



January 2018

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Student Government helps others with holiday drive

Student Government spent the holiday season giving back by organizing two district-wide efforts to help those in need.

In November, the group held its annual food drive aimed at filling the shelves of local food pantries. The Alfred-Almond faculty and students collected more than 800 items for donation to the Alfred and Almond food pantries. The second grade won the prize for largest donation in the elementary building. In the high school, prizes were awarded on an individual basis. Chris Mormino won the grand prize for the greatest number of items collected. A special thank you to Mr. Brian Jacobs and Mr. Tracy Moore for their help delivering donations.



(L-R) First place winner Chris Mormino and fourth place winner Hunter Whelpley.



Student Government representatives collected and organized donations for delivery.

In December, the organization held its first ever Furry Friends Supply Drive to aid the Hornell Animal Shelter. The AACS student body and faculty collected and donated a bountiful amount of food, treats and cleaning supplies that will help shelter workers properly care for animals in need.



Student Government reps set up a collection tree for donations.

(Right) Student Government President Hudson Laprade and Vice President Julia Price deliver donations to the Hornell Animal Shelter.



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. In addition, we obtained the exact amount of units needed to provide a scholarship to one student. Our students did a fantastic job with the drive. Thank you!



Maeghan Rodd and Mackenzie Ormsby greeted donors at the Honor Society blood drive.

The Alfred Almond Performing Arts Department
proudly presents

Wizard of Oz

Thursday, March 8, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 10, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 11, 2:00 p.m.
in the
High School Auditorium

Tickets are \$5 General Admission and will be available at the door. For more information contact Miss Karr (lkarr@aacapps.com).

Designed by Lucas Koegel

AACS
CLASS OF 2023
PRESENTS

AACS
TALENT
SHOW

AACS TALENT SHOW 2018

-7-12TH AUDITIONS-	-3-6TH AUDITIONS-	-AA STAFF AUDITIONS-
JANUARY 16/23, 2018	JANUARY 22, 2018	JANUARY 22, 2018
ACTIVITY MOD	3:30-5:30	3:30-5:30

-TALENT SHOW-	-SPAGHETTI DINNER-
FEBRUARY 9, 2018	FEBRUARY 9, 2018
6:30-9:00	4:30-6:30
TICKETS \$5.00	TICKETS \$8.00

Art Force 5 visit

Alfred University's Art Force 5, along with Dan Napolitano, made their tenth visit to second graders at Alfred-Almond. It is interesting to note that this year's seniors were the first group to experience Art Force 5 at Alfred-Almond. This fun group of superheroes teaches students about loving themselves and handling problems in creative ways. Their mission is to promote equality, reduce violence, build community, teach history and sow empathy.



Second graders enjoyed a visit from Alfred University's Art Force 5.

Annual Story Night attracts readers of all ages

A great time was had by more than 125 children, parents and community members who attended the Elementary School Improvement Team's annual Story Night on Thursday, December 7. Volunteer readers captured the attention of their audiences with spirited renditions of old favorites and new classics. Mrs. Burlingame and Mrs. Olin read *Stellaluna* and provided information about bats. Mr. Goho read *Small Saul* by Ashley Spires and *The Book With No Pictures* by B.J. Novak. Mr. Link read *I Want My Hat Back* by Jon Klassen, *A Visit From St. Nicholas* by Clement Clarke Moore, *Christmas Magic* by Lauren Thompson, *I Have to Go!* by Robert Munsch and *Kid Sheriff and the Terrible Toads* by Bob Shea. Mrs. Powers and more 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 Jusaniec and their families for their efforts in making the Scholastic Book Fair a great success. This event raised more than \$2,000 for teachers to use in purchasing books for their classrooms.

Our next event is one that you will not want to miss! Wildlife Rockstars will visit AACs on Thursday, March 8 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!



LaRae Dodson dives into the book she selected.



Matt Goho and Sam Bensley check out the Book Fair.



Students listened intently to a variety of stories.



Guest reader Megan Duke entertained students.



Mr. Goho shared stories with attendees.

First Honor Roll Breakfast recognizes academic achievement

In December, the Secondary School Improvement Team was proud to host the now-traditional First Honor Roll Breakfast for the first quarter of the 2017-2018 school year. On Thursday, November 30, it was again standing room only as the High School cafeteria was filled with students and families 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 them 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 thirty two First Honor students were recognized by their counselors, comprising 45 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 an 80 percent.

Mrs. Bain-Lucey also noted that a total of 196 students achieved either first or second honor status or BOCES honors. This comprised 66 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 (clockwise, from top) Jennifer McMahon and Ryann Donlon, Jina Zhou and Justin McClain, Elizabeth Yonda and Zoe Tarun and Mikayla Wisniewski.

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 Enhanced STAR applicants must register with the New York State Tax Department to receive a STAR check. Register anytime at 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

- 2017 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
- 2016 federal or state income tax returns for all owners. If you weren't required to file a 2016 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.



Liam Carstens wins library's Bookmark Challenge

Liam Carstens was selected as the overall winner of the Bookmark Challenge. Liam's winning bookmark was a paper collage of Ed Emberley's book, *Go Away, Big Green Monster!*

The Library received 27 entries from UPK through grade 6. Class winners included: Juliet Stiles (UPK), Elijah Simon-Robinson (K), Pieper Burch (1st), Morgan Fawley (2nd), Rona Powers (3rd), Ryan Washburn (4th), Astrea Cushing (5th), Josie Racho, Aurora Middaugh and Gracen Dusinberre (6th).



(Left to right) Josie Racho, Riley McMichael, Liam Carstens and LaRae Dobson celebrate their success in the Bookmark Challenge.

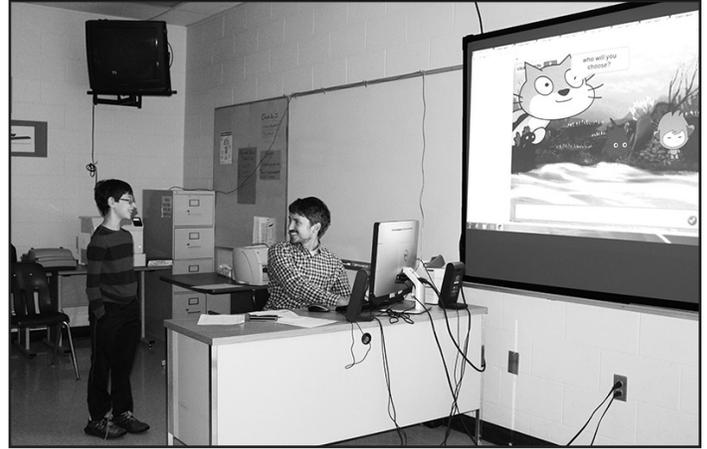
Elementary Computer Science Club members present work

This is the second year that Alfred-Almond has offered the after-school Computer Science Club for students in grades 4-6. Students enjoy exploring topics such as art, storytelling, working with computers, coding, music, video games and collaborating with friends during the club.

On Wednesday, December 20, more than 20 students and their families participated in Alfred-Almond's Elementary Computer Club Presentations, where students shared their hard work, laughed at each other's jokes and tested out each other's computer programs. It was an exciting night and a great way to to end the fall session of Computer Club.

This was the third such presentation for some students, whose projects focused on using coding and computer science skills to create video games and interactive artwork. The new members' presentations focused on using coding skills to create and tell stories. Students created unique presentations that were the culmination of nine weeks of hard, but rewarding, work.

Information and permission slips for the winter/spring Computer Science Club will be sent home to all students in grades 4-6 on Monday, January 22.



(Above, top) Gabe Fioretto shares his work with the audience.

(Above, middle) Nate Baker discusses his project.

(Above) Andrew Diestler presents the program he created.

(Left, top) Owen Stuart, Caleb Roberts and Easton Welch present their joint project.

(Left) Ellie Drozeski shares her presentation.

Bell ringers brave the cold

Members of the National Honor Society braved the frigid temperatures on December 21 to assist the local Salvation Army with bell-ringing in front of Walmart. The students entertained stressed-out shoppers with song and dance, creating a very festive mood for the holidays.



(L-R) Abby Kelly, Katy Elliot, Maeghan Rodd, Chris Galusha, McKenzie Ormsby, Kaitlyn Cook and Emelia Enke manned the red kettle for the Salvation Army.



Hanna Tormey, Sophia Napolitano and Nathan Grove braved the cold to help their community.

Fall athletes honored with sports awards



(Above) Senior Athletes
Athletes who have competed in their sport for three or more years at the varsity level, including their senior year. (L-R) Hannah Kinnaird - Girls Varsity Soccer, Mackenzie Ormsby - Girls Varsity Tennis and Maeghan Rodd - Girls Varsity Tennis.

(Right) Trophy Winners
Back Row: Lauren Kelly - Most Improved (Tennis), Atillo Cushing - Sportsmanship (Boys Varsity Soccer), Duncan Bryant-Carty - Most Improved (Boys Varsity Soccer), Evan Wood - Most Valuable (Boys Varsity Soccer)
Middle Row: Emily Noone - Sportsmanship (Girls Soccer), Katy Elliott - Sportsmanship (Girls Tennis), Will Tormey - (Boys JV Soccer)
Front Row: Kate Walsh - Sportsmanship (Girls JV Soccer), Hannah Kinnaird - Most Valuable (Girls Soccer), Roni Morsman - Most Improved (Girls Soccer)
Not Pictured: Abby Kelly - Most Valuable (Girls Tennis)



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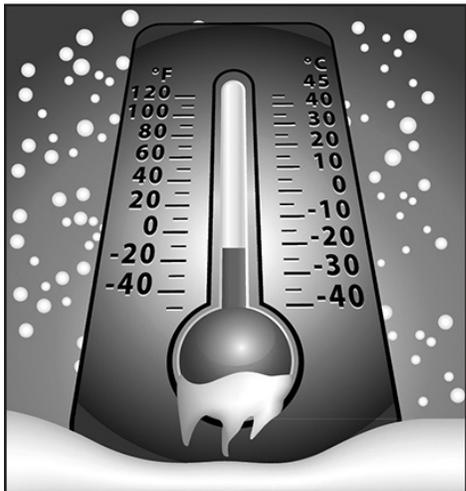
POSTAL PATRON

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Snow and emergency closing information

As a reminder to parents, with the winter weather, it is sometimes necessary to close school because it is not safe for the 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)



Important dates

Superintendent's Conference Day – No school for students
..... January 26

Winter Recess – No School February 19-23

Winter Sports Awards..... March 1, 7:00 p.m.

Spring Musical - "Wizard of Oz" March 8, 10 and 11

Superintendent's Conference Day – No school for students
..... March 19

Parent-Teacher Conferences – Elementary students
dismissed at 11:50 a.m. March 15-16

No School..... March 30

Transportation requests info.

Any parent requesting transportation to a non-public school for the 2018-19 school year must make the request in writing by April 1, 2018. The request should be submitted to the District Office.