



# Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

## November 2018

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### Donors provide free books for sixth-graders

Generous supporters have made it possible for every sixth-grade student at Alfred-Almond to choose a free book from the Scholastic Book Clubs flyers each month. During the summer, Miss Booman-Amico, Mrs. Oriend and Mrs. Wall asked friends and families if they'd be willing to sponsor a student for the year, and the outpouring of support was overwhelming. Donors include current and retired A-A staff members, former and current students' families and others from near and far. Thank you to all who supported the mission to get books into the hands of eager readers!



Sixth-graders with their free book from the September book orders.

### "Beauty and the Beast" auditions scheduled

Auditions for the spring musical, Disney's *Beauty & The Beast*, will be held after school on Tuesday, December 11 and Wednesday, December 12. Auditions are open to all Alfred-Almond students in Grades 6-12. You only need to attend one night of auditions.

Callbacks will be held on Friday, December 14.

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

### Students visit ASC farm

Second graders recently visited Alfred State's Agriculture Farm along with other schools from around the area. They were given a tour of the facility and got some hands-on fun with the animals. The visit ended with a wonderful treat of milk, cheese and crackers.



## Elementary news

What a great year we are having, A-A family and friends. I cannot believe how fast this school year is flying by. November is upon us and the hustle and bustle of the holidays are beginning. November is a month for celebrations. Setting goals and celebrating accomplishments is important to your child. Your child needs to understand the targets that he/she is trying to reach. Set some goals around your house for your child to work toward. Examples of attainable goals include learning how to tie shoes, reading for 20 minutes or practicing math facts every night.

Congratulations to our students who were selected at our October PBIS assembly. The classroom winner chose a movie and popcorn party for his/her class. The school-wide winner chose an art project that the entire Elementary School will participate in. Look for pictures on our school website.

We had more than 2,900 golden tickets given out for the month of September. Our school's goal for the month of October is to reach 3,000. Students can earn tickets by practicing safety, ownership, acceptance and respect. Please make sure to ask your son/daughter what the acronyms KAHFOOTY and SOAR stand for.

Please remember that during the winter months, students still go outside for recess, weather permitting. Please make sure to send to school the appropriate clothing for students.

Please enjoy the upcoming holiday season, best wishes to you and your family!

**Brett Dusinberke**  
Elementary School Principal

## Bus safety practiced

Alfred-Almond bus drivers take the safety of their passengers seriously. Recently, students Pre-K through fourth grade were given instruction and practice on riding safely and exiting quickly in an emergency. All students who ride the buses will receive periodic drills during the year.



*Hannah Clark gets a hand while practicing emergency exit.*

## Area All-State musicians

The Alfred-Almond Instrumental Music Department has impressive representation in the upcoming Area All-State Music Festivals. Congratulations to our selected musicians and best wishes for an amazing performance!



*(L-R) Ethan Foster, Miles Muhleisen, Julian Petrillo and Claire Volk. These four students will attend the Junior High Festival to be held in Hornell on November 2-3.*



*(L-R) Jake Schultze, Dontata Koegel and Amber Trudell will attend the Senior High Festival in Elmira on November 16-17.*

## ALCEN yearbooks on sale

The 2018 ALCEN staff began selling business ads during the summer and are now working on compiling the pages for these ads. The staff also is creating page layouts, taking photographs and working on the senior pages. Our first deadline is November 26, when 45 pages are due.

Yearbooks can be purchased at any time in Room 207 (Mrs. Valentine's room). The cost of the book is \$50 and checks can be made payable to ALCEN. We would like as many pre-sale orders as possible by December 21 so we can have an accurate count when ordering the books. All books are available on a first come, first served basis. Anyone with questions regarding the yearbook can contact Mrs. Valentine at [kvalentine@acsapps.com](mailto:kvalentine@acsapps.com).

Thank you for supporting the 2019 ALCEN Yearbook!



## Classes celebrate work with coffee house readings

On September 27, Mrs. Snyder's and Ms. Sick's English 9 classes included a spotlight, snacks and snapping fingers as students celebrated the last stage of the writing process – publishing – by sharing their writing aloud in a coffee house-style presentation.

The first unit of the year culminated in a personal essay written in the style of NPR's "This I Believe" initiative. After reading several model texts, students wrote essays on their own personal philosophies of life, going through each stage of the writing process – prewriting, drafting, revising and editing – both individually and with writing partners. On the final day of the unit, they took time to enjoy one another's writing and honor their hard work. While listening respectfully and attentively to performers, students sipped coffee and cocoa and munched on bakery treats. At the



Ben Lloyd shares his work during the coffee house-style reading.

end of each performance, students, in coffee house style, snapped their fingers in applause and congratulated one another on a job well done.

## Elementary students SOAR into school year

As part of the Elementary School's PBIS initiative, students were introduced to the "crows" and "eaglets" at the beginning of the school year. Students watched videos in which the crows made poor decisions and the eaglets corrected with appropriate behaviors. Team members helped students to recognize the reasons for the expectations in all areas. Many visual reminders are part of the school climate and students can earn their wings, in the form of golden tickets, by demonstrating the Eagle behaviors of Safety, Ownership, Acceptance and Respect.

The tickets are entered into a classroom drawing for daily or weekly recognition. Recently, the entire school gathered for the first monthly assembly where more tickets were drawn from the almost 3,000 earned in the first month. Two special tickets were chosen for a classroom reward and a school-wide award. Luke was one lucky winner and chose to treat his class to popcorn and a movie. Bea's name was drawn for the top prize and she chose to initiate an art project that would include all the students in the school. Excitement is running high and the students are demonstrating how they SOAR every day.



Sixth-graders watched videos that showed crows and eaglets choosing different behaviors.

## Spirit Week 2018

All of Alfred-Almond got into the "spirit" during Spirit Week, which culminated with the Fall Pep Rally and Bonfire Dance. Elementary and High School students had a dress-up theme each day, with Blue and Gold Day celebrated district-wide on Friday. Although the bonfire had to be postponed one day due to weather, the week garnered an enthusiastic response.



(Above) Students showed their spirit during Blue and Gold Day.



(Left) Rock and Roll Day was a big hit at the High School.



## Game Design students create unique board games

Game Design students have been hard at work brainstorming, planning, creating and designing board games. The class worked with the Technology Teacher Mr. Levey to use the laser cutter to make their computer image game boards come to life on 1/4 inch thick wood sheets cut to 12 inches by 12 inches square. The process took longer than originally anticipated, but the designs came out so great, it was all worth it.

While the laser cutter was hard at work, students created their directions page, a deck of cards and players that would be used complete the project. Thanks to Mrs. Powers for allowing students to use her classroom paint supply to bring color to the game boards. She also advised students on types of paint to use and sealant, Mod Podge, that could be used if students wanted their boards to be shiny. On October 18, during class time, students enjoyed a snack and play time as they experienced the work of their peers and reflected on their own project.

This was a new project Mrs. Kuhn chose to include this year for the Game Design class, which is offered every fall at Alfred-Almond. She is so proud of the students and what they designed. "The board games are each unique and individualized," said Kuhn. "Students came up with ideas and we just went with it. Mr. Levey was a huge help and

we thank him. He shared his wood supply for our board games, helped with cutting squares and then followed up as some ideas took new directions. It allowed the students greater options to be creative and 'go wild.'"

Look for these new "hit" games at the Art Show in May!



Game Design students show off their work.

## Advanced ceramics students explore local arts

Art students at A-A are fortunate to have inspirational resources, artists and a top-ranking ceramic school just down the road from their own studies. Recently, advanced ceramics students took a day-long field trip to explore the arts in our region.

The day began at the pottery studio of Matthew Metz, whose ceramic work is internationally known and featured in the PBS show, *Craft in America*. Students viewed the workings of his studio space, pieces in various stages of progress, a wheel throwing demonstration, and a surface design and carving demonstration. Metz spent an hour of his time with students, sharing insights and techniques. His ease of creation and productivity left a lasting impact on the group.



Students spent part of the day visiting artist Matthew Metz.

An hour was spent touring the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum, experiencing the ornate and highly-designed ceramic dinnerware of the first lady of China. Chunmao Huang, who graduated from the MFA program at Alfred University in 2003, has gone on to become China's premier ceramic designer, and we are lucky enough to have his work on display less than 10 minutes from Alfred-Almond. Students took time to analyze the aesthetics and functionality of his dinnerware, with direct relation to their own ceramic creations back in the AACs art studio.

The day wrapped up with a tour of Alfred University's nationally ranked #1 ceramic art school. Students walked through studio spaces and were amazed by the enormous kiln room. They talked with students and faculty, experienced a hot glass demonstration, visited the Artists as Innovators show in the gallery on campus and felt the positivity of an arts rich environment.

"Experiencing ceramics and pottery outside of the classroom serves to open students' eyes to the impact and potential for the medium, which is especially exciting as we delve into wheel thrown pottery at school," said teacher Amy Powers. "We are incredibly grateful for the district's support of our new wheel throwing curriculum with the purchase of eight pottery wheels for our art program."

## News from the Counselors

Juniors are working with Mrs. Decker on their junior interviews. Some juniors attended a college night in Hornell in September and are researching post-secondary schools and exploring their career options. Students are learning how to use web resources for their college/career search. They are educated on the importance of college entrance exams (PSAT, SAT and ACT), grade point average and rigor of class schedule (AP classes, Regents classes), as well as involvement in sports and/or clubs and community activities to be a well-rounded student.

Students are encouraged to use the Guidance Direct Program to facilitate their career search. Juniors are encouraged to attend college tours and open houses, meet with college representatives at school and take the appropriate entrance exams recommended by colleges.

The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) is a comprehensive assessment program that measures college readiness and provides students with the tools they need to plan for the future. The test is offered each year at A-A in mid-October for juniors. The PSAT measures skills in critical reading, mathematics and writing. It also prepares students for the SAT. The PSAT also is used by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a means of screening entrants in its annual competition for recognition and college scholarships. On average, students who take the PSAT/NMSQT score 120 points higher on the SAT than those who do not.

Juniors also are encouraged to take the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) in March, May and/or June (test dates are offered year round). Parents of juniors were mailed a letter stating the deadline dates for this test. The SAT helps colleges and universities identify students who could succeed at their institutions. It also assesses critical reading, mathematical reasoning and writing skills. The SAT is an internationally recognized, accurate measure of college readiness and scholarship potential.

The ACT is similar to the SAT. It also is a national college admission and placement examination. It covers the subject areas of English, math, reading, science and writing. The ACT is more curriculum-based versus aptitude-based. It is offered year-round at designated schools. Retakes for both the SAT and ACT are encouraged to improve your score. Some colleges recommend that students take the SAT subject test(s) as well.

Alfred-Almond offers review sessions for the SAT/ACT in February and March. For test review, go to:

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

[www.guidancedirect.com](http://www.guidancedirect.com)

[www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

## College search calendar for juniors

**September:** Start your college/job search by reviewing as many college/career guides, catalogs and resources as possible. Put together a list of roughly ten colleges/employers you are interested in. Plan to apply to at least three to five schools/employers. Become familiar with the school counselors' office (SCO) and its resources. Attend the college fair at Hornell High School. Register for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) in the SCO. Prepare at [collegeboard.com/psat](http://collegeboard.com/psat). Please use Guidance Direct to access colleges/careers.

**October:** Attend college fairs. Create a list of your interests, special talents and educational and/or career goals. Take the PSAT/NMSQT. Inquire about Advanced Placement (AP) or summer college courses that may be available to you. Start learning about the colleges you're considering.

**November:** Consider the characteristics a college or job should have to meet your needs. Think about size, location, cost/earning potential, courses/job requirements, teaching staff/supervisors, facilities and social activities and opportunities.

**December:** Write or call colleges/work places you are seriously considering and request information (course guide books, application and financial aid). Investigate scholarship opportunities. Look for your PSAT/NMSQT score report. Start planning to take the SAT I and/or SAT II exams, if necessary. You may also need to take the ACT. Check with the schools you are interested in for specific testing requirements. Ask your high school counselor about registration deadlines.

**January:** Prepare for college entrance exams (SAT/ACT). The SCO usually arranges for a free SAT preparation course that is team-taught by an English and math teacher here at AACs (six evening sessions). The SCO has SAT preparation programs on computers. Attend financial aid nights if you haven't already done so. During any college visits, make sure you meet with an admissions counselor and a financial aid officer to find out what types of aid are available.

**February:** Start seriously investigating private scholarships and other student aid programs. Ask your teachers and counselor if any local organizations offer free use of a scholarship search program.

**March:** Continue to gather and evaluate information on colleges and jobs. Continue to investigate financial aid resources of the colleges you are most interested in. Call or write for applications and more information. Register for the June ACT.

*Continued on page 7*



## College application tips for seniors

Currently, Mr. McAneney is completing interviews with each senior. These meetings take place to assist and solidify future plans. For most seniors, this is the time of year when they will begin the important task of applying to colleges. Regardless of the number of colleges to which students apply, the following process will help avoid confusion and unnecessary delays.

### Step 1

When registering for the ACT or SAT, designate which colleges are to receive your score reports. Most colleges require that you send "official test scores" directly from the test center (at an additional cost).

### Step 2

Complete the college application forms online. The Common Application site and the SUNY online application site are good starting places (see Mrs. Decker to find out which colleges use it). It is a good idea to make a copy of the application. Students can also download and print applications from the college website. If the application requires a teacher and/or counselor recommendation, arrange for those immediately.

### Step 3

Students applying online will need a credit card number for the application fee. Students mailing their application will need to enclose a check for the appropriate amount. Do not send cash.

### Step 4

An official high school transcript will need to be sent to the college from the School Counselor's Office either electronically or by mail. Students applying online through the Common Application can electronically invite their counselor and teachers to submit the necessary information. This information will be uploaded electronically by the teachers and/or Mrs. Decker. Students applying online to SUNY may print a transcript request form that needs to go to the SCO. If you would like Mrs. Decker to check your online applications before sending them electronically, please see her.

### Step 5

Don't delay, act today!

**Reminder: Seniors need to start their FAFSA applications beginning Oct. 1. The January date no longer applies.**

## Courses offer advantages

Alfred-Almond Central School currently offers seven Advanced Placement classes, three ACE classes and two Alfred State classes taught at AA as well as online Alfred State classes. Students who are planning to go to college should definitely take advantage of these opportunities. Taking these classes while in high school can be a great benefit during both the college application process and undergraduate life. Below are four reasons why students should consider AP classes in high school:

### 1. Strengthen Your High School Transcript

Most colleges would agree that the most important part of an application is a student's academic record (also known as a high school transcript). Admissions offices want to see that students have participated in the most challenging courses available. Success in these courses demonstrate that a student is prepared for the next level. At Alfred-Almond, the most challenging courses offered are high school college classes.

### 2. Develop College-Level Skills

College classes require critical thinking skills that are required of college students. The ability to write essays and problem solve successfully are just two of the skills necessary to succeed in college.

### 3. Save Money

Taking several college classes may allow students to

*Continued on page 8*

## Girls tennis team wins sectionals

The A-A girls varsity tennis team defeated Prattsburg 3-1 to capture the 2018 Section 5, Class C Team Sectional championship title. Stellar singles play continued to be AA's strong point. Caroline Ding (2nd singles) and Lauren Kelly (3rd singles) defeated their opponents in straight sets. Abby Kelly (1st singles) had her match called because of darkness after she fought for



*The team enjoyed an escort after their victory.*

more than two hours to take the first set over her opponent. Katy Elliott and Mikaela Wisniewski (1st doubles) played their best match of the season downing their opponents in three sets. The team finished the season with an overall 15-0 record.

## Mark your calendar

Veterans Day–No School .....	November 12
Food Drive HS/Elem.....	November 5-9
Parent-Teacher Conferences .....	November 8-9 (Elementary dismissal at 11:50 a.m. both days)
Thanksgiving Recess – No School .....	November 21-23
Scholastic Book Fair .....	December 3-6
Elementary Story Night .....	December 6, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
National Honor Society Blood Drive.....	December 10, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High Chorus Concert .....	December 17, 7:00 p.m.
Elementary Concert (Band & Chorus).....	December 18, 7:00 p.m.
Jr./Sr. Band Concert .....	December 19, 7:00 p.m.
Holiday Recess–No School.....	December 24, 2018– January 4, 2019
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School.....	January 21
Spelling Bee .....	January 17, 6:30 p.m.
Semi-Formal .....	January 26, 7:00 p.m.
Superintendent’s Conference Day – No School for Students .....	January 28
Winter Recess .....	February 18-22

## College search calendar, continued

**April:** If you decide to retake either the SAT or ACT after receiving your scores from the first administration, plan for when you will do so. SAT retake registration may be called in over the phone (fee involved) or submitted online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Begin scheduling visits to the top five schools of your choice. If appropriate, set up an interview and/or an overnight visit. Begin preparing essays for college admissions and scholarship applications.

**May:** Look into volunteer work/internships, career-related employment opportunities, on campus academic experiences at a college or university and travel opportunities. These kinds of experiences may give you material for major decisions, college essays and transcript building. Colleges like to see more than strict academics on a transcript. Continue to research scholarship opportunities.

**June:** Prepare for Regents and final exams. Take the SAT if you have not already. Start drafting your résumé. If you have the opportunity, visit as many colleges on your list as possible. Obtain a summer job that might be related to your career interests.

## A-A artists collaborate

Elementary artists began this school year with an exciting collaborative project based on *The Dot*, by Peter H. Reynolds. The theme of this book centers on bravery, creativity, self-expression and inspiration as the main character works her way through a frustrating task that she encounters in art class. Students made connections between art and literature and were all challenged to “make their marks” in positive, tangible ways.

UPK and Kindergarten students enjoyed collaborative lessons with students from a school on Long Island. They painted halves of “Buddy Dots” which were then shared and reassembled for display. First-grade students teamed up with Mrs. Powers’ eighth grade students to make unique mixed media dot images. Second-graders designed miniature dot paintings, and third and fourth grades collaborated to create a dot visible spectrum. Fifth graders worked in groups to create oversized “desk dots.” Sixth-graders completed an “Art Meets Literacy” project, writing about how they will make their marks this school year, and then created dot frames for their finished written work. It was amazing to see all this work assembled on the walls for Open House on September 19. Educators all over the world have joined “International Dot Day,” celebrated on September 15. This was a fantastic way to begin a year of creativity at Alfred-Almond.

*Dot artwork was on display throughout the Elementary School during Open House.*



## Important test dates

### SAT I & II

Date	Reg. Deadline	Test Center
12/1/18	11/2/18	Hornell
3/9/19	2/8/19	Wellsville
5/4/19	4/5/19	Hornell or Wellsville
6/1/19	5/3/19	Hornell

### ACT

Date	Reg. Deadline	Test Center
12/8/18	11/2/18	Wellsville
6/8/19	5/3/19	Wellsville or Canisteo

## POSTAL PATRON

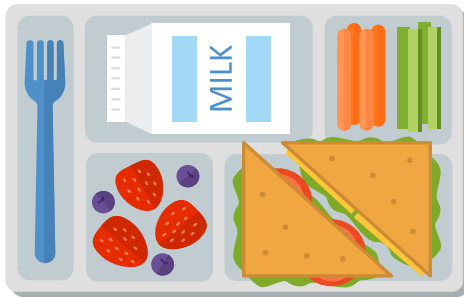
Alfred-Almond Central School  
6795 Rte. 21  
Almond, New York 14804  
Return Services Requested

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

## Free and reduced lunch info.

If at any time during the school year a family's income is reduced due to unemployment or reduction of hours, or if a household size increases, children may become eligible for free or reduced-price (\$.25) breakfast and lunch.

Applications are available on the district website, or contact the Food Service office at 276-6550. If you require assistance completing the paperwork, please contact Molly Turner at [mturner@aacssapps.com](mailto:mturner@aacssapps.com) or by phone 276-6555.



## AP courses offer advantages, continued

graduate from college a semester or even a year early. In the long run, this could save thousands of dollars.

### 4. Choose a Major Sooner

College courses provide an in-depth introduction to a specific subject area and may also fulfill a general education requirement. This means you may have more room in your schedule to explore different fields earlier in your college program.

## Fire Safety Week

Local volunteer firefighters spoke to elementary students during Fire Safety Week. Students were able to touch and try on turnout gear, talk about safety in their homes and even listen to a practice 911 call.



(Above) The gear was a "little" big on Ryan Erskine.



(Left) Students had fun trying on real gear.



(Above) Students gave firefighters a warm welcome.

## Seeking census data

Each year, district residents receive a census data card in the mail requesting important information concerning all children living in the household from birth through age 21. The information collected is *vital* for the district in planning staffing structures and attaining precise information of district preschool students.

If you have not returned your census card this year, please do so as soon as possible. Your help with compiling this information is greatly appreciated and critical for planning purposes. If you did not receive a census card, or need an additional copy, please contact Bryan Burdick at 276-6565 or at [bburdick@aacsspps.com](mailto:bburdick@aacsspps.com).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and helping us best plan for the educational needs of children.

## 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)	