



Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

November 2019

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A message from the Superintendent

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying all that Western New York has to offer. So many amazing things are happening at school because of the continuous commitment displayed by our educational community. Together, a difference is made EVERY...SINGLE...DAY. Thank you.

This is a busy time of year for our Alfred-Almond family and is synonymous with an abundance of energy and excitement on campus as student activities are in full swing. School spirit is alive and well on the field and courts as soccer and tennis teams ready themselves for competition. Music is streaming through the school as our musicians prepare for their upcoming concerts and our walls are decorated with artwork created by our talented resident artists. Students are taking pride in our building and grounds by performing community service projects on our campus and attendance at our after school events has been wonderfully supported by classmates and community.

Frequently, as visitors enter our school, they exclaim how beautiful it is. Many even say it is one of the most beautiful schools they have visited. This speaks volumes about the pride and commitment of the district and community and the importance they place upon the learning atmosphere and opportunities afforded to students.

Safety remains very important to all of us and we continue to ask for your help and support in keeping our campus a safe place. We require all visitors to enter school through the main entrances of the buildings. Visitors, staff and students are reminded to close doors that are found propped open and encouraged to report any behavior or conditions which may be observed as threatening. In the year ahead, we will practice fire, lockdown, and emergency go home drills. By state directive, we must conduct a minimum of four lockdown drills a year. Before the first drill, the protocol and purpose will be discussed with students. We ask that you reinforce the purpose of all drills and encourage children to take them seriously. If you have any thoughts on how we can further enhance the safety of our buildings, please feel free to contact me.

The week of October 21-26 was School Board Appreciation Week. A very special thank you goes out to our five school board members, who collectively have 75 years of experience in serving our district. If you see one of them, please offer thanks for his or her commendable and dedicated service. We couldn’t do it without them and appreciate the time they volunteer on behalf of our community, students and district as a whole.

In closing, I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions regarding any aspects of our district. I am proud to be a part of such a student-focused team and community and greatly appreciate your continued support of the district. Alfred-Almond is a very special place and all of you are an important part of what makes it so special. I hope you enjoy the remaining days of fall.

Kind regards,

Superintendent of Schools

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 the students who were selected at our September/October PBIS assembly. Look for pictures on our school website. We had more than 1,500 golden tickets given out for the month of September. Our school's goal for the months of October/November 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.

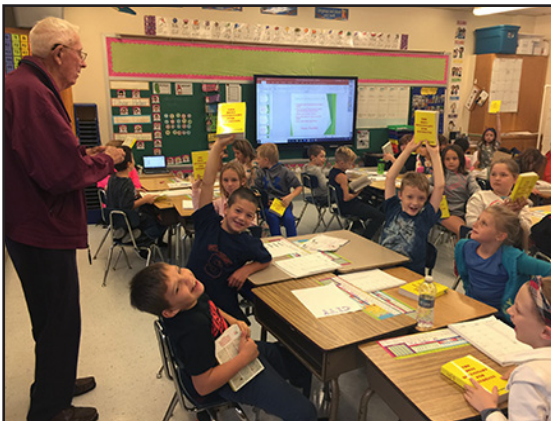
Please enjoy the upcoming holiday season. Best wishes to you and your family!

Brett Dusinberke
Elementary School Principal

Rotary presents dictionaries

On October 10, members of the Hornell Rotary Club made their annual visit to present dictionaries to Alfred-Almond third graders. This is a treat for all involved. Mr. Gaffney, a Rotary Club member and former Hornell teacher and principal, is always enthusiastic about seeing the students and sharing a story about his career in education. Our students are grateful for the dictionaries and put them to good use throughout the year. Thank you to the Hornell Rotary Club for their continuing generosity.

Mr. Gaffney presents dictionaries to third graders.




"Singin' in the Rain" auditions scheduled

Auditions for the spring musical, *Singin' in the Rain*, will be held after school on Tuesday, December 10 and Wednesday, December 11. 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 13.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Miss Karr at lkarr@aacssapps.com.

The Alfred Almond Performing Arts Department Proudly Presents



SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

Thursday, March 19th @ 7pm
Saturday, March 21st @ 7pm
Sunday, March 22nd @ 2pm

Alfred Almond High School Auditorium
General Admission Tickets: \$5

Students, staff help on Corn Day

Students and staff helped the cafeteria in September by shucking corn, which was later be served to students in grades 5-12. A good time was had by all.



Mr. McAneney and students assisted with shucking corn.

Student-Designed pool mural brought to life with teamwork

A great wave has taken over the Alfred-Almond swimming pool, crashing in and rolling along the water's edge, bringing along a new era for A-A swimmers. Senior swimmer and art student Ben Deutsch was asked to design a wall mural along the length of the pool for his Eagle Scout project. The design and planning process dates back to the prior school year and required many hands and many hours to bring to fruition.

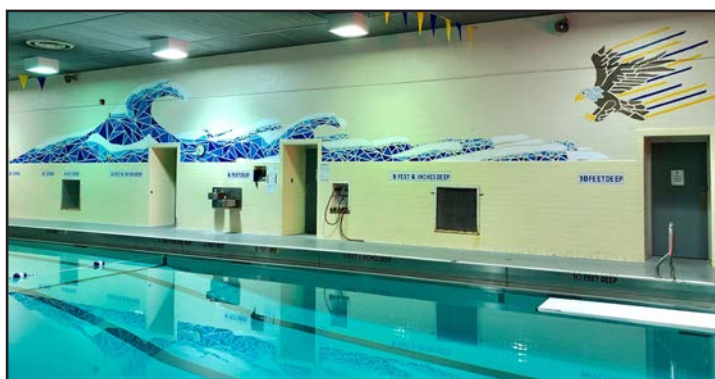
Ben's design includes a series of geometric waves spanning the length of the pool, facing an incoming eagle with blue and gold streamers flying from its wings. The mural design was projected onto the wall while Ben led a team of students, his parents and Mrs. Powers in taping off the lines and painting in the specified colors. The painters worked on the wall for approximately 16 hours in total, standing on bleachers and ladders to give the blank wall new life. The team is eager to witness the impact of those efforts on the swim team, the elementary swimmers and KVAC, all of whom use the AACCS pool regularly.

Many thanks to the Alfred-Almond administration for their support and funding for this project and to Ben Deutsch, who took on this challenge and devoted much time and attention to organizing such a successful addition to the physical environment of our school.



(Above) Deutsch and helpers tape out the design.

(Left) Ben Deutsch



The finished product took a team 16 hours to complete.

Government class works on school landscaping

Students in Mr. Donlon's senior government class are working to improve school aesthetics by cleaning up the outside landscaping, under the guidance of Tom Murphy, college and career readiness coordinator. The class has begun cutting back perennials, pulling weeds, removing brush from the wall behind the cafeteria and planting iris and tulip bulbs. The students are learning work ethic, accountability, attendance and teamwork. This project will continue into the spring of 2020. During the winter months, students will work on new landscape designs using Realtime Landscaping software, which will give them hands-on experience in the fields of horticulture and landscape design.



Senior government students are working to improve school aesthetics.

First-graders celebrate Johnny Appleseed Day

National Johnny Appleseed Day is September 26, and first-graders celebrated by making applesauce. Students also tasted a variety of apples and created a bar graph to show their favorites. The winning apple was Pink Lady.

(Right) Violet Snyder peels an apple for the applesauce.



(Left) Nathan Warner shows off his perfect apple.



Elementary art students create works for International Dot Day

To celebrate International Dot Day, Alfred-Almond UPK students teamed up with students at Hammond-sport Central School to create colorfully painted dots. The project began with reading “The Dot” by Peter Reynolds. Next, students at each school painted dots, cut them in half and sent halves to each other. The halves were put together to make new dots. This was a shared creative experience with lots of fun and surprises.

Thanks to Ms. Hannah Paas, Hammond-sport Elementary art teacher for sharing her students’ work.

Fourth-grade artists also took part in International Dot Day by reviewing the story of “The Dot” by Peter Reynolds and then exploring the ideas of scale, color and collaboration. Students teamed up to create colorful oversized dots which appear to be bouncing down the main hallway. Great work, fourth-grade classes!



(Above) UPK students create their dot paintings.

(Upper right) UPK students check out a photo display of Hammond-sport students with the dots they made by pairing their halves with A-A students’ halves.

(Right) Fourth-graders’ dot paintings decorated the hallway.

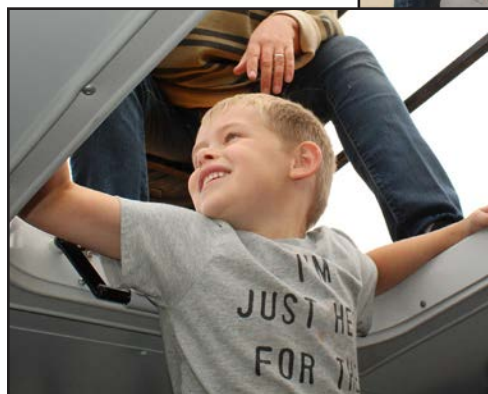


Bus safety practiced

Alfred-Almond bus drivers take the safety of their passengers seriously. Recently, elementary students were given instruction and practice on riding and crossing safely in front of the bus. They also practiced exiting quickly in an emergency. All students who ride the buses will participate in periodic drills during the year.



Students practiced using emergency exits on the bus.



Students attend STEM workshop

Ms. Hartnett and seventh-graders Bea Beaudry, Dena Clark and Izzie Willard, attended the “Girl Powered STEM Workshop” presented by Canaseraga Central School and Alfred University. The girls heard from Alfred University glass scientists and engineers about the different types of glass and new innovations in glass science. Dena even got to break a piece of glass that is designed to shatter into small, dull pieces. The girls also participated in several STEM challenges, including building a bridge that supports itself, creating the tallest structure they can out of spaghetti and marshmallows and engineering a spoon catapult to launch puff balls as far as possible. Each participant received a certificate and a “Girl Powered” headband.

(Left to right) Izzie Willard, Bea Beaudry, Dena Clark and Ms. Hartnett



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 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

www.act.org

www.guidancedirect.com

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. 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, Ms. 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.

Courses offer advantages

Alfred-Almond Central School currently offers nine Advanced Placement classes, three ACE classes, one Alfred University and two Alfred State classes taught at A-A, as well as online Alfred State and Corning Community College classes. Students who are planning to go to college should 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 (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 A-A, 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.

Continued on page 8

Update from Ms. Hartnett's science classes

The year started off great in Ms. Hartnett’s seventh and eighth grade classes. Eighth graders are learning how to use microscopes to discover living cells, while the seventh graders are learning the Scientific Method and how to make accurate measurements. Two very brave seventh grade students, Gabe Fioretto and Izzie Willard, each performed a song about the Scientific Method for their entire class.



(Left to right) Gabe Fioretto and Izzie Willard performed a song about the Scientific Method in Ms. Hartnett’s class.

Mark your calendar

Parent-Teacher Conferences	November 7-8 (Elementary dismissal at 11:50 a.m. both days)
Veterans Day–No School	November 11
Thanksgiving Recess – No School	November 27-29
Scholastic Book Fair	December 2-5
Elementary Story Night	December 5, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
National Honor Society Blood Drive	December 9, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High Chorus/Band Concert	December 16, 7:00 p.m.
Elementary Chorus/Band Concert	December 17, 7:00 p.m.
Holiday Recess–No School	December 23, 2019- January 3, 2020
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School	January 20
Spelling Bee	January 16, 6:30 p.m.
Semi-Formal	January 25, 7:00 p.m.
Superintendent’s Conference Day – No School for Students	January 27
Winter Recess	February 17-21

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. 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.

Fire Prevention Week 2019

During “Fire Prevention Week” in October, Alfred-Almond elementary students were visited by volunteer firefighters and EMTs from the Almond and Alfred Station Fire Departments. Some of Alfred-Almond’s own high school students also were part of the demonstrations.

Students learned about safe evacuation plans, using 9-1-1 as it is intended and understanding the equipment that volunteer service men and women use. Elementary students, with the help of their teachers, also had the opportunity to use the fire hose.

Many thanks to our local first responders for capping off Fire Prevention Week with us. We are grateful for all you do in our community!



(Above) Mrs. Wall and her students man the fire hose.



(Left) Alanna MacCrea won the Fire Safety Week poster contest.

Important test dates

SAT I & II

Date	Reg. Deadline	Test Center
12/7/19	11/8/19	Hornell
3/14/20	2/14/20	Wellsville
5/2/20	4/3/20	Hornell or Wellsville
6/6/20	5/8/20	Hornell

ACT

Date	Reg. Deadline	Test Center
12/14/19	11/8/19	Wellsville
6/13/20	5/8/20	Wellsville

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

ALCEN yearbooks on sale

The 2019 ALCEN staff is busy taking photos, selling advertisements, and working on page layouts. Our first deadline is right before Thanksgiving break, when 52 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 20 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.

Thank you for supporting the 2020 ALCEN Yearbook!

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 to plan staffing structures and attain 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@acsapps.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)

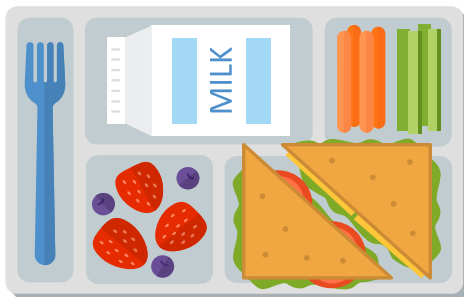


Follow us on Instagram at:
[alfred.almond.central.school](https://www.instagram.com/alfred.almond.central.school)

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.



AP courses offer advantages, continued

3. Save Money

Taking several college 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.

4. Choose a Major Sooner

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