



Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

January 2023

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Message from the Superintendent

I hope that 2023 is off to a fantastic start for your student and your family. In education, it can sometimes feel like the year starts when students return in September. But changing the calendar gives us another opportunity to reflect and look at what's ahead.

Your kids are amazing. At all grades, they are enthusiastic for challenges, and they embrace kindness. Please take a few minutes with them to reflect on the positives you have seen in the past year. Ask them what they've learned this year and what they'd like to improve for the year's second half. I know that our staff will spend some time reflecting on the mature, brilliant and thoughtful students we are grateful to teach and how thankful we are for your support and partnership.

Severe weather reminders

We have been fortunate to avoid school cancellations so far this year, but that doesn't mean it won't happen (this is Western NY, after all!). So, it's still important for families to ensure their school has the most current contact information. The District uses a 'call-out' phone system called Blackboard to notify families of any closings. Calls are sent to phone numbers that parents/guardians have registered with the District. If there is a closing, information will also be posted on the District's website (<https://www.aacsapps.com>) and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AlfredAlmondCentralSchoolDistrict>).

When school is in session, parents should send students with appropriate clothing to wear outside. Students will continue to have recess outside as the weather allows.

Tips to avoid spreading illness at school

The most recent Allegany County Department of Health report categorizes COVID/influenza activity as "high" in our area. The A-A CSD staff is asking families to take extra steps to prevent the spread of these illnesses through schools. The Allegany County Department of Health recommends that any child exhibiting symptoms of any communicable disease stay home until they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications.

Thank you for supporting your child's learning at A-A!

In Education,

Brett A. Dusingherre

Superintendent of Schools

Elementary PE update

Elementary PE classes were visited by Staff Sargent John Munson and Sargent Christopher Hand for Veterans Day. Students performed drill and ceremony with the two National Guard soldiers and played tag and kickball with them after drill. The classes learned about all six branches of the military and that Veterans Day is a day to honor the soldiers who are currently serving or have served and are alive today.

Quidditch was a hit for grades K-4! The Harry Potter-themed game relied on teamwork, throwing, catching, scooting (instead of brooms) and trusty goalies defending their rings with pool noodles.

Before break, students gave each other rides on scooters around the gym, as reindeer pulling a sleigh. In addition, they built creations in a workshop from whatever they could find. Each class took turns pulling one another, and then going inside the “igloo,” where they exercised their creativity and cooperative skills.



A-A Math Team competes

The Alfred-Almond Math Team was quite busy through the fall as members participated in various contests and visited local colleges for math enrichment opportunities. Throughout September, October and November, team members participated in a weekly online competition, Math Madness. This contest allowed students to match up with other schools across the country. The team fell one point short of reaching the Sweet Sixteen.

Houghton University hosted a Math Day in late October. During this visit, students participated in the Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival and then attended math sessions such as Math Like an Egyptian and Infinite Snowflakes. Two of our students were selected to participate in Who Wants to be a Mathematician. Our own Cameron H. was on the winning team.

After a two-year hiatus, Alfred University hosted the Nevins Mathematics Competition on November 4. We were thrilled to bring home the top two prizes. Congratulations to Hunter W. for taking home second place with a cash prize of \$50 and an \$8,000 scholarship and to Julian Petrillo for winning first place with a \$100 cash prize and a \$10,000 scholarship!

The American Mathematics Competition also was held in November. This contest is nationwide. We look forward to hearing soon if any of our students moved on to the next level in the contest.

Our last trip was to Corning Community College for STEM Day. Before attending, our team participated in the Corning Math Contest. Our top five individual scores proceeded as the team score. Congratulations to Julian P., Kouki Y., Jack B., Lucas K. and Cameron H. as our top five scorers. Results were announced at the STEM Day. Alfred-Almond placed third for small schools. Students also learned about STEM topics and careers from various professionals. Highlights included sessions on computer science, biomedical fields, robotics and renewable energy.

Way to go, Alfred-Almond Math Team! Keep up the great work!



Elementary message

Happy New Year and welcome to 2023! The students have settled back into their school routine after the holiday excitement, and we are excited about the learning opportunities the remainder of the 2022-23 school year will offer.

We've all been through challenges during the past few years, so I hope you are able to reflect with your families about the things you are grateful for and your goals for the upcoming year. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to interact with your amazing, insightful and enthusiastic students. My goal for the remainder of the year is to continue developing positive relationships with families so we can grow and sustain an effective partnership for your student.

The first part of the school year offered many exciting opportunities for our students. We were able to reinstate our PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) assemblies, and we had our first one in November. Students earned more than 5,500 golden tickets during the first 12 weeks of school! This is an indication of how hard students are working to demonstrate Safety, Ownership, Acceptance and Respect (S.O.A.R.) throughout their day on the bus, in the hallways, in their classrooms and everywhere else in the school building. We also were able to have our Move and Groove Night, Fire Prevention Assemblies, the Halloween Parade, the Scholastic Book Fair, Story Night and the Holiday Band and Chorus Concert. We are grateful for everyone's support and participation as we reestablish events that have been a part of Alfred-Almond's rich history.

Thank you for your support and collaboration. I wish you and your family a healthy and happy 2023. Please do not hesitate to reach out anytime at 607-276-6525.

Casey Barber
Elementary Principal

The Alfred-Almond Performing Arts Department proudly presents:



Friday, March 10th at 7pm

Saturday, March 11th at 7pm

Sunday, March 12th at 2pm

Tickets will be available online and at the door.

For more information contact Miss Karr (lkarr@aacsapps.com)

Secondary message

The last four months have been very busy in the secondary building. We celebrated the first quarter honor roll students with their traditional donuts. We had 138 students, comprising 52 percent of our student body, achieve first honors. Incredibly, we also had 68 percent of the student body earn first or second honors. To receive first honors, a student must obtain an average of 90 percent or higher and have no grade below 80 percent. Congratulations to all of these students and their teachers and families for their dedication to education!

We also have been able to return to more frequent field trips. Señora Burr, our Spanish teacher, took students on two field trips. Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Boone and Mr. McAnaney took several juniors and seniors to visit St. Bonaventure University. Mrs. Bensley, our Math Team coach, had students competing both locally at Alfred University and in Corning, as well as in an online national math competition. We also had two school dances. Our fall student athletes have competed in postseason play and our winter student athletes are busy with their seasons. Our music department has held two concerts and took students to area All-State. Rehearsals for this year's school musical, *The Little Mermaid*, have begun.

We are excited that school is returning to a more typical year and are excited about upcoming events like the semi-formal, senior nights for winter sports, the musical and hosting the All-County Vocal Solo Festival. Our students are engaged and active, for sure.

As a reminder, cell phones are not allowed in classes. Thank you for your support in talking with your students about proper cell phone use.

Missing school negatively contributes to student performance. Missing just two days a month is known as chronic absence. **As long as your child is healthy, please encourage attending class when school is in session.** Every day of school is an important opportunity for students to learn, as well as to connect to their peers and teachers.

We thank:

- Our students and their families who do their best to show up daily even when it isn't easy.
- Our teachers who go above and beyond to make school a welcoming and safe place for all students to learn.
- Our administrators who help us work together to ensure we create a physically and emotionally safe and engaging learning environment.
- Our many, many healers and helpers – the support staff and community volunteers who provide the extra hands and attention our children need.

Dr. Melissa Rivers
Secondary Principal

Instrumental Music Department news

It has been a busy and exciting year so far for the instrumental music department!

In November, three of our senior high band members, Cameron Heinig, Julian Petrillo and Jennie Bensley (pictured at right), were selected for the NYS-SMA Zone 15 Area All-State Band. Zone 15 includes the districts in Yates, Schuyler, Allegany, Steuben and Chemung Counties, and the selections are based on students' scores from the NYSSMA Solo Festival last spring. Congratulations!



Junior High Jazz Band



Junior High Concert Band

This fall, a total of 27 fourth-grade students signed up for Beginning Band. They performed in front of an audience for the very first time at the holiday concert.

Alfred-Almond also has its first-ever Junior High Jazz Band. Twenty enthusiastic seventh- and eighth-graders make up the ensemble, and they rehearse for 30 minutes during activity mod.

December was filled with performances for all band members in grades 4-12. On December 19, the fourth-grade band and the fifth- and sixth-grade bands performed at the Elementary concert. On December 20, the Junior High Jazz Band, Junior High Concert Band, Senior High Jazz Ensemble and Senior High Symphonic Band performed at the 7-12 concert. On December 22, the groups performed again in the annual holiday assembly for the student body. (Photos continued on page 5)



Fifth and Sixth Grade Elementary Band



Senior High Symphonic Band



Senior High Jazz Ensemble



Fourth Grade Beginning Band

Instrumental Music Dept. news, continued



Junior High Jazz Band members performed at the holiday assembly.



Jazz Band members performed holiday carols during student arrival.

AP art students visit AU

Eleven students in AP Art recently took a field trip with Mrs. Powers to tour the Alfred Ceramic Museum and the School of Art and Design at Alfred University. Students had an opportunity to experience local arts offerings, including the current museum show and the inner workings of the nationally-ranked art school right down the road from Alfred-Almond.



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 En-



hanced 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 June 15 to receive your STAR check in September. If you register after June 15, 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 \$92,000 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 (you may be asked to enter this information more than once to show the relationships between owners)
- the primary residence of the owners and their spouses
- approximate date the owners purchased the property and the name of the sellers (this information is not required, but it can help us to smoothly process your registration)
- the most recent 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
- 2020 federal or state income tax returns for all owners. If you weren't required to file a 2020 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.

Alfred-Almond KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

In order to identify all children who will enter Kindergarten in September 2023, we are asking those parents who have eligible children who **DO NOT CURRENTLY ATTEND THE PRE-K PROGRAM** to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 14, 2023. Your child must be 5 years of age on or before December 1, 2023. This information is necessary when we initiate Kindergarten sign-ups in the spring. We will use the information below to generate a mailing list for sending the actual registration packets. Students currently attending the Pre-K will automatically be sent a packet. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Child's Full Name _____ M/F Date of Birth _____

Mother's Name: _____
First Maiden Last

Street Address: _____
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: _____
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM _____

Father's Name: _____
First Middle Last

Street Address: _____
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: _____
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM _____

Child Resides With: _____

Alfred-Almond Elementary
 6795 State Route 21
 Almond, NY 14804
 607-276-6525

Alfred-Almond PRE-KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

In order to identify all children who will enter Pre-Kindergarten in September 2023, we are asking those parents who have eligible children to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 14, 2023. Your child must be 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2023. This information is necessary when we initiate Pre-Kindergarten sign-ups in the spring. We will use this information below to generate a mailing list for sending the actual registration packets. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Child's Full Name _____ M/F Date of Birth _____

Mother's Name: _____
First Maiden Last

Street Address: _____
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: _____
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM _____

Father's Name: _____
First Middle Last

Street Address: _____
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: _____
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM _____

Child Resides With: _____

Alfred-Almond Elementary
 6795 State Route 21
 Almond, NY 14804
 607-276-6525

Sixth-graders enjoy tradition

Before the winter break, sixth-graders learned about the Icelandic tradition of the Christmas Book Flood, Jolabokaflod. After a read-aloud about the custom, students enjoyed the opportunity to read holiday and winter-themed books while sipping hot cocoa.

AACS sixth-grade students are participating in a post-card exchange again this year. We would love to add more mail to our display! Postcards can be mailed to: AACS Sixth Grade, 6795 State Rt. 21, Almond NY 14804.



First-grade Thanksgiving feast

In November, first-graders enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving feast.



NHS bell ringers

The Alfred-Almond Chapter of the National Honor Society assisted the Salvation Army again this year by bell ringing in front of the Hornell Walmart on Thursday, December 22. Funds raised by the Salvation Army are used to help families in our area that are in need of basic necessities, not only during the holidays, but all year long.



Students write Thanksgiving essays

Mrs. Donlon's fourth-graders participated in the New York State Senate's Thanksgiving Day Creative Celebration. They wrote essays describing the qualities they have that they were most thankful for. They received a nice letter in return from Senator George Borrello.

<p>SENATE MEMBERSHIP MEMBER</p> <p>ALBANY OFFICE</p> <p>SENATOR GEORGE M. BORRELLO</p> <p>57TH DISTRICT</p>	<p>November 28, 2022</p> <p>Ms. Donlon's Class 4th Grade - Alfred-Almond Elementary School 6795 State Rte 21 Almond, NY 14804</p> <p>Dear Students,</p> <p>Thank you for participating in the New York State Senate's Thanksgiving Day Creative Celebration!</p> <p>I enjoyed reading your essays answering the question, "What are you thankful for?" It is clear that you put a lot of thought into your responses. Many of you said you are grateful for your family and friends. Others said they were grateful for sports, music, dancing, traveling and hunting. A good number of you also said you are grateful for math, reading and writing, which indicates you love learning. I am sure that makes your teachers proud!</p> <p>What is clear in all of your essays is that you realize you are lucky to have many good people and experiences in your lives. Staying grateful is important because it makes us happier, healthier people and encourages us to help others.</p> <p>Lastly, many of you asked what I am grateful for. Like you, I am very thankful for my family, friends and this beautiful area where we live. I am also very glad that I have the chance to serve the people in our community as a member of the New York State Senate. This job allows me to work on laws and policies that I believe will make our region a better place to live.</p> <p>Again, thank you for your participation in this project. I hope you will remain thankful for the good things in your lives, not just at Thanksgiving but throughout the year.</p> <p>Sincerely, <i>George M. Borrello</i> Senator George M. Borrello 57th Senate District</p>
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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

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 social media



Have you liked us on Facebook yet? Be sure to click the like button at the top of the page to receive updates.
<https://www.facebook.com/AlfredAlmondCentralSchoolDistrict>



You also can follow us on Instagram:
[@alfred.almond.central.school](https://www.instagram.com/alfred.almond.central.school)

Mark your calendar

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day –
No School..... January 16

Superintendent's Conference Day –
No School for Students January 30

Winter Recess – No School February 20-24

Parent-Teacher Conferences March 16-17
Elementary dismissed at 11:50 a.m.

Transportation requests

Any parent requesting student transportation to a nonpublic school must request such transportation in writing no later than April 1, 2023. The request should be submitted to the Alfred-Almond Central School District Office.

ALCEN yearbooks on sale

It's time to buy a yearbook!
The 2023 ALCEN Yearbook is now available to purchase. **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 \$60 plus tax.

The staff has been hard at work on page layouts, completing the underclassmen and elementary sections of the books, and taking winter sports pictures. If anyone has sports photos we could possibly use in the yearbook, please feel free to send them to Kelly Valentine at kvalentine@aacapps.com.

Thank you for your support!

