



# Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

## January 2019

### Inside this Issue

Second grade celebrates  
Christmas around the  
world;  
Honor Society holds  
blood drive;  
A-A to present *Beauty  
and the Beast* .....Pg. 2

Elementary news;  
Robotics Club competes  
at Wings of Eagles ...Pg. 3

Juniors host Fun Night;  
Math Team wins at CCC  
.....Pg. 4

First Honor Roll  
Breakfast recognizes  
achievement;  
STAR credit information  
.....Pg. 5

PreK and Kindergarten  
registration forms....Pg. 6

Honor Society members  
serve as bell ringers;  
Share your love of  
reading in community  
poster project.....Pg. 7

Classes produce signs;  
Mark your calendar;  
ALCEN yearbooks on  
sale;  
Transportation requests;  
School closing info.. Pg. 8

## Student Government helps fight hunger

Student Government organized a school-wide food drive to collect non-perishable items for two local food pantries during the holiday season. The Alfred-Almond faculty and students responded to the need of their community. At the conclusion of the food drive, the elementary and high school collections totaled 975 items. The fifth and ninth grade classes collected the most items and earned a class pizza party, compliments of Student Government. Overall, the food drive was a success; the Alfred and Almond pantry coordinators were overwhelmed with gratitude.

Student Government would like to thank its school community for working together to help feed people who do not have the means to put food on their tables, especially during the holiday season!



(Above) Aurora Middaugh and Lena Michel hauled boxes of donated items.

(Upper left) Student Government students collected 975 items for the donation.

(Above) Arnold St. Phard helps transport the donations.

(Left) Logan Brown and Sarah Johnson sort the donations.



## Second grade celebrates Christmas around the world

Second graders spent most of December “traveling” to many countries to learn how different cultures celebrate the holidays. Mrs. Woughter’s class was lucky to have a visit from Tom’s mother (Helen Zhao) to share items from China and the Chinese New Year. Each student was presented with a red envelope that included Chinese money. They also tried on masks, held a lantern and practiced holding chopsticks. So many beautiful objects were seen!

(Right) Yakov Lewis practices using chopsticks.



Second-graders enjoyed learning about the Chinese culture from the Zhao family.



Tom and Helen Zhao display a Chinese lantern.

## Honor Society holds blood drive

Thank you for continuing to support the blood drive program and teach the students how important it is to give! Our goal for the recent drive was 35 units and we were able to collect 30 units that will save and/or affect 90 lives. The students did a fantastic job. The Red Cross, along with National Honor Society Advisor Matt McAneney, would like to thank all of the student volunteers, as well those students, faculty and community members who took time to donate blood. Thank you!



Juniors Lauren Kelly and Grace Yarnal worked the registration table for the Honor Society Blood Drive.

The Alfred Almond Performing Arts Department Proudly Presents Disney's

## Beauty & The Beast



Thursday, March 14th @ 7pm

Saturday, March 16th @ 7pm

Sunday, March 17th @ 2pm

Alfred Almond High School Auditorium  
\$5 General Admission



## Elementary news

Many times educators are asked by parents, “What can I do at home to help my child be successful at school?” The answer to this is quite simple – read with your child every day! Throughout the reading process, praise your child, ask questions about the story, visualize the story, offer information, share personal feelings and relate the story to real life. Most of all, enjoy the story together and let your child see that reading is fun. This is a special time together!

### Elementary Story Night

A great time was had by more than 120 children, parents and community members who attended the Elementary School Improvement Team’s annual Story Night on December 6. Students enjoyed the story telling of Mr. Benjamin Link, Mr. Matthew Lawrence and members of the Alfred State baseball team. Mrs. Powers and more



Members of the Alfred State baseball team read to students during Story Night.



The cast of Mr. Willowby’s Christmas Tree performed at Story Night.

than a dozen student participants capped off the evening with a reading and dramatic recreation of *Mr. Willowby’s Christmas Tree* by Robert Barry.

Special thanks to Deb Cannon, Billie Jean Diestler, Melissa Jusianiec, Andrea Oriend and their families for their efforts in making the Scholastic Book Fair a great success.

### Some important upcoming dates to remember:

January 17: Spelling Bee, 6:30 p.m.

January 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

January 28: Superintendent’s Day - No School

February 18-22: Winter Recess - No School

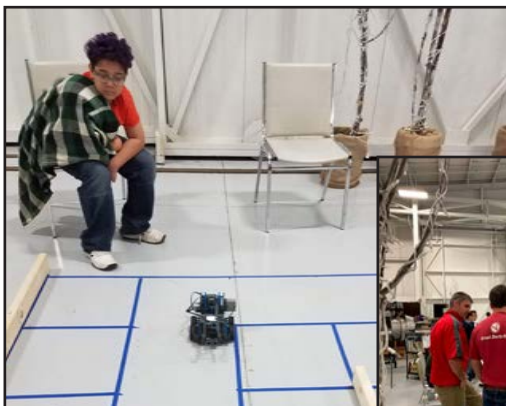
Parent communication is crucial to student success.

Feel free to contact the school with any questions or concerns at 276-6525.

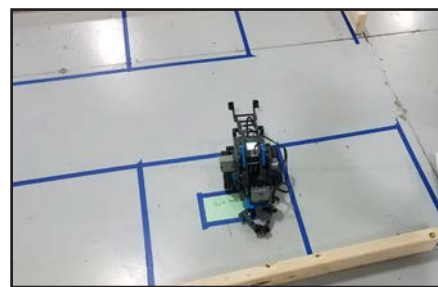
**Brett Dusinberre**  
Elementary School Principal

## Robotics Club competes at Wings of Eagles Discovery Center

The Robotics Club recently traveled to the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center in Big Flats for a competition. This year’s theme was “Space Camp.” Students had to program robots to do both autonomous and operator control challenges. Thank you to Mr. Gray for taking photos.



Several schools participated in the competition, where teams ran their robots through challenges.





## Juniors host Fun Night for elementary students

Once again, the Class of 2020 volunteered its time to host a Fun Night for elementary students. Members of the class ran a popular concession stand that provided delicious homemade treats and beverages. Inside the gym, the elementary students were treated to private basketball lessons from some of the juniors, as well as the opportunity to play a game. They also had the always-fun parachute out, along with hula hoops. The elementary students really showed our juniors that they came to play!

The pool was open for participants and the Tormey Team of Hanna and Will made sure everyone was safe, happy and having fun!

Miss Sick and Miss Hatch would like to thank all of the Class of 2020 volunteers, all of the staff volunteers, and of course all of the elementary students and parents who came ready to have fun. We hope to see everyone at our next event!

(Top) James Gilchrist had fun with his friends in the pool.

(Far right) High school student Davon Bloom provided basketball lessons for elementary students Will Levey, Tanguy Renault-Lautredoux, Cuhlyn Perkins and Owen Stuart.

(Right) Maeleigh Hosmer played with the parachute in the gym.



## Math Team wins Corning Community College contest

On November 20, the Math Team attended Corning Community College's Math Contest and STEM Day. The Alfred-Almond Math Team once again placed first among small schools in attendance. The top five scorers included Mikaela, Zoe, Abby, Julian and Lauren. In addition to the team award, Mikaela Wisniewski earned fifth place among all the students participating in the contest.

Students also attended sessions on STEM-related

careers such as actuary, meteorology, biomedical engineering, civil engineering and much more. Hands-on activities, including dissecting a cow eyeball, also were part of the sessions.

The Math Team looks forward to our next event, the American Mathematics Competition at Houghton College on February 7.



Mikaela Wisniewski earned fifth place overall.

(Left) Members of the team that won at CCC included (front, l-r) Abby Kelly, Mikaela Wisniewski, (back, l-r) Lauren Kelly, Zoe Tarun and Julian Petrillo.



## First Honor Roll Breakfast recognizes academic achievement

Once again, the Secondary School Improvement Team was proud to host the First Honor Roll Breakfast for the first quarter of the 2018-19 school year. On Thursday, December 6, the High School cafeteria was at capacity seating with students and families gathered to enjoy fruit, juice and the ever-popular donuts, along with recognition.

The academic achievements of the students were celebrated as Mrs. Bain-Lucey offered her gratitude and admiration for the importance they have placed on their education, along with their commitment to improve, grow, learn and challenge themselves. She thanked the parents and teachers for their support and encouragement of the students.

One hundred fifteen First Honor students were recognized by their counselors, comprising 41 percent of the student body. In order to receive First Honors, a student must obtain an average of 90 percent or higher and have no grade below 80 percent.

Mrs. Bain-Lucey also recognized the 184 students who achieved either first or second honor status or BOCES honors. This comprised 65 percent of the Alfred-Almond Jr. Sr. High School student body.

Congratulations to all of these students and their teachers and families for their dedication to education!



*Honorees at the First Honor Roll breakfast included Logan Dwyer (above), Abby Kelly and Caroline Ding (left).*

## STAR credit information

Eligible new homeowners will receive their STAR savings in the form of a check directly from New York State. New Basic and En-



hanced STAR applicants must register with the New York State Tax Department to receive a STAR check. Register anytime at [www.tax.ny.gov/star](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star) or by phone weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (518-457-2036). Register by July 1 to receive your STAR check in September. If you register after July 1, you will receive your check later.

### STAR eligibility requirements

If you own your home, it's your primary residence, and if your income is \$500,000 or less, you're eligible for the Basic STAR credit.

If you're 65 or older with an income of \$86,000 or less, you may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR credit.

### Before you register

You'll need this information to register for the STAR credit:

- names and social security numbers for all owners of the property and their spouses
- the primary residence of the owners and their spouses
- approximate date the owners purchased the property and the name of the sellers
- 2018 school tax bill, if the current owners received one
- address of any residential property owned in another state
- the legal name of the trust, if applicable
- 2017 federal or state income tax returns for all owners. If you weren't required to file a 2017 income tax return, you be asked to provide financial information for all property owners.

### STAR exemption recipients

You don't need to register with New York State for STAR if you're a longtime homeowner with an existing STAR exemption. If you're a senior citizen who has been receiving the Basic STAR exemption and has become eligible for the Enhanced STAR exemption, you should apply with your local assessor.

## Alfred-Almond KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

In order to identify all children who will enter Kindergarten in September 2019, we are asking those parents who have eligible children who ***DO NOT CURRENTLY ATTEND THE PRE-K PROGRAM*** to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 20, 2019. Your child must be 5 years of age on or before December 1, 2019. This information is necessary when we initiate Kindergarten sign-ups in the spring. We will use this information below to generate a mailing list for sending the actual registration packets. Students currently attending the Pre-K will automatically be sent a packet. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ M/F \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Maiden Last

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

House #	Street	City	State	Zip
---------	--------	------	-------	-----

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First	Middle	Last

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

House #	Street	City	State	Zip
---------	--------	------	-------	-----

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM \_\_\_\_\_

Child Resides With: \_\_\_\_\_

Alfred-Almond Elementary  
6795 State Route 21  
Almond, NY 14804  
607-276-6525

## Alfred-Almond PRE-KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

In order to identify all children who will enter Pre-Kindergarten in September 2019, we are asking those parents who have eligible children to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 20, 2019. Your child must be 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2019. This information is necessary when we initiate Pre-Kindergarten sign-ups in the spring. We will use this information below to generate a mailing list for sending the actual registration packets. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ M/F \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First	Maiden	Last

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

House #	Street	City	State	Zip
---------	--------	------	-------	-----

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First	Middle	Last

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

House #	Street	City	State	Zip
---------	--------	------	-------	-----

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM

Child Resides With: \_\_\_\_\_

Alfred-Almond Elementary  
6795 State Route 21  
Almond, NY 14804  
607-276-6525



## National Honor Society members serve as bell ringers

On December 21, members of the National Honor Society volunteered for the local Salvation Army with bell-ringing in front of Walmart. Approximately 20 students as well as School Counselors Matt McAneney and Amy Decker participated in the annual event.



(L-R) Lindsey Allen, Sarah Johnson, Mrs. Decker, Liam McAneney, Mr. McAneney and Austin Swackhamer braved the cold to help their community.



(L-R) Nora Looney, Nathan Grove, Annie Lloyd, Laertes Cushing, Ali Fancher and Will Tormey manned the red kettle for the Salvation Army.

## Share your love of reading through the community poster project

The AACs library staff, computer technology department and High School art department invite all teachers, staff, students and district residents to join our Literacy Celebration Poster Project for 2018-19.

The project is intended to celebrate the individual reading choices of everyone in the AACs community by creating and displaying posters featuring individual readers and their favorite books. The posters will be displayed both online and on the walls of the High School corridors.

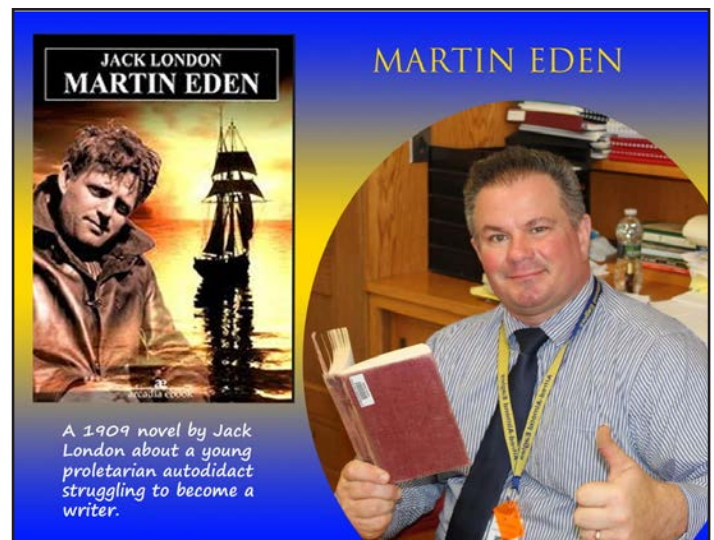
We have already had several volunteers, but we need many more. To participate, please:

1. Contact Mrs. Kuhn with the title and author of a book which you have especially enjoyed.
2. Write one or two sentences explaining why this particular book was special for you.
3. Allow us to photograph you holding a copy of your special book.

Submissions will be used by fine arts and computer students to create posters celebrating the power of individual reading habits to shape lives, and encouraging increased individual reading by members of this community.



Student Trent Freeland (left) and Superintendent Rich Calkins (right) are featured in two of the literacy posters.



## POSTAL PATRON

Alfred-Almond Central School  
6795 Rte. 21  
Almond, New York 14804  
Return Services Requested

U.S. Postage Paid  
Alfred, New York 14802  
Permit No. 20  
Non-Profit Organization

## Mark your calendar

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School ..... January 21  
Superintendent's Conference Day –  
No School for Students ..... January 28  
Winter Recess – No School ..... February 18-22  
Winter Sports Awards..... March 7, 7:00 p.m.  
Talent Show ..... March 8, 6:00 p.m.  
Spring Show ..... March 14, 16 and 17  
Superintendent's Conference Day –  
No School for Students ..... March 15  
Parent-Teacher Conferences ..... March 21-22  
Elementary dismissed at 11:50 a.m.

## ALCEN yearbooks on sale

The ALCEN Staff has been hard at work during the past few months. We met our first deadline of 42 pages and we have another 52 pages due at the end of January. The staff would like to remind everyone that the 2019 yearbooks will be on sale the week of February 4-8. The cost of the book is \$50 and checks can be made payable to ALCEN. Thank you to the businesses that have purchased an ad in the yearbook – their support helps keep the cost of the book down.

## Transportation requests

Any parent requesting student transportation to a nonpublic school must request such transportation in writing no later than April 1, 2019. The request should be submitted to the Alfred-Almond Central School District Office.

## School closing information

As a reminder to parents, it is sometimes necessary to close school because winter weather conditions make it unsafe for students to walk or ride to school. Should it be necessary to close school, you will receive an automated message notifying you of this occurrence. For additional information on school closings, please listen to one of the following radio or TV stations:

WLEA 1480 AM    WLSV 790 AM    WKPQ 105.3 FM  
WCKR 92.1 FM    WJQZ 103.5 FM    WZKZ 101.1 FM  
WKBW-TV (Buffalo)    WETM-TV (Elmira)

## Classes produce signs

Design and Drawing for Production and Manufacturing classes worked in conjunction with the Physical Education teachers to complete Frisbee tee box signs for gym class. They will be installed next spring.

