



Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

March 2022

Inside this Issue

Secondary School
update;
Fourth grade engineer-
ing challenge;
Elementary Olympics
.....Pg. 2

Second grade celebrates
2/2/22;
Sixth-graders meet with
authorsPg. 3

Students seeking post-
cards;
UPK and Kindergarten
information;
Ski Club hits the slopes at
SwainPg. 4

PreK application . Pg. 5-6

Census formPg. 7

Third-graders present
projects;
Important dates;
Concerts scheduled;
School closing reminder;
Order your yearbook
todayPg. 8

A message from NYS Commissioner Betty A. Rosa

The last two years have tested our resolve in ways that no one could have imagined or predicted. We saw sudden school closures, civil unrest, quarantine orders and too many experienced the stress of caring for or losing a loved one due to the COVID-19 virus.

Across our state and nation, we continue to face tremendous challenges and disruptions. I know and recognize many of these issues stir strong feelings. While we may not always agree on how to handle these challenges, I remain hopeful we can commit to a return to civility and understanding toward one another.

Amidst the struggles and difficulties of the pandemic, we cannot lose sight of the fact that our children are watching and learning from our behavior. For the sake of generations to come, we must all look inward, reflect on our own actions, and ask ourselves whether we are setting the example we want our children to follow.

How can we do better? We can respect

one another. A special effort to listen and understand divergent opinions can go a long way to resolving disagreements. We must acknowledge and take responsibility for how our actions affect others. We can be open to feedback even when we feel strongly about an issue while recognizing and appreciating the contribution of others. Most importantly, we must address incivility head-on and show our children that we will respect and seek to understand each other as a way of supporting our communities and shared values.

President John F. Kennedy said in his inaugural address, "So let us begin anew — remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is subject to proof." These words ring true today. Having seen news reports of parents and students disrespecting school officials who are working tirelessly to support the educational process, I implore you to be mindful of the example you are setting for our children. Remain civil, remain kind and, most importantly, respect each other.

Students' artwork featured

Congratulations to our two Alfred-Almond artists whose works were chosen as cover designs for this year's AACS Staff Notebooks. Beautiful work, Kaitlyn and Gwen!

(L-R) Kaitlyn Washburn and Gwen Gagne display the notebooks that feature their artwork.



Secondary School update

Throughout the school year, we continue to see the resilience of our students, faculty and staff. As we continue to move through the school year, we have much to celebrate. We have added another Academic All-Star team to compete, we were able to have our music department perform in two concerts thus far, and we look forward to the return of an in-person musical with two casts! Our athletic teams continue to succeed and we have two student athletes who made it to the state championships!

Thank you for your continued support in helping your students succeed in and out of the classroom.

Dr. Melissa Rivers
Secondary School Principal

Fourth-graders take engineering challenge

Fourth grade scientists have been working on an engineering/design challenge. They built foam rockets and have been discovering how different factors such as angle, mass and distance impact the launch distance.



Elementary Olympics

During the first week of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games, the Elementary PE department hosted their own games as well. Students in Pre-K through fourth grade participated in Bobsled, Nordic Combined (Ski Jumping), Dual Slalom, Mogul Skiing, Ice Skating and Curling.

The Olympic "torch" was carried in for opening ceremonies for each day, while the theme music played. The athletes waved to fans from "around the world" as they entered the arena. Students learned about each event, where the Olympics were being held and some history of NYS hosting the 1932 and 1980 Olympic Games. Students took on roles as starters and course maintainers throughout the week on top of competing and participating. Thank you all for a memorable Olympic week at A-A!



Second grade celebrates 2/2/22

Second Grade celebrated 2/2/22 with a “2” theme of activities. Students and teachers came dressed in tutus and/or two different color outfits, hairstyles, shoes, etc. The day consisted of games, writing, crafts, eating two different snacks, stories and more. Kilroy also made a visit with his tutu! Do you realize that on 3/3/33, these children will be one year out of high school?



Sixth-graders meet with authors for World Read Aloud Day

Authors Lisa Fipps and Megan E. Freeman volunteered their time to meet with schools across the U.S. on Wednesday, February 2, as part of World Read Aloud Day. Alfred-Almond sixth graders were fortunate to be able to Zoom with them because several students have read their books for Reader’s Workshop. In the Zoom author visits, each author read part of their book (*Starfish* by Lisa Fipps and *Alone* by Megan E. Freeman). They also talked a little bit about their lives as writers and they answered questions the students had written.



Global nonprofit LitWorld founded World Read Aloud Day in 2010 to celebrate the power of reading aloud to create community and amplify new stories, and to advocate for literacy as a foundational human right. Since then, World Read Aloud Day has evolved into a global movement of millions of readers, writers and listeners from communities all across the world coming together to honor the joy and power of reading and sharing stories, and continue expanding the definition and scope of global literacy.

Students seeking postcards

Mrs. Oriend and her sixth-graders are participating in a postcard exchange again this year, and are hoping to receive many postcards or notes to add to the class bulletin board.

Postcards can be sent to:

Mrs. Oriend's 6th Grade
Alfred-Almond Central School
6795 State Rt. 21
Almond, NY 14804.



Students Bentley Mullen, Ace Brown, Zoey Wojtkowiak and Evi Warren work on getting postcards ready to mail to classes across the U.S.

The classroom map displays cards that have been received so far.



Universal pre-kindergarten

A-A anticipates that the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program for our preschool children will continue into the 2022-23 school year. Children born on or before December 1, 2018 are eligible to apply for attendance in the program. Children who are eligible to attend kindergarten are not eligible to apply for attendance in UPK.

The application is included on pages 5-6 in this newsletter and will be available at the Elementary Office and on the district website at www.aacsapps.com. If you would like to receive an application in the mail, please call Heidi Putnam at 607-276-6530 or email hputnam@aacsapps.com. Completed applications and a copy of your child's birth certificate, current physical and immunization records are due at the Elementary Office by Wednesday, May 4.

Applications received after this date will not be considered if more than 18 applications are received. A random selection process, as required by New York State, will be performed should the district receive more applications than the 18 available openings. Families will be notified whether their child did or did not receive a spot in the UPK program with letters mailed on Monday, May 9.

Questions should be directed to Brett Dusinberre, Elementary Principal at 607-276-6525.

Kindergarten information

Children born on or before December 1, 2017 are eligible to enter school in September 2022.

If your child is eligible to attend kindergarten in September 2022, please call the Elementary Office at 607-276-6525 or email Heidi Putnam at hputnam@aacsapps.com to be added to the list to receive informational mailings.

Ski Club hits the slopes at Swain with several new members

Ski Club members enjoyed several outings to Swain this season. This year, the club had several first-time skiers who took lessons each week and made tremendous progress in just a short period of time. It is exciting to see young people learning the skills of a life-long winter recreation activity. It has been very cold at times between the warm days, but it was certainly good to get out for some fresh air and activity during the winter season.

(L-R) Sam Bloxsom, Maria Oliveira, Rona Powers and Sahethi Sree Dama wait for their lesson, along with one of our favorite chaperones, Mr. Craig Mix.



PreKindergarten Program Application

Alfred-Almond School District

Today's Date _____

Student's Legal Name: _____

Last Name

First Name

Name Called: _____

Male ☐ Female ☐ Date of Birth _____ Social Security # _____

Is Student Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin? Yes ☐ No ☐

Ethnic Group/Race: American Indian/Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black/African American ☐

White ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐

Birth Place: _____

City

State

Country

What was the first language your child learned? _____ Language spoken most often: _____

Did your child attend preschool as a 3 year old? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, where? _____

Does your child need to take medication at school? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, what? _____

Does your child have special medical problems/allergies/drug allergies? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please explain: _____

Please indicate the following in case of an emergency.

Physician: _____ Phone # _____

Dentist: _____ Phone # _____

Does your child receive any of the following services? Special Education/IEP ☐ 504 Plan ☐

ESL ☐ PT ☐ OT ☐ Speech ☐ Accelerated Learning ☐ Other ☐ Please Explain: _____

House Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Mailing Address if different: _____

Do you: own () rent () or share residence with another family ()

If you share this residence with another family, list family/owner's name: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Is this a cell phone? Yes ☐ No ☐

Parent/Guardian Status: Married ☐ Separated ☐ Divorced ☐ Single ☐

Student resides with: **Both natural parents** ☐ **One natural parent** ☐ **Natural parent/Step parent** ☐ **Guardian** ☐ **Foster** ☐

Parent/Guardian 1: Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Parent/Guardian 2: Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Additional parent/guardian that should receive correspondence but student does not live with:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Is either parent/guardian a civilian employee on federal property or on active duty in the uniformed services? _____

Please list the names and ages of siblings under 18:

I understand that my child is not guaranteed a spot in the UPK program by my submittal of this application and that the number of children the District can serve will be determined by UPK funds identified in the annual State budget. Additionally, I understand that if the District receives more applications than the available number of slots a random selection process will be applied as required by New York State.

Parent/Guardian(s) Signature:

-----**Office Use Only**-----

Application Received: _____

Proof of Residency: _____

Bus #: _____

Birth Certificate ()

Enrolled () By: _____

Immunization Record ()

Homeroom: _____

District is seeking census data from all Alfred-Almond residents

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, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. Your help in 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 607-276-6565 or at bburdick@aacsapps.com. Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation and helping us best plan for the educational needs of children.

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Elementary Principal, Alfred-Almond Central School, 6795 State Route 21, Almond, NY 14804

PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN(S):

Mother:

Last Name

First Name

M.I.

Father:

Last Name

First Name

M.I.

ADDRESS:

Number and Name of Street

Post Office

Zip

Home Phone

Emergency Phone Number

Children live with: Mother _____ Father _____ Both _____

CHILD(REN)

| Last Name | First Name | M.I. | Date of Birth | Grade |
|-----------|------------|------|---------------|-------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Do you suspect any handicapping conditions in any of your children? Yes _____ No _____

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

Important Dates

April 11-15 _____ Spring Recess – No School
May 3 _____ Voter Registration, 2:00-8:00 p.m.
May 3 _____ Budget Presentation, 7:00 p.m.
May 17 _____ Annual Vote/Election, 2:00-8:00 p.m.
May 27-31 _____ Memorial Day Holiday – No School
June 24 _____ Graduation, 2:00 p.m.

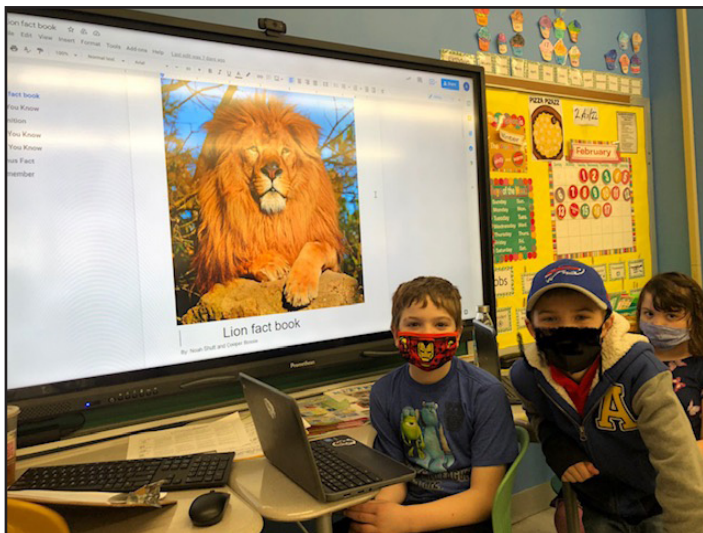
Concerts scheduled

The Junior and Senior High Choirs and Bands have been working diligently to prepare for the upcoming March concerts. Come support the Senior High Choir and Band on Tuesday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m. and the Junior High Choir and Band on Wednesday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m.



Third-graders present projects

Third-graders at Alfred-Almond have been working diligently on animal research projects. This endeavor was entirely student-driven. Everything from grouping, topic and how to present was student led. Students could choose from a class-generated list on how to present their research. Projects included student-made books, songs, models, kahoots, Quizziz (that's not a typo – check it out at <https://quizizz.com/>). The presentations given so far have been nothing short of fantastic. Way to go, Mrs. Heoffner's class and Mr. Bogey's class!



School closing information

It is sometimes necessary to close school because it is not safe 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
- WKPQ 105.3 FM
- WJQZ 103.5 FM
- WZKZ 101.1 FM
- WLSV 790 AM
- WCKR 92.1 FM
- WETM-TV (Elmira)
- WKBW-TV (Buffalo)

Order your yearbook today

Time is running out to buy your 2022 Alfred-Almond Yearbook! April 30, 2022 will be the last day to order your yearbook online. This year, all books MUST be ordered online.

Please follow the directions to order your book:

- Go to www.jostens.com
- Click the link: Order Your Yearbook Today
- Search for Alfred-Almond Central High School
- It will then ask you to input your information
- The cost of the book is \$50 plus tax.

If you have any questions on this process, please email Kelly Valentine at kvalentine@aacapps.com.

Thank you for your support.