



November 2017

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Dear Parents and Community Members,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying all that Western New York has to offer. At Alfred-Almond, this time of year goes hand-in-hand with fabulous activities and events that are thriving, both on and off campus.

Our students continue to positively represent our school and community. Whether in the classroom or on the field/courts, they continue to meet our high expectations of conduct and achievement. A big thank you to our teachers and coaches for their leadership and commitment.

The annual "Soccer Under the Lights" was another huge success, and it was great to see so many kids having fun and learning great life lessons at such a young age. It is scary to see how fast time flies – take lots of pictures! My appreciation goes out to the AAYSL for working so hard to provide our future Eagles with such a great experience.

A big thank you to the teachers who worked so hard over the summer to beautify their rooms and enhance the educational environment. They painted, primed, re-arranged, hung posters and in general worked to ensure that their students were provided with a warm and welcoming space that is wholly supportive of the learning process. Appreciation should also go out to our "Summer Crew," who not only helped in this endeavor, but also worked tirelessly throughout the summer to prepare the school for the September opening.

We continue to ask for our community's help and support in keeping our campus safe. We require all visitors to enter school through the main entrances of the buildings. Visitors, staff and students are reminded to close any doors that they see propped open and are encouraged to report any behavior or conditions that may be observed as threatening. In the year ahead, we will practice lockdown drills. By state directive, we must conduct a minimum of four lockdown drills each year. Before the first drill, the protocol and purpose will be discussed with all students. We ask that parents and community members reinforce the purpose of these drills and encourage our children to take them seriously. If you have any thoughts on how to enhance the safety of our buildings, please contact me.

We have so many great people who help our school and our students. I was again reminded of the amazing support that we are given when members of the Women's Ministry from the Alfred-Almond Bible Church dropped off "back to school bundles" for each of our elementary classrooms. My thanks and appreciation go out not only to this fabulous group, but to everyone who gives of their time and expertise for the betterment of our school. We are truly blessed to live in such a great community!

Please note that October 23-27 is Board of Education recognition week. If you see a board member, please thank him or her for serving our school district. We couldn't do it without them and appreciate all the time they spend volunteering for the good of our community, students and district as a whole.

Finally, thank you for your continued support of our district. Alfred-Almond is a special place, and we are so pleased to be able to share it with you.

My very best regards,

Rich Calkins
Superintendent of Schools

## Elementary news

The 2017-18 school year is off to a great start in the Elementary School. I have enjoyed seeing our teachers and students establish routines and begin building the foundations of strong relationships with one another.

Some exciting new resources are available to our students this year. Many elementary students will investigate real-world problems through inquiry-based instruction in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program. Children in first through third grade will experience this engaging and interactive program that is already a favorite class of many fourth through eighth grade students. Additionally, a new English Language Arts program has been adopted to help provide a solid foundation for literacy instruction across the elementary grade levels and into the Junior/Senior High School. Weekly lessons in the *Journeys* reading series address phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, comprehension, language mechanics and writing. We are pleased to provide individualized instruction and support to students through the expanded use of the i-Ready computer program. In i-Ready, student achievement and growth is assessed periodically and then fun, interactive lessons are assigned that target individual areas of need.

Please mark the important dates at right on your calendars to help avoid scheduling conflicts throughout the rest of the school year.

Thank you for your continued participation in the education of your children and overall support of the Alfred-Almond Central School District.

**Bob Woughter**  
Elementary School Principal

## Second graders 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. What a "moovelous" field trip!



## Elementary important dates

Grades PK-6	Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences 11:50 a.m. dismissal	Nov. 2-3
Grades PK-6	Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences 11:50 a.m. dismissal	March 15-16
Grades 3-6	NYS ELA Assessment	April 11-13
Grades 3-6	NYS 3-6 Math Assessment	May 1-3
Incoming Kindergartners	Kindergarten Visitation/ Parent Meeting, 2:30 p.m.	May 9
PreK & K	Kindergarten Registration and Screening	May 15-18
Grade 4	NYS Science Assessment - Performance	May 23-June 1 (TBA)
Grade 4	NYS Science Assessment - Written	June 4

Five-Week Reports Issued	October 13
End of 1st Quarter	November 9
Report Cards Go Home	November 17
Five-Week Reports Issued	December 15
End of 2nd Quarter	January 26
Report Cards Go Home	February 2
Five-Week Reports Issued	March 2
End of 3rd Quarter	April 6
Report Cards Go Home	April 13
4th Quarter Report Cards Go Home	Last day of school

## 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 20, when 50 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 22 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 2018 ALCEN Yearbook!

## From the Jr./Sr. High School Principal

It is a pleasure to update you on the beginning of our school year. The weeks are flying by as our students and teachers busily dig into their learning goals together.

The classrooms are busy and exciting places where all are working in a Growth Mindset as part of our focus for the 2017-18 school year. With this in mind, we encourage the students to embrace the process of learning and set challenging goals for themselves. Teachers and students use mistakes as a part of the natural learning process, realizing that resilience and effort along with opportunities will foster learning, reach goals and build dreams.

We encourage you to join us in this journey of learning and share the following ideas for your role at home. As the most important adult in your children's lives, it really will help if you:

- Encourage your children to be curious, to experiment, to use their imagination and to be messy.
- Praise their hard work rather than the marks they get.
- Make it clear that being hard-working and intellectually curious is cool.
- Praise them when they think for themselves, work well in teams and change their minds after thinking something through.
- Accept that failure is a really important part of learning.
- Encourage them to do activities such as writing, reading, watching fiction, solving puzzles, exchanging cultural views and debating.

## School Board Recognition Week

School Board Recognition Week was observed the week of October 23-27, 2017.

We would like to thank our school board members, President Earl Pierce, Vice President Nadine Shardlow, Gary Acker, Vicky Westacott and Patricia Napolitano for your devotion and countless hours for your commitment to all students at Alfred-Almond. You continually strive for improvement, excellence and progress in our elementary and secondary education system.



(L-R) Earl Pierce, Nadine Shardlow, Patricia Napolitano, Vicky Westacott, Gary Acker.

- Talk with teachers about support and opportunities rather than predictions.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at our Open House and Chicken Barbecue. If you were unable to attend, please be sure to contact your student's teachers using the portal, Google classroom, e-mail or a phone call. I encourage you to review the Technology Guidelines of the school and discuss these with your child. All students in grades 7-12 participated in an assembly for Internet Safety. An evening session for the parents and community was also offered. Information related to this is available on the school website or feel free to e-mail me for further resources related to this topic.

I wish to extend a sincere thank you to our Secondary SIT Committee and parent and student volunteers for another very successful chicken barbecue for Open House. Funds from this event are used to assist in providing for the various programs and goals of our Secondary School Improvement Team.

As the school year progresses, I look forward to greeting you at the many extracurricular events of our district. Please do not be a stranger to our school. Your input, participation and feedback are always welcome. The students love to share and showcase the pride of Alfred-Almond Central School.

**Susan Bain-Lucey**  
Jr./Sr. High School Principal

## The Alfred-Almond Performing Arts Department will present

### "The Wizard of Oz"

*Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7 p.m.*

*Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 7 p.m.*

*Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 2 p.m.*

Auditions for grades 6-12 will be held on Tuesday, December 12 OR Wednesday, December 14 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the auditorium, with call-back auditions on Thursday, December 14. A special audition for the "Munchkins" will be held on Wednesday, December 20 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the auditorium. This audition is open for students in grades 3-5.

For more information, please contact Lisa Karr at [lkarr@acsapps.com](mailto:lkarr@acsapps.com).

## Spirit Week 2017

Students and staff enjoyed Spirit Week 2017. Events of the week included daily dress-up themes, a pep rally, a bonfire and a dance. It was a fun week full of school spirit. Even the weather cooperated with summer-like temperatures and sunshine!



Members of the junior class show their spirit at the pep rally.



Spirit Week festivities included a blue and gold day.

## Student teacher assists at A-A

Ms. Megan Steen, an Alfred University student teacher from Rhode Island, spent the first six weeks of the year in Andrea Oriend's sixth grade classroom. She assisted students in simulated archaeological digs after they learned about archaeology in Social Studies class. We wish Ms. Steen the best as she finishes at AU!



## Students study metamorphosis



Several different elementary classes and grade levels were able to watch the metamorphosis of caterpillar to butterfly with their Monarch projects. In the photo above, kindergarteners Alyvia, Isabelle and Brooke watch the new butterfly dry its wings and prepare to take flight.

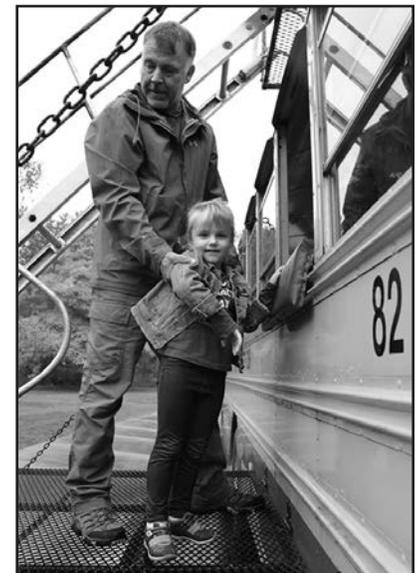
## New banner unveiled



Thank you to the Friends of Alfred-Almond Sports Teams (FAAST) for the new banner on display at our field. The district appreciates your continued support and all you do to help us "Protect the Nest!"

## Bus safety practiced

Elementary students recently participated in bus safety training. The Safety Bus was on campus to help students practice safety and emergency procedures, including exiting the bus through a window or roof hatch. Drills such as these help students to keep safety in mind when riding the bus and prepare them be less panicked if an emergency arises.



Students practiced a window exit during the training.

## News from the Counselors

Juniors are working with Mr. McAneney 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 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 March. If you would like more information on these tests please go to:

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

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

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

## 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.

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## College application tips for seniors

Currently, Mrs. Decker 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.**

## AP courses offer advantages

Alfred-Almond Central School currently offers seven Advanced Placement classes. Students who are planning to go to college should definitely take advantage of this opportunity. Taking AP 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 AP/ACE classes.

### 2. Develop College-Level Skills

AP 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 AP classes may allow students to graduate from college a semester or even a year early. In the long run, this could save thousands of dollars.

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## Math team wins at CCC

The Alfred-Almond Math Team brought home the first place trophy for the small school category in the Corning Community College Math Contest. Abby Kelly earned sixth place overall for individual students. While attending Math Day at the college, team members also learned about how mathematics is utilized in various fields of study including chemical engineering, sports, medicine and meteorology.



## Mark your calendar

Fall Sports Awards .....	November 2, 7:00 p.m.
Veterans Day–No School .....	November 10
Food Drive HS/Elem.....	November 13-17
Parent-Teacher Conferences .....	November 2-3 (Elementary dismissal at 11:50 a.m. both days)
Thanksgiving Recess – No School .....	November 22-24
Scholastic Book Fair .....	December 4-7
Elementary Story Night .....	December 7, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
National Honor Society Blood Drive.....	December 11, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Elementary Concert (Band & Chorus).....	December 18, 7:00 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High Chorus Concert .....	December 19, 7:00 p.m.
Jr./Sr. Band Concert .....	December 20, 7:00 p.m.
Holiday Recess–No School.....	December 25, 2017- January 1, 2018
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School.....	January 15
Spelling Bee .....	January 18, 6:30 p.m.
Semi-Formal .....	January 27, 7:00 p.m.
Superintendent’s Conference Day – No School for Students .....	January 26
Winter Recess .....	February 19-23

## Important test dates

### SAT I & II

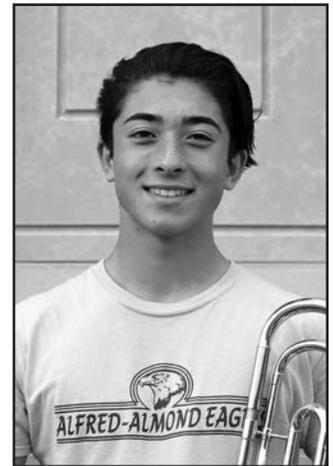
Date	Reg. Deadline	Test Center
12/2/17	11/2/17	Hornell
3/10/18	2/9/18	Wellsville
5/5/18	4/6/18	Hornell or Wellsville
6/2/18	5/3/18	Hornell

### ACT

Date	Reg. Deadline	Test Center
12/9/17	11/3/17	Wellsville
4/14/18	3/9/18	Wellsville or Canisteo
6/9/18	5/4/18	Wellsville or Canisteo

## Cushing selected for All-State

Attilo Cushing was selected to participate in the New York State School Music Association’s (NYSSMA) Conference All-State Symphonic Band. Attilo auditioned for this prestigious ensemble back in June at Bolivar Richburg. Attilo’s audition was nearly flawless and achieved a perfect score of 100. This score qualified him for consideration into Conference All-State. Attilo will join students from all over New York State from November 30 through December 3 in Rochester to rehearse and perform at the Eastman Theatre.



## Health Office reminders

**Cell Phone Use:** Due to confidentiality, cell phones are **NOT** permitted in the Health Office. There is a basket on the desk where cell phones need to be placed when entering the office to rest.

**Illness:** Please be aware that it will be considered an illegal absence if your child contacts you directly to be dismissed from school. All dismissals related to illness or injury need to go through the Health Office.

## College search calendar for juniors, 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.

## POSTAL PATRON

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Permit No. 20  
Non-Profit Organization

## Students collect crayfish

In September, fourth grade science classes went on their annual crayfish collection trip. Students visited a stream near Davis Hill Road in Andover, where crayfish habitats were teeming. Some of the “little beasts” were brought back to the classroom for study. A great afternoon was enjoyed by all.



## 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.

## Get in shape at school

From October 10 through May 25, the school will be available from 3:30-8:00 p.m. (when school is in session) for those who wish to use the facility for walking exercise.

Please use the Elementary School fifth- and sixth-grade wing entrance when entering and leaving the school. There will be a sign-in sheet in the lobby as you enter, along with a list of guidelines to follow.

## AP courses offer advantages, continued

### 4. Choose a Major Sooner

AP 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.

## 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@acspps.com](mailto:bburdick@acspps.com).

Thank you in advance for your anticipated 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)