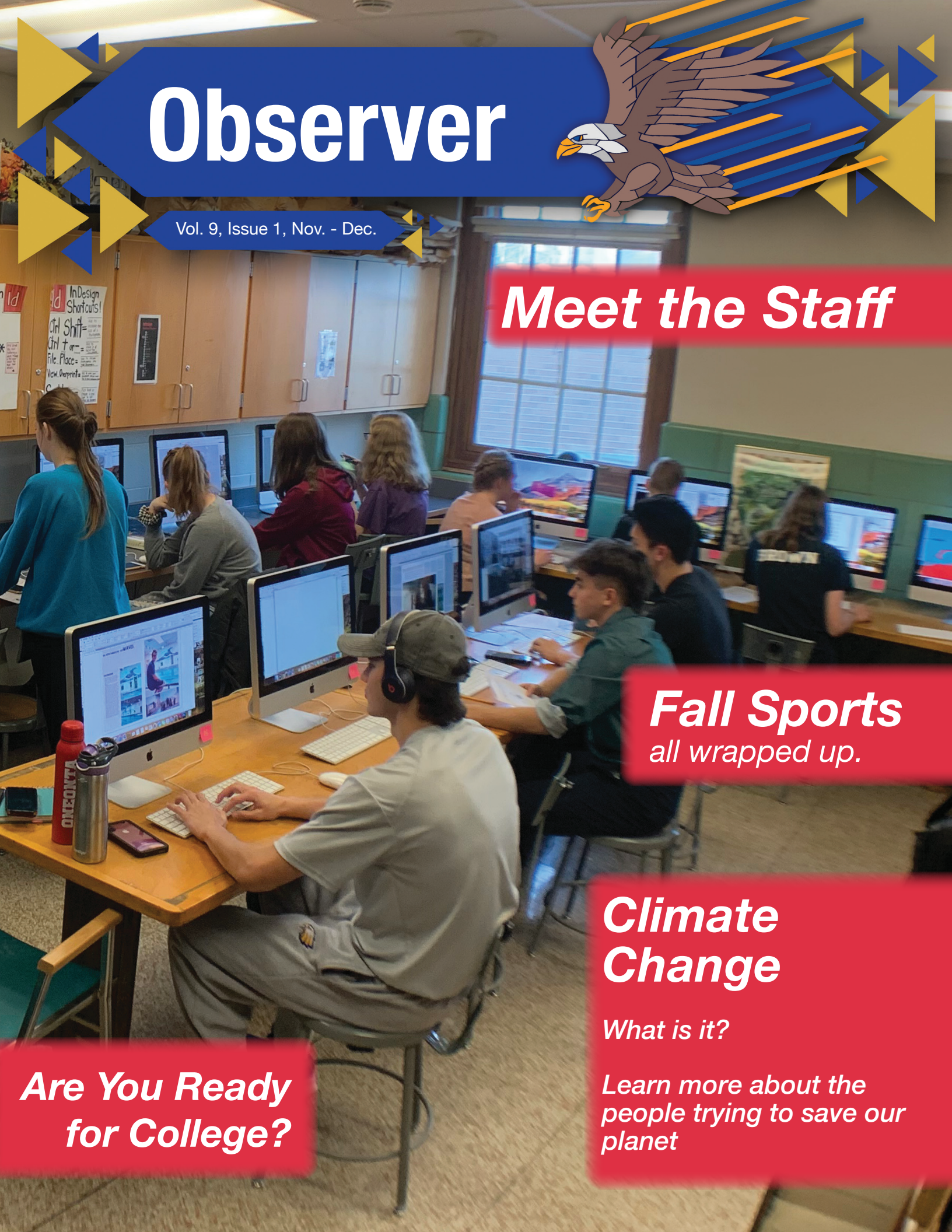
Fall Sports
all wrapped up.

**Climate
Change**

What is it?

Learn more about the
people trying to save our
planet

**Are You Ready
for College?**



IN THIS ISSUE

03 ANNOUNCEMENTS

04 SNYDER SQUAD

SCHOOL NEWS

08 DANCES

10 THE JOURNEY INTO HIGH SCHOOL

12 COLLEGE READINESS

14 IS STRESS TAKING A BIG TOLL ON SENIORS?

16 THE TRAVELIN' FORDS

18 ARTISTS MAKES HIS FIRST WAVE

SPORTS

22 RECORDS

26 WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

30 NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

32 SUPERBOWL SEASON

NATIONAL NEWS

36 GOING DOWN IN FLAMES

38 THE CHANGE WE NEED

40 THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

42 GAMES AND DOGGO CORNER

We of the Alfred-Almond Observer strive to earn the trust of our readers. We have a responsibility to report an honest representation of the Alfred-Almond students, faculty, staff, and community. We hope to exceed the expectations of our readers in what a student publication should be. The staff of The Observer values this opportunity to be a dependable news source for and about our community.

School News Divider photo by Ben Deutsch. Athletics Divider photo By Ms. Kathi Chambliss. World News Divider photo by Bill Doyle. All Dividers layout by Ben Deutsch.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR
DECEMBER 2-5

WINTER SPORTS AWARDS
DECEMBER 4 3:20 PM

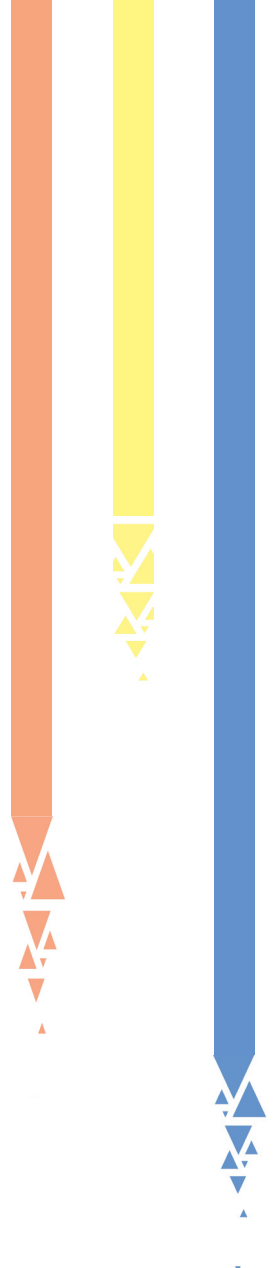
ELEMENTARY STORY NIGHT
DECEMBER 5 6:00-7:00 PM

NHS BLOOD DRIVE
DECEMBER 9, 10:00-4:00 PM

JR./SR. HIGH CHORUS CONCERT
DECEMBER 16 7:00 PM

ELEMENTARY BAND & CHORUS CONCERT
DECEMBER 17 7:00 PM

HOLIDAY BREAK
DECEMBER 23- JANUARY 3



WHAT'S COMING UP

BEN DEUTSCH

BRITTNEY MINDER

COLTON COOK

SIDNEY WILDRICK-COLE

EMILY CAMPBELL

GRACE YARNAL

ISABELLA POWELL

LAERTES CUSHING

LOGAN BROWN

PAIGE SENEAR

RILEY WINTERS

WILL TORMEY

ZACH PATTERSON

MRS. SNYDER

Meet the Staff

Story and layout by Isabella Powell
Photos by Isabella Powell and Emily Campbell



Paige

- Uncle has a Pacemaker
- Can easily make people smile with her goofy laugh
- Has ADH-oh look a bird



Emily

- A dead rooster has a vendetta against her
- Has a laugh that cackles like fire
- Left eyebrow shakes like a leafy tree



Logan

- Does not think I will twist her words (she is wrong)
- Thinks doctor notes can solve all of her problems
- Refuses to talk. I may need to get the police involved.



Brittney

- Lives by the words "ew I don't like squid"
- Is 100% sure that candy is "like crack."
- Has a dog that used to roll in its own fecal matter, but has since learned it's simply not worth it.



Ben

- Cannot seem to find who is supposed to be interviewing him
- Can be found "crafting it up" in the art room
- Has a rather suspicious-looking cat



Riley

- Would agree that he could possibly be "silent but deadly"
- Has a hard time knowing what the heck he's doing in journalism (But no worries, he is doing great.)
- Do not, under any circumstances, ever steal his muffin



Sidney

- Is a man who enjoys a good chair
- Philosopher about personality traits and their correlation to dogs
- Specializes in (C6H10O5)n aerospace technology



Laertes

- Is a holy man
- Dislikes house plants
- Has a fascination with three-wheeled vehicles



William

- Is great at hide and seek because of his small stature
- Saves lives as a lifeguard, one bad swimmer at a time
- Will wish you a good morning any time of day



Bella

- I wrote this
- It's getting turned in way too late
- god save me



Zach

- Likelihood of buying an elephant, 2/10 (because they're not legal)
- Really enjoys "Feel good Fridays"
- Really really really like c-c-coffee



Grace

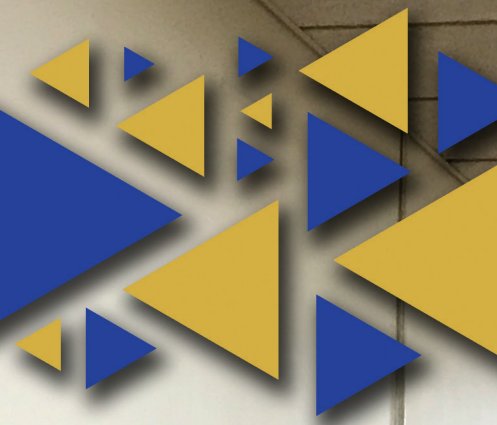
- Has never had a kale smoothie
- Enjoys a "chill" environment. The weather and laid back atmosphere.
- Likes tie-dye, not the demise of neckties, but the popular pattern.



Mrs. Snyder

- Mrs. Snyder
- Is an advocate for crying when it needs to happen
- Once only had one eyelid (yes, you read that right.)
- Is the woman with the sassy pants.

School News





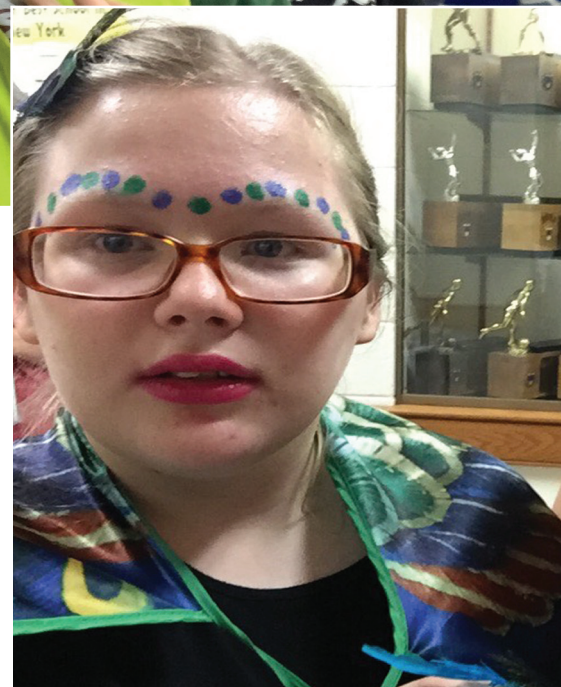
GLOW DANCE

On September 13th the junior class hosted the glow dance. All the students that went "lit" up the dance floor with their amazing dance moves and their glow sticks, necklaces and bracelets.



HALLOWEEN DANCE

On October 25th the freshman class hosted a Halloween dance to get a jump start on the festive night. There were many amazing costumes but the person who won was Sophia Symeslatini who took first place in the costume contest.





BONFIRE DANCE

On September 20th the junior class hosted the Bonfire dance. Before the dance started the annual bonfire was lit and the athletes were recognized by their respective coaches. Then the dance started and "it was lit"-Nathan Brown.



BAND AND CHORUS CONCERT



The band and chorus did a fantastic job and worked very hard on learning their music.



Working very hard, Ms. Karr and Ms. Rawady do a great job teaching kids music.

A community applauds

New director, Christina Rawady, and Lisa Karr led the band and chorus to a successful night on November 4th. The starting performance came from the Jazz Band that wowed the crowd with an uplifting feel of Latin and classic rock beats. The Jazz Band showed a strong start to the year. The choir opened up with the Junior High singing samples from the renowned musical “Wicked” and the Senior High sampling the “Corner of the Sky” from Pippin. Both were excellent with solos from freshman Alex Diaz, sophomore Maria Graziano, and seventh graders Noelle Hildreth and Jessie Heffley. To close the evening our new band director Christina Rawady demonstrated our ongoing tradition of excellence with a four piece selection highlighting the dynamic and technical skill of the band.

Written by Laertes Cushing
Layout By Brittney Minder

HALLOWEEN PARADE



Buzzing into the spirit, teachers and staff could be seen throughout the school in their bee costumes to make up the school hive.

On October 31st, PK through 6th grade dressed up in their scary yet adorable costumes and marched through the school, ending in the High School Gym. As 7th through 12th graders as well as the teachers watched, these students were obviously having an amazing time, smiling and laughing. "I liked seeing all of my friends' costumes, but I was mostly excited for the snacks and the party after the parade" 4th grader Dalton Brown reflected on his experience with the Parade.

Written by Paige Senear



The Journey Into High School

Article By Emily Campbell

Images From Mrs. Snyder, and Ms. Mormino.

In August, the new 7th graders went on a two-day adventure in the high school. In previous years the 7th graders would spend more time with their mentor. This year there were no parents, and mentors only spent 15 to 20 minutes with their mentees. Before, the evening involved the students walking around the school with their parents and mentors finding their classes. This year's orientation, the brainchild of Mrs. Bain-Lucey, featured six different activities such as the scavenger hunt, Leave your Mark, Kahoot, Decorating a banner, and Yoga.

“The first day of school was good. I knew where all of my classes were and it was easy to navigate the school”.

A poll of the 7th grade indicates that the scavenger hunt, which made them walk around different parts of the junior-senior high school, was the most popular choice among most of the students, with 46.7% of the votes. This activity forced the students to work together and solve clues. In the Google Form, Maddie Levey wrote “The Scavenger Hunt allowed us to explore the high-school in a fun, competitive way. It was fun to run around the school and find the clues that went with our group. It made us work as a team to think about where the clues could be.”

Each morning during the orientation, students relieved the stress and anxiety of starting high school as Mrs. Dusinberre and Mrs. Snyder led them through

yoga sessions. Yoga has been proven to help de-stress and relieve anxiety. Yoga can also help increase energy levels and make anyone happy in general. It seems the orientation was successful in preparing incoming students for the first day of high school. Ellora Enke, whose older sister graduated in 2018, said, “I was nervous. I had a lot to live up to because of my brother and sister. The first day of school was good. I knew where all of my classes were and it was easy to navigate the school.”



On August 30th, Ellora Enke and Lillie Perkins participated in yoga early in the morning. Photo by Ms. Mormino.



7th Graders working on ELA readiness in Mrs. Snyder's Classroom. Photo by Mrs. Snyder.



Students gathering together to discuss feedback from the orientation. Photo by Ms. Mormino.

College Readiness

Story and layout by: Ben Deutsch

Applying to college, deciding where to go, deciding on a major: all big decisions in the minds of high school students. While some students might consider going straight into some form of work, a wide majority of students plan on attending college after high school.



I interviewed 3 new college freshmen: Westin Perry from Alfred State, Katy Elliott from Geneseo, and Abby Kelly from Cornell. They are in different majors at different schools and they all have different perspectives on how college has been, what has been hardest for them, and what has been their favorite part. However, all of them say that college isn't as intimidating as it appears.

What Changes?

The first thing high school students may wonder about college is just how different it is from high school. All three interviewed agreed that the biggest difference between college and high school is the independence college gives you. You have the freedom to do your homework, or hang out with friends almost whenever you want, or even just the freedom to decide what you have for a meal and when you eat it. However, that doesn't mean you have no responsibilities. This freedom can make it easy to fall into a pattern of putting off work, staying up late, or not even sleeping at all some nights. However, this freedom allows you to do exactly what you want: meet new people, make friends, try all sorts of new clubs and other activities, and take classes that are truly interest you.

Which campus is right for you?

Picking a school and major might seem like a tough thing to decide. However, making this decision is way easier than it appears. The college students I interviewed applied to 2 colleges, 5 colleges, and even more than 10. You aren't limited on how many colleges you can apply to. The application process is made easy because of a tool called the Common App, a platform used for applying to colleges. On the platform you fill out some personal information about your high school career, your grades, and your other activities. You also write an essay for the college to read. All of this information, along with letters of recommendations, is kept in one place and can be sent to different schools. Without the Common

App you would have to do this manually for every school you apply to, which can be tedious and stressful; the Common App relieves a large portion of this stress. That being said, some colleges do require you to submit additional materials, such as another essay, or a portfolio of artwork for art schools. Not all schools are the same, so you might have to put in a little extra work when applying to make sure that you get in. To help you with the process, there are plenty of teachers and counselors at school offer help with applying, writing essays, and getting letters of recommendation. You're not alone.

What should I do?

The college students I interviewed also shed some light on when and why they picked the major and the school they did. Katy Elliott said that she decided at her sister's graduation. While she was there there was a diplomat who spoke about her career. After hearing this speech and doing some research the student decided that she wanted to go to school for international relations and economics. The other two students I interviewed had known for a long time what they wanted to do in college, and this directed their choice of schools. Abby Kelly decided on Cornell because they offered biological engineering, instead of biomedical engineering, like most schools. The

decision can also come down to things like affordability, sports teams, or how close the school is to home; these were many of the reasons Westin Perry decided on Alfred State. If you do your research you can decide quite easily.

Does high school prepare us?

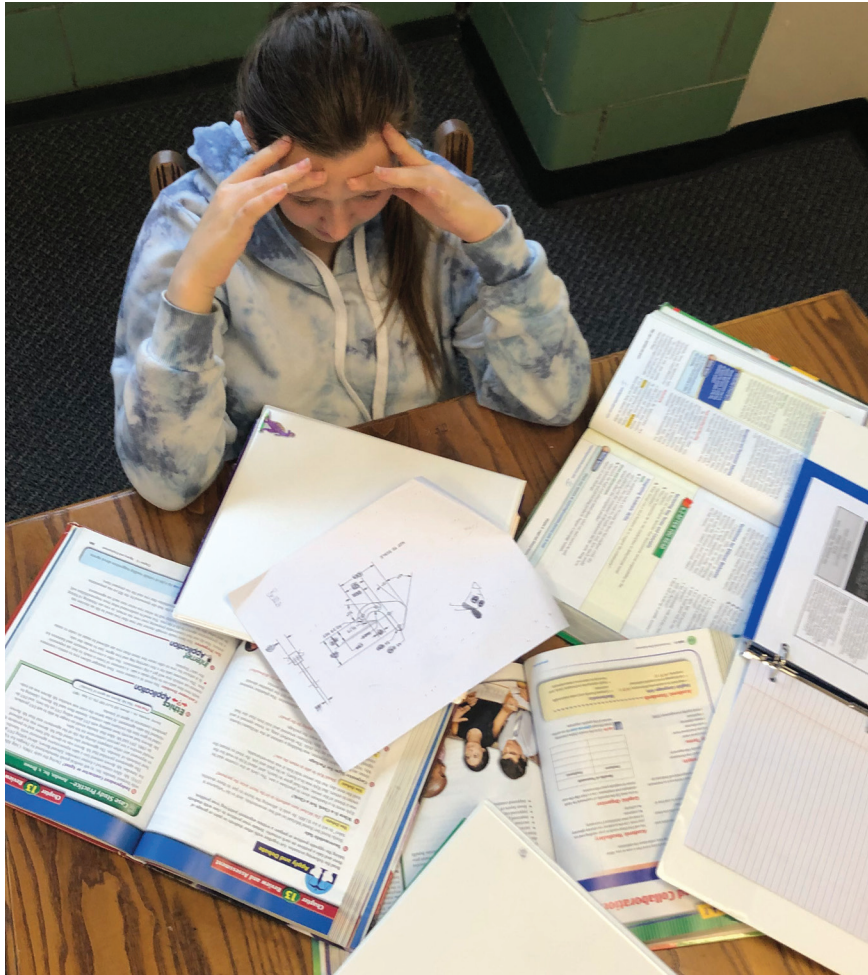
One burning question remains: is high school preparing us for college? Reviews were mixed. Elliott said that the AP classes she had taken in high school had helped her learn how to take good notes, work hard, and study effectively. However, she said that high school did not prepare her for the workload, which is much more intense than the AP classes she had taken in high school. Perry said that his teachers were not accurate at describing what college would be like. Kelly said that high school did not prepare her. She said that she had wanted to take more AP classes that weren't offered, and that many of her AP credits were not accepted by her college.

Going to college might seem like a difficult process. However, the reality of the situation is that there are plenty of options for you to make the right decision for you. Adjusting to the new environment will feel good once you get yourself organized and set your priorities straight.

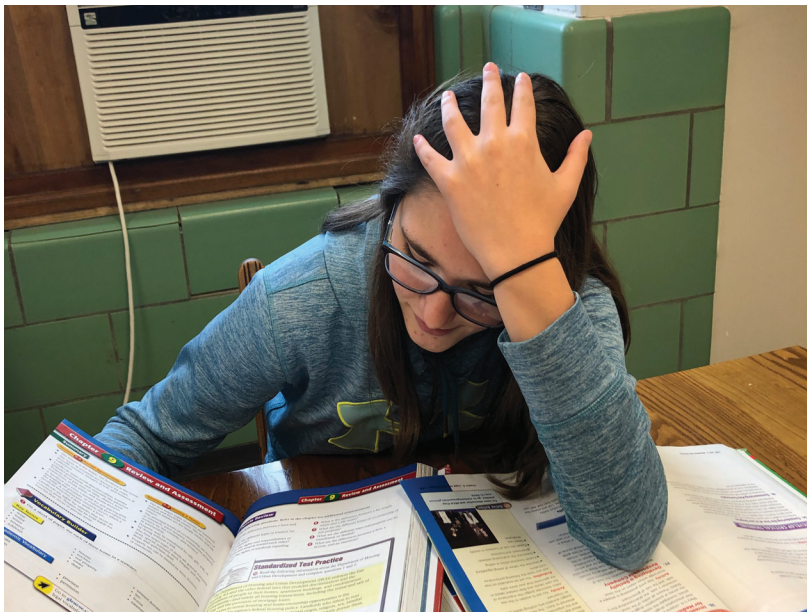
College To-do Check List:

- Think about your interests for a major.
- Research Colleges.
- Visit Colleges.
- Fill out the FASFA.
- Fill out the Common App.
- Write and edit essays for applications.
- Research scholarship opportunities.
- Submit Common App. to all your college options.
- Wait to see where you have been accepted to.
- Decide on the College that you believe is best suited for you.

Is Stress Taking A Big Toll On Seniors?



With loads of homework and tests to study for, Bella Powell stresses about how she'll get it all done in time



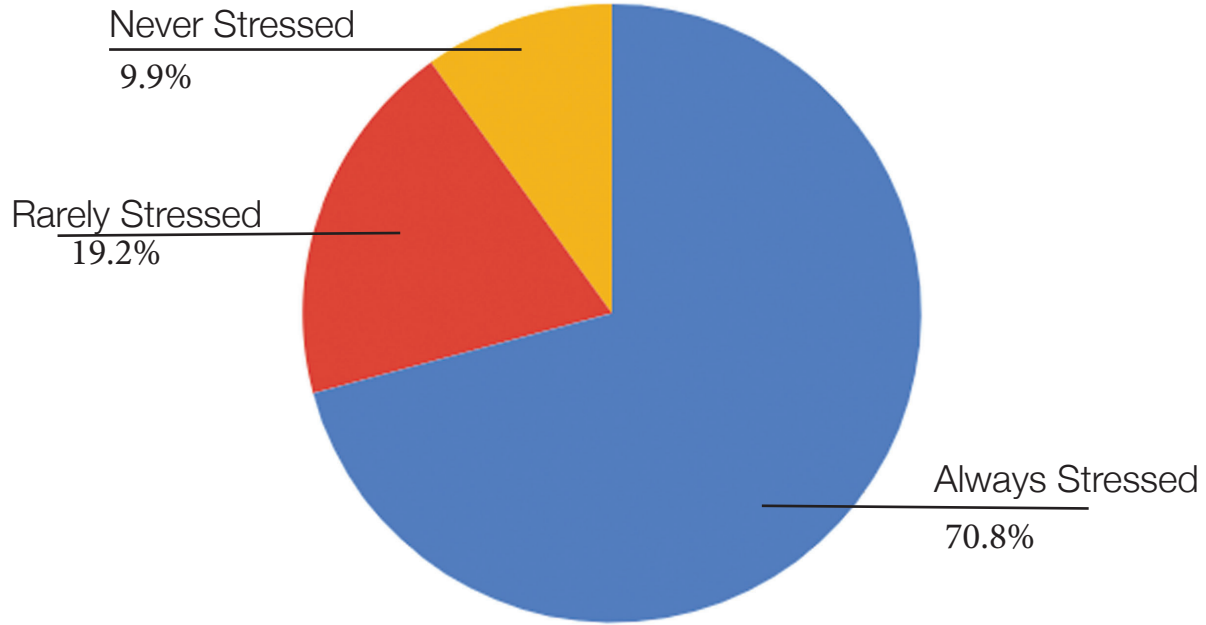
Reviewing for her SATs and ACTs, Paige Seneat worries about what scores she'll get since she needs good scores for college.

Seniors constantly have things to worry about. Starting from things such as college essays and applications. College applications and essays are just stressful because you need these in order to start off your future. College applications make seniors have a ton of stress because you have to wait and hope you get accepted and if not, you are stressed because you didn't get in to the college you wanted. Paige seneat said "It is so much pressure because you want to be accepted into a good college and have a good life ahead of you." Senior stress is a real thing and it's hard to adjust knowing that really soon you'll be moving out and starting your life. Most Seniors at AA work a job and try to carry homework and school on top of that. Morgan Davidson said "Working a job and going to school is hard because you never have any time for yourself or hanging out with friends. Once you graduate, it's all work and school and trying to find time for people and it sucks knowing it only gets more stressful from here.

5 ways to manage stress

1. Keep a Positive Attitude
2. Maintain a Healthy Diet
3. Get 8+ Hours Of Sleep
4. Manage Your Time
5. Avoid Caffeine, Alcohol And Nicotine

Levels Of Stress In Seniors



A survey shows that 70.8% of seniors are stressed because of school, 19.2% are rarely stressed and 9.9% of people said they were never stressed.



3 super hard classes and Paige is trying to find a way to get all her homework done.



With way too much homework to do, Paige and Bella help each other finish their assignments.

The Travellin' Fords

Article by Grace Yarnal

“I’m glad I went and got to live and experience all these different cultures. I feel like I learned a lot from travelling.”

- Micah Ford

PHOTOGRAPHY | مشعل
MASH'AL



What do San Diego, Yemen, Kazakhstan and Allegany county all have in common? These are all places that the Ford family, new to the district this year, have called home. Junior Micah discussed some of his travel experiences. Micah was born in San Diego, California; at the age of four, he and his family moved to Yemen. He lived in Yemen for six years before moving to Kazakhstan.

Micah described Yemen as a desert that was usually hot and never snowed. They lived in a gated community and all the houses had barbed wire fences around them. Micah called Yemen “a dangerous place to live,” referring to the political turmoil in the region. From 2014-15 there was a coup in Yemen as the government was overthrown and a new leader was put in power. The Fords lived in Yemen in the years leading up to the coup; Micah explained that there were two groups who wanted power and there was fighting between these two groups and their followers. The fighting intensified and became so frequent that the Fords would often hear gunshots from their house. Micah said that it was an especially dangerous place for foreigners. The situation became so dangerous that the Ford family moved to Kazakhstan in 2013.

The country of Yemen is located in the Middle East just south of Arabia. Kazakhstan is in Asia located under Russia.

In contrast, Kazakhstan was “a lot safer” than Yemen and only had two seasons- summer and winter. The winters, he said were “really cold; it would get to -60 degrees F.” One of the things Yasmin, Micah’s younger sister, recalled about Kazakhstan is that horse meat was a common food there. (She tried it once but did not like it).

Micah went to private English speaking schools in both Yemen and Kazakhstan; because students and teachers spoke English, it lessened the culture shock. He became fluent in Arabic when he lived in Yemen and Russian when he lived in Kazakhstan. When asked what it was like to move around a lot, Micah answered: “It is a little hard, but there’s all these new experiences I got to have because of moving around a lot so I’m glad I did it.” Culture shock can make it very hard for someone to adjust to a new country. Yasmin said it has been hard adjusting to American culture these past few months, and that the biggest shock was going to an American public school. On the other hand Micah didn’t think the culture

shock was too bad but he said the weirdest difference for him was that everyone speaks English. Micah said that although he was able to become fluent in Arabic and Russian it was still somewhat difficult to keep up with foreign languages. It still surprises Micah when he hears people speaking english on the streets.

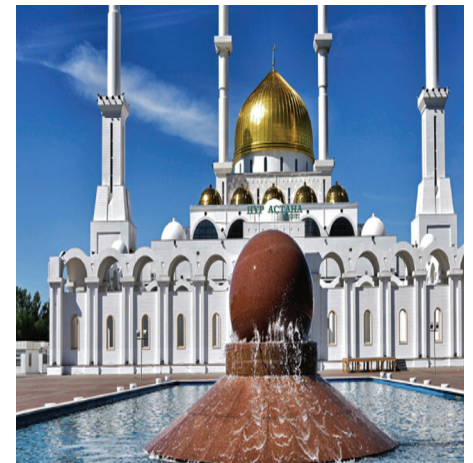


Photo by Robert Lx. The Nur-Stana Mosque 3 is the third largest Mosque in Asia is in Astana This Mosque is found in the city where the Fords lived for six years.



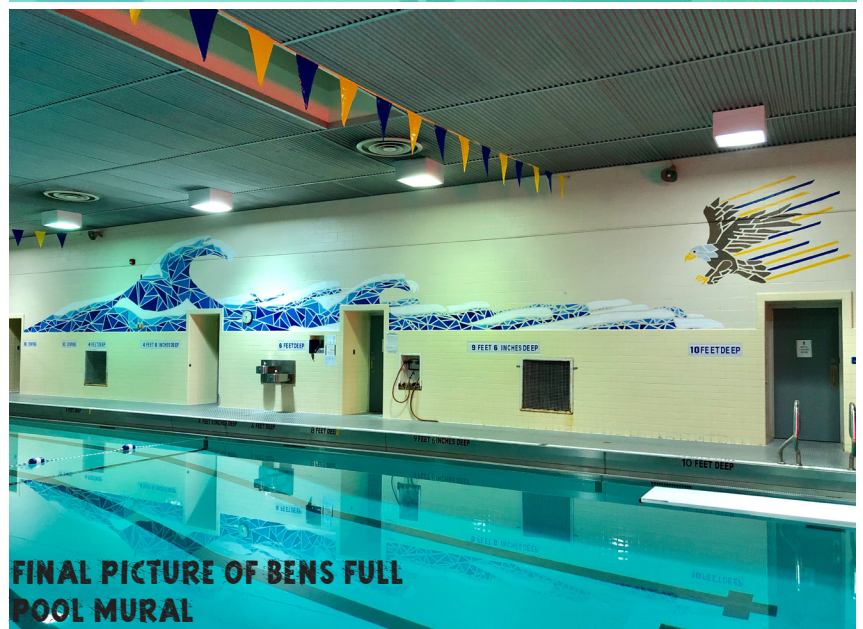
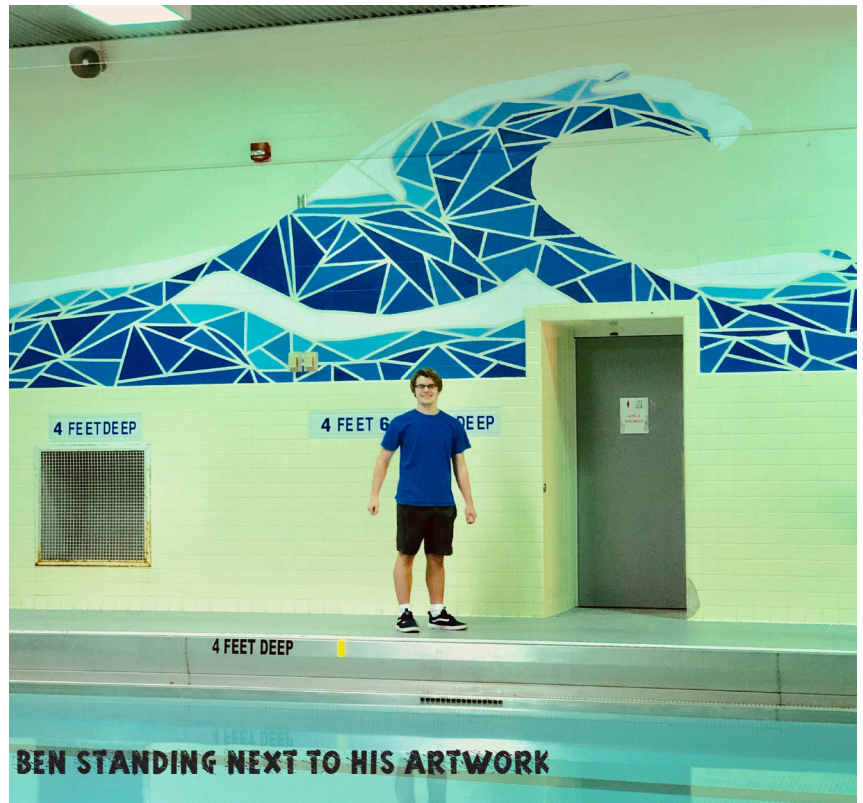
AN ARTIST MAKES HIS FIRST WAVES

The first thing you see in the pool area is a once empty wall and you will see a genuine work of art. The large waves that now decorate the walls on either side of the pool are eye catching and made with careful craftsmanship.

Senior Ben Deutsch, an A-A swimmer and artist, made the mural for his Eagle Scout project, teammates, and future Swimmers, "I first got the idea in my 11th grade year," Deutsch said. "My art teacher, Mrs. Powers, and Mrs. Chambliss encouraged me to make my idea a reality." Deutsch began his path to making the mural by first gaining permission from Superintendent Mrs. Tracie Preston and then getting the right materials for the project. He received help from some of his friends and teammates. After gaining access to the pool for the mural, Deutsch, Mrs. Powers, and Deutsch's friends began the project. "It took us 7 hours on September 14th and 20th to finally complete it." He clarified that, "While using my own special style, I wanted to capture an eagle attacking the water the same way a swimmer attacks the water." When asked what he thought of his legacy of art, he modestly replied, "I think it came out really nice in the end." As to future projects, Deutsch said, "We have plans to make some more for other teams but I do not know for sure when, but I would definitely help in creating them."

Story and layout by Colton Cook

Photos provided by Mrs. Powers



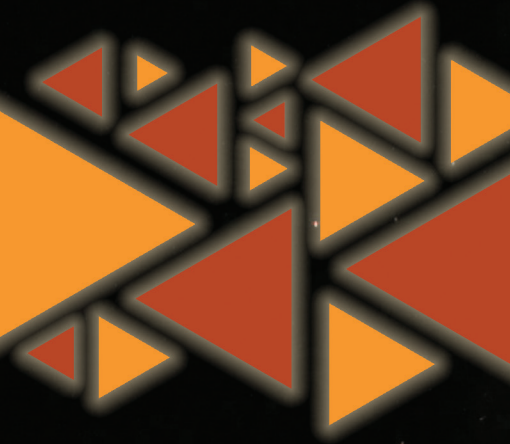


**BEN ADMIRING HIS ARTWORK
NEXT TO THE POOL**



BEN HAVING HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS

Athletics





2019 Soccer Success

By: Will Tormey

The Boys Modified Soccer team started off the season with a 3-0 record. With a solid defense, along with two interchangeable goalies the boys ended their season with an overall record of 5-5-2.



Slicing and dicing the Campbell opponent Lakin Ludden looks to do some damage in their home game

Boys Modified Soccer

Modified Girls Soccer

The Lady Eagles ended their season with a record of 11-1. The girls always played hard and worked together as a team. The 7th and 8th grade ladies competed against a number of schools with teams composed of 7-9th graders and continually came away victorious.



Members of the Girls Modified Team gather after their final win against Hammondsport.

The Boys JV soccer team stand together for a picture after a crucial 4-0 win against Canisteo on the very last game of the season.



Boys JV Soccer

The Boys JV soccer team finished with a season record of 4-7-4. Four of the seven losses were decided by one goal differential. It is fair to say that this group of boys were evenly matched with the majority of their opponents, but often struggled to find the back of the net.

Girls JV Soccer



Speeding by the Canistota defense Athena Cushing looks to put a number on the board for the Eagles

Looking to beat the Canistota defender Avery Libordi dribbles the ball near the sideline

The 2019 Girls JV soccer team finished the season with a 5-11 record. In spite of the record, the team remained positive and supportive the entire season as the team was a positive and fun environment until the last game.



2019 was another excellent year for the Alfred-Almond Girls Varsity soccer team. The team finished with a final record of 12-6-0. They secured first place in Steuben Division 1 at 4-1-0 and fifth place in the Steuben League. Unfortunately the ladies fell to the Kendall soaring Eagles in sectional play.

Girls Varsity Soccer



Above: On Senior Night for Boys Varsity Soccer, which took place on October 17, coach Cook and Turner huddle with seniors Caleb Dailey, Lucas Quintana, Zach Patterson, Will Tormey, Colton Cook, and Laertes Cushing. The team celebrated the seniors' last regular game of their high school careers with a 1-0 victory against Canisteo at home. Photo by: Jen Smith
 Right: Wednesday, November 6, 2019, the boys varsity team are recognized for their achievement throughout the season. Photo by: Kathi Chambliss

Naples	1 - 0	Alfred Almond
Wellsville	1 - 3	Alfred Almond
Hammondsport	1 - 5	Alfred Almond
Campbell-Savona	4 - 9	Alfred Almond
Bath-Haverling	7 - 1	Alfred Almond
Addision	4 - 0	Alfred Almond
Canisteo-Greenwood	1 - 0	Alfred Almond
Arkport/Canasergaga	2 - 1	Alfred Almond
Jasper-Troupsburg	1 - 0	Alfred Almond
Hammondsport	0 - 5	Alfred Almond
Addision	2 - 0	Alfred Almond
Bradford	0 - 3	Alfred Almond
Campbell-Savona	0 - 4	Alfred Almond
Prattsburgh	2 - 3	Alfred Almond
Avoca	2 - 1	Alfred Almond
Canisteo-Greenwood	0 - 1	Alfred Almond
Kendall	2 - 1	Alfred Almond

When the Going Gets Tough

Story and layout by: Zachary Patterson

Soccer is always a gritty sport full of heartbreaks

In late August of 2019 the boys Varsity team met in the late afternoon for the first practice of many that week. The first three days brought the idea of cuts into the mix of hysteria over “what will the season be like?” and “will we be together through it all?” Those questions were soon to be answered in the following weeks of September, that brought wins but soon the team would hit a wall. This wall became a streak of losing. Every new opponent brought a new struggle to the team, that just could not be defeated. The team faced many struggles this season--getting cards in game, absences or sickness, but the most prominent adversity faced by the Boys Varsity soccer team was injury. Over a quarter of the players of the team got struck with injuries early in the season. Upon the many riddled with injury the team’s main starters had the most. Dylan Coots, the main attacker, pulled his groin

drastically early in the season, causing Coots to convert his playstyle to be able to play through the pain. Carsen Hann, Ayden Burdick, Colton Cook, and more all were plagued with injury at some point during the losing streak.

Although the team had this vicious losing streak going on, everyday the team didn’t have a game they had practice. Everyday at practice there were multiple drills and conditioning. Drills ranged from everywhere from shooting and passing drills, to defending drills. When shooting drills were going on the team focused on shots from a breakaway, pass in, and direct and indirect kicks. Passing drills included making short passes, long passes, and passing under pressure. Defending drills were focused on putting pressure on goal and making the defense either get the ball away from goal by clearing it or control the ball out. Conditioning drills were focused on running and doing “8s.” “8s” are eight runs back and forth width-wise across the field, usually doing two making it sixteen.

These shooting, passing, defending, and conditioning drills would lead the team into a tough opponent in a few weeks. The weeks leading up to

this big game were crucial to the teams mentality going into the game. As game day rolled around and the team loaded onto the bus you could tell by the players’ faces they were focused and ready for this game. The team arrived at the game like any other. They warmed up for twenty minutes before the game and as the last five minutes came captains were called. After the captains had finished the toss and shaking hands with the other team, the coach rounded up the boys and gave them a few last minute words of advice. As the boys took the field the game started and all the training and practicing that had been done in the weeks prior started to take effect. The boys came together and passing, shooting, defending, and conditioning all helped the boys achieve a victory over an undefeated school that no one thought the boys could beat. Together through hard work, blood, sweat, and countless hours of struggle either it be during games or practices the boys showed how with a little perseverance and work adversity could be overcome.





ARKPORT-ALFRED ALMOND: CROSS COUNTRY

The Arkport-Alfred Almond Cross Country team had a successful season, winning the class D1 tournament, and taking 3rd place at the class D1 state tournament. Alfred Almond runners Logan Whittall, Jeramiah Ford, Micah Ford, and Dylan Cannon all made excellent contributions to the team. Senior, Jeramiah Ford was one of the teams top contributors, placing 7th at States and 37th at the Nike Cross Regional race which was out of two hundred runners. Senior Logan Whittall had a few words to say after their last race at Niagara, "Some of the best memories I've made stem from this season alone. I love this sport and the community inside of it." The success of the Arkport-Alfred Almond Cross Country team this past season will hopefully inspire more runners to join in future.

Photos by: Mr. and Mrs. Ford

Layout and Captions By:
Laertes Cushing



GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS

Photo By: Shannon Heineg

The Girls Varsity Tennis finished their regular season with an overall record of 4-7. The team finished 3rd place in the county league. A-A was seeded 5th in the Class C section 5 tournament.

Photo By: Elizabeth Geiger



GIRLS MODIFIED TENNIS

Photos By: Julia Bensley

The girls modified tennis team was fortunate enough to have an extensive amount of players in the league. They were able to challenge many 7th and 8th grade girls allowing them to make great improvements throughout the season.



NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Story and layout by Sidney Wildrick-Cole. All photos by Mrs. Kirsten Calkins

What is an Esport? Most people when asked what an Esport is usually respond with an awkward silence followed by the phrase “I don’t know.” Some instead reply, “It’s just a bunch of nerds playing video games.” Very rarely did they respond correctly. Esports is the field of competitive electronic games and they’re becoming very popular. With professional and college levels already established, high schools have begun to create their own as well. Our own Esports team was established just this year after a brief intramural last year to evaluate interest. The response has been overwhelmingly positive and the Esports team now boasts three separate teams across two games. The team consists of 22 students currently divided into Gold and Blue teams for Overwatch and a Rocket League team. The achievements they’ve racked up in

such a short time are truly impressive. As of November 22nd, The Gold and Blue Teams are both 3-4 currently and the entire team has an Overwatch victory over Alfred State’s Esports team to be proud of. The Rocket League Team has an overall record of 3-3. Considering the teams’ seasons have been plagued with forfeits resulting from scheduling issues within the High School Esports League, these are some pretty good numbers. However, some may question the validity of Esports and wonder why it’s even here. Mrs. Kirsten Calkins, team coach and long-time advocate for the Esports team, says that “[It’s] our job to provide as many opportunities for students as we can.” She went on to say that she felt she was “giving them an opportunity to shine in an area that previously was not available to them academically.” Almost half of the

Esports team is composed of people who have not previously participated in a school sport. “[I’ve] never done a high school sport,” says Blue Team Player Maria Graziano, “So it’s my first team orientated experience.” As Team Captain Kyle Margeson put it: “This new sport is reaching out to students in ways other conventional sports can’t.” People often criticize Esports for its lack of physical exercise and claim that it’s not beneficial. Well maybe they’re not physically demanding, but Blue Team Player Eric Butts has this to say: “Just because it’s not athletic doesn’t mean it’s not a sport. If people enjoy it, what’s the big deal?” Kirsten Calkins had this to add, “It’s about how you define sports. Some of the most important characteristics of a sport are common goals, commitment, communication, team-building, entertainment, etc.



From left to right, Sidney Wildrick-Cole, Chris (Squishy) Mormino, Ben Brown, Tye Ferrick, Nick Robertshaw, and Kyle Margeson celebrate in the DLR after defeating the Alfred State Esports Team last spring. This victory was a major turning point in the efforts to establish the team this year.

Overwatch Gold: 3-4

- ARHS (Georgia): Win, Score: 3:0
- IHS Esports: Loss by forfeit (scheduled on Colm. Day)
- Holy Name Esports: Win by forfeit
- Wayland Esports: Loss, Score 2:3
- Generals Esports: Loss by forfeit
- Jackson Ironmen: Loss, Score 1:3
- Ramney Esports: Win by forfeit

Overwatch Blue: 3-4

- PNHS Esports: Loss, Score 0:3
- Trinity Shamrocks: Win by forfeit
- Mcallie Esports: Loss, Score 0:3
- LHS Esports: Win by forfeit
- IN-Tech Esports: Loss by forfeit
- IAC Esports: Win by forfeit
- Wauland Esports: Loss, Score 0:3

Rocket League: 3-3

- Shenandoah Raiders: Win by forfeit
- AVES E-Sports: Loss by forfeit
- The Phoenix: Loss by forfeit
- GDSESports: Win by forfeit
- TCA Iron Mikes: Loss by forfeit
- Knight Owls: Win by forfeit

The only part that is missing is the physicality. The eSports mind is as active, if not more. People forget the intellectual component of athletics. It may be the most important part of success.” The sport may lack physical requirements, but academic standards are not lost on the team. “[I]’m definitely more dedicated to classes and [have] more incentive to do better,” says Eric. Kyle included that “the team has given me a reason to pursue better grades to continue to be on the team.” The team’s positive incentive to do better has certainly pushed many students to achieve more. The team is active all year round and is always ready to accept new players into the fold. Despite a school-wide poll indicating that almost 60% of students consider themselves a gamer and over 70% would support the formation of an Esports team, Maria is the only female in attendance at this co-ed sport. She said, “I’m not surprised. I’ve been the only girl in a lot of activities I’ve done in the past.” When asked what she would say to any prospective players out there who are hesitant to join she responded “If you feel uncomfortable being one of the only girls in a group, it may not be the sport for you, but there’s no reason you shouldn’t join because you’re a girl. We both have the same potential in this sport.” This seems to be the consensus of the entire team to any and all prospective teammates out there. Don’t let your preconceptions stop you from trying; we’re ready to welcome anyone who wants to join. We all love video games, and coming together to play them is what this team is about. The team practices every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:30 to 5:00 PM in the IT room and they hope to see you there.



Juniors Alan Minder and Ben Brown engage in standard aim training routines during an after school practice last spring. Routines like these are essential for team building and skill development.

Are we headed for a

SUPERBOWL SEASON?

Article By: Paige-Caitlin Senear

PAST BILLS RECORDS:

2014: 9-7
2015: 8-8
2016: 7-9
2017: 9-7
2018: 6-10

Is this the year that the Bills are finally going to pull through and make it to the Super Bowl, and maybe even win the whole thing? Many Bills fans say it is. Maybe that's just bias, or maybe it's because it's true.

The Buffalo Bills have been known for years and years as one of the worst teams in the NFL. Bills fans continuously supported their team through all the ups and downs. They've all heard the jokes, (one of my favorites being, Boy I Love Losing Superbowls.) But now the Bills, for the time being, have shut the haters up. Even still, betting on the Bills to make it to the Super Bowl is a pretty bold move seeing how this franchise hasn't won a playoff game since 1995.

The Bills starting the season 6-2 and finishing the preseason 4-0 has led people to take notice of the job head coach, Sean McDermott, has done in his third year in Buffalo. So much so that his name is under consideration for Coach of the Year, half of the way through the season. The Bills didn't come up with the victory over the New England Patriots in week 4 but they were the most competitive team against New England this season by a significant margin. Some fans

would argue that if Josh Allen hadn't had that hard hit to the head complimentary of NE Cornerback, Jonathan Jones, that the Bills would've won that game. But the Bills don't like to dwell on the past. Once a game is over, they look toward the next opponent and leave what happened on the field.

There are three main things that should happen for the Bills to be an automatic player in the Playoffs. First, Josh Allen needs to elevate his play and consistency as a passer. Allen has had his moments as a passer in 2018. He led the Bills to two fourth-quarter comebacks and one game winning drive. But for as many good moments as Allen has had in 2018 with his arm, he had an equal amount of bad moments. He threw 12 interceptions to just 10 touchdowns and completed 52.8% of his passes. Now Allen has a number of new weapons to rely on in the passing game and the Bills success this season is going to be dependent partly on Allen's ability to utilize them and put those players in positions to make plays.

Second, the 31st ranked passing offence in 2018 must improve after having a spending spree at the Wide Receiver position. New number one



Bills fans are hoping for a season better than the last few years

photo courtesy: John Luu



Team huddles after practice
photo courtesy: John Luu

wide receiver John Brown and slot receiver Cole Beasley combined are going to make \$14 million this season. Passing offense has to improve after they spent that kind of money they did at the most important skill position when it comes to moving the ball through the air. Brown is the only receiver on the roster with a 1,000 yard receiving season on his resume.

And finally, one tight end must step up. Free agent Tyler Kroft is finally getting healthy and could return in the next few weeks after a broken foot on the first day of OTA's. He is the Bills number one tight end when he's healthy. Dawson Knox and Tommy Sweeney

get the majority of the reps. One of these three tight ends needs to be reliable for Allen and make plays in the passing game.

Most Bills fans old enough to remember those amazing Super Bowl seasons that the Bills have had hold tight to the fact that no other NFL team has ever made it to four championships in a row. It's a legacy now nearly a quarter century old. But maybe, just maybe, the Bills can bring home a championship trophy for all the fans out there that have stuck with them through thick and thin.

World News





**THE
FUTURE
WILL HATE
YOU**


**GOVERNMENT
MUST
ACT
NOW**

**OUR
FUTURE**

**THE
FUTURE**

THS

GOING DOWN IN FLAMES



FOREST FIRES ARE BECOMING A NATIONAL THREAT BY DESTROYING HOMES, WILDLIFE HABITAT AND TIMBER, AND POLLUTING THE AIR WITH EMISSIONS HARMFUL TO HUMAN HEALTH.



Photo by U.S. Department of Agriculture. In Fairbank AK, the Aggie Creek Fire was started by a lightning strike on June 22, 2015. The fire consumed over 31,000 acres and contained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Photo by Dewey. An awful fire broke out near Williams Lake, Colorado causing many evacuations in 2017. This fire caused the two different airports to shut down and closed many different highways, limiting transportation.

One of the students who attends Alfred- Almond has actually experienced this awful situation. During the California fires in 2014, Amma Ball lost about twenty acres of land to the huge fire, which was actually one of the better situations. Her close neighbors lost their entire homes and land was turned to ash. Amma said that it was one of the scariest things, but she was so grateful for the fighters that contained and put out the fire.

Photo by Pablo Elorza. In Chile, forest fires raced across the hill in destroying the vegetation in 2016. This actively burned more than one million acres because of the ongoing drought and record high temperatures.

Ancient forests and national treasures are destroyed. Peoples homes are lost and their lives are put on hold. These are just a few of the statements we hear related to nationwide forest fires every year. Forest fires have been an escalating catastrophe year after year. There were over 40,000 fires reported in the last year. Currently across the nation there are sixteen large scale fires leaving trails of carnage in seven different states. How? How do these fires manage to start and cause this level of damage? Their origins can be documented in two large categories: a natural fire or a fire as a result of humanity. A natural fire could be the result of lightning or spontaneous combustion. A human-provoked fire can be due to any number of reasons.

One such naturally induced fire is still active at the time of this publication in Swan Lake, Alaska. On June 5, a lightning strike hit the woods of the Kenai Peninsula. Committed to this fight, 700 firefighters have been working tirelessly to contain the blaze. In the early stages of the fire it was consuming the land the woods deep in Alaska, gaining thousands of acres per day, making it difficult to contain and hinder the blaze. After the firefighters cover the ground, they must wait days and begin the process of cold trailing. They need to run their bare hands through ash pits looking for hot spots. Currently the only part of the fire that still continues to burn is in Doshka Landing, where the temperature and dry foliage offer the perfect fuel. Specialists say the fire will be completely contained soon and then the long laborious process of clean up and repair begins.

In August of this year, reports of another fire, caused by human intervention, began with two individuals engaged in the illegal act of tree stealing. When committing their crimes, they came across a perfect find in the Olympic National Forest in Washington State. While attempting to obtain this tree the two men uncovered a bee nest. These bees caused quite a scene making it impossible to steal the maple. In an effort to salvage the situation the men made the disastrous decision to light the beehive on fire, which in turn caused the entire tree to light on fire. This fire raged across the ancient forest burning over 3,300 acres of woodlands. In order to end this fight and bring the blaze to an end it would cost 4.5 million dollars. Fortunately no one was harmed during this fire. The only catastrophe was the ancient forest; due to the dense nature of this forest, the fire took nearly a week to contain. During this time the smoke started to accumulate and flood over the hills of Washington, into the busy streets of Seattle. This caused discomfort for the residents of Seattle. Residents reported the the air quality was the worst they had ever seen and some even felt the quality was so poor they needed to wear masks to go outside.

One of the worst effects that forest fires have on the environment is air pollution. The quality of the air we breathe declines and greenhouse gasses increase in the atmosphere contributing to climate change. Trees and vegetation act as purifiers of the air we breathe by absorbing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. When greenhouse gases increase in the atmosphere it results in global warming and causes air pollution.

Naturally caused forest fires can only be contained and handled through the care of trained experts. To fight against human caused fires, the best course of action is education and careful monitoring of our national forests.

THE CHANGE WE NEED

By: Will Tormey

Is climate change affecting you? How much longer do we have before it is too late? Do you even know what climate change is? The real worry is not about your children's future, but your very own future. Climate change is not a worry for the next generation, but this generation.



Climate change is the shifting of the world climate due to increased carbon dioxide Emissions in our atmosphere. Due to our excessive use of fossil fuels to power cars, homes, factories, and, daily acts necessary to our everyday lives. The planet's average surface temperature has increased 1.62 degrees since the 19th century, according to a study from NASA. The Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets have decreased in mass according to NASA's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment.

Photo taken by Robert Jones



Greenland has lost an average of 286 billion tons of ice per year from 1993 to 2016. Meanwhile Antarctica lost about 127 billion tons of ice per year during the same years. Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, the acidity of surface ocean waters has increased by about 30 percent. This increase is the result of humans emitting more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere resulting in more carbon dioxide being absorbed into the oceans. The amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by the upper layer of

the oceans is increasing by about 2 billion tons per year.

The denial of climate change is fueled by the idea that there is no noticeable increase in temperature of our planet. Climate change deniers such as Donald Trump have stated, "NBC news called it the great freeze- coldest weather in years. Is our country still spending money on the Global Warming Hoax?" our political leaders are unable to accept the data supporting a very serious and dangerous problem in our world.

Our own Living Environments and AP Biology teacher, Ms. Kate Carretto, who has a Bachelors of Science in biology and has been exposed to the climate change "controversy" throughout her career, confirms that climate change is real: "Absolutely. I have found no colleagues of mine that disagree with the validity. It's the truth, not a matter of belief. Numbers do not lie." Being diligent and active thinking individuals can prevent us from becoming unaware of our changing natural world. If you pay attention and spend time understanding our planet then we can begin as a society to begin the fight again.

CLIMATE CHANGE BY THE NUMBERS

BY: WILL TORMEY

The average temperature of the Earth has increased at a rate of .2 degrees Celsius every decade



The numbers are staggering: There are 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic debris in the ocean. Of that mass, 269,000 tons float on the surface, while some four billion plastic microfibers per square kilometer litter the deep sea.



According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the average U.S. residential customer uses approximately 909 kWh per month of energy, or around 10,909 kWh per year.

Burning one gallon of gas creates 20 pounds of carbon dioxide, and the average car emits about six tons of carbon dioxide every year



The annual ozone hole reached an average area coverage of 8.83 million square miles (22.9 square kilometers) in 2018



The International Fight On Climate Change

Layout and Copy By Laertes
Cushing

Photo by: Dany
Prezat

Let's see,

First sign out of studyhall,
Then do my precalculus,
Talk to my teacher,
...and then speak at a climate change
conference? Teenagers around the
world are taking a stand against the un-
addressed issue of climate change.

Sixteen year old Greta Thunberg started a climate revolution in Sweden when she and her classmates marched out of school to protest at Parliaments door-step in August of 2018. Since then this movement has been called "Fridays for Future," and has gained a global following. After making headlines Greta didn't stop her momentum, speaking at multiple conferences within the next year. These include the January 2019 Economic Forum in Davos, and the Action Summit In September of 2019. Greta's passion she showed in her recent speech at the Action Summit in September for change has caught the attention of many politicians worldwide. Greta urges everyone to lower their carbon emissions, waste, and make a conscious effort to control pollution.



Poverty, habitat loss and forest fires haven't stopped Helena Guilinga from fighting to save her home- the Ecuadorian Amazon. Helena Guilinga is seventeen and has been a climate change activist her entire life. Her biggest concerns are with the large oil companies destroying ecosystems, families, and polluting the air and water table of the Amazon. Helena believes that it is not too late to act. She tries to advocate for her tribe and others who have been ruined by these oil companies, she said, "By protecting indigenous peoples' rights, we protect billions of acres of land from exploitation." The dangers of losing the forests and habitats in the Amazon could affect the global community Helena means to spread the message, "We must keep the oil out of the ground. We must defend the Amazon. We must fight against climate change. We must protect the environment."

Photo By: Helena Gualinga



Most kids have weird nicknames in school, maybe based on an inside joke or something they do, but Autumn Peltier, "The Water Warrior," is much different than your average teen. Autumn lives with the Wikwemikong First Nation on Manitoulin Island In Northern Ontario, Canada. Manitoulin is located on Lake Huron, which is one of the freshwater Great lakes in the United States. Autumn does not take the freshwater she can drink and use for granted. Many of the other tribes have tainted water because of the spill from the pipelines, so drinking and bathing in it is out of the question. Because of this, Autumn has been fighting for clean water rights with other tribes since she was eight years old, earning her nickname. Autumn was invited to the 2018 United Nations World Water Day and was she was awarded the title of Water protector. She continues to work towards clean water rights for everyone around the world.

Photo by: Stan Wesley

The ever lurking issue of climate change is a top priority for many teens and parents who hope to protect their future. Teens have taken up the charge: the time for action is now and they realize that. The internet has helped teens have a voice on a global scale to multiple top government organizations. Each of us can do our part in small ways, such as recycling and lowering our carbon emissions. Thunberg, Guilinga, and Peltier, each in their own words, are urging us all: help protect our future.



This Month in the DOGGO CORNER

Welcome to the Doggo Corner! This is your source of adorable dog pictures and information! This month we're featuring Cassie, the wonderful dog of Bella Powell. Her full name is Cassiopeia after the star constellation. She was adopted from the SPCA when Bella was in the fourth grade. She is 75% Collie, 12.5% German Shepard and 12.5% Husky. Cassie is very vocal and loves to nap in the sun. She hates baths and is incredibly lazy. If she doesn't feel like doing something she will just lay down and force Bella to carry her. Her favorite toy is her furry stuffed lamb and she doesn't like squeaky toys. She also enjoys eating flies- yummy! Cassie's favorite thing to do is lazily hop onto Bella's bed and place her head in Bella's lap.



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- 6TH > PENNER (M-F)

1. Sign out of lunch
2. Bring a book & lunch
3. Eat & Read!

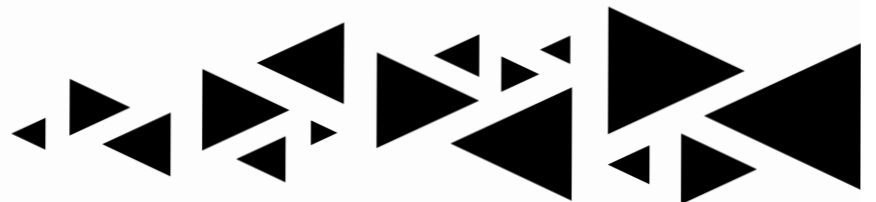
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No Food or Drink



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In Design Tips

