



Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

January 2025

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A message from the Superintendent

Dear Alfred-Almond families,
Happy New Year! As we embark on 2025, the faculty and staff at Alfred-Almond Central School District are energized and optimistic about the exciting semester ahead. We are incredibly proud of our students at every grade level. Their enthusiasm for learning and genuine kindness create a wonderful atmosphere for growth.

We encourage you to take a moment with your child to reflect on their successes and areas for growth this year. Initiate a conversation about what he/she has learned and what goals he/she has for the remainder of the year. These discussions foster self-reflection and a sense of ownership in their education.

Academic Excellence

Our dedicated educators are committed to providing a challenging and engaging learning environment that prepares students for success in higher education, careers and life beyond the classroom.

In addition to our rigorous academic programs, we offer a variety of enriching extra-curricular activities, including our spring musical production, eSports and a diverse selection of clubs. We also are actively expanding our dual enrollment and early college credit opportunities to provide students with a head start on their post-secondary journeys.

Severe Weather Reminders

While we have been fortunate to avoid weather-related disruptions this year, it's important to be prepared for the unpredictable nature of Western New York winters. Please ensure that your contact information is up-to-date in our system. The district utilizes ParentSquare to notify families of school closings or delays. In the event of inclement weather, information also will be posted on the district website www.aacsapps.com and on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/AlfredAlmondCentralSchoolDistrict.

We encourage students to come prepared with appropriate outerwear for outdoor recess, which will continue as weather permits.

Community Engagement

We deeply value the partnership between our school and the Alfred-Almond community. Your involvement plays a vital role in our students' success. We invite you to attend school events, volunteer your time and share your feedback with us.

We are confident that the second half of the school year will be filled with achievement and growth. Our dedicated team of educators is committed to providing the best possible educational experience for every student.

Sincerely,

Brett Dusingenne

Superintendent of Schools

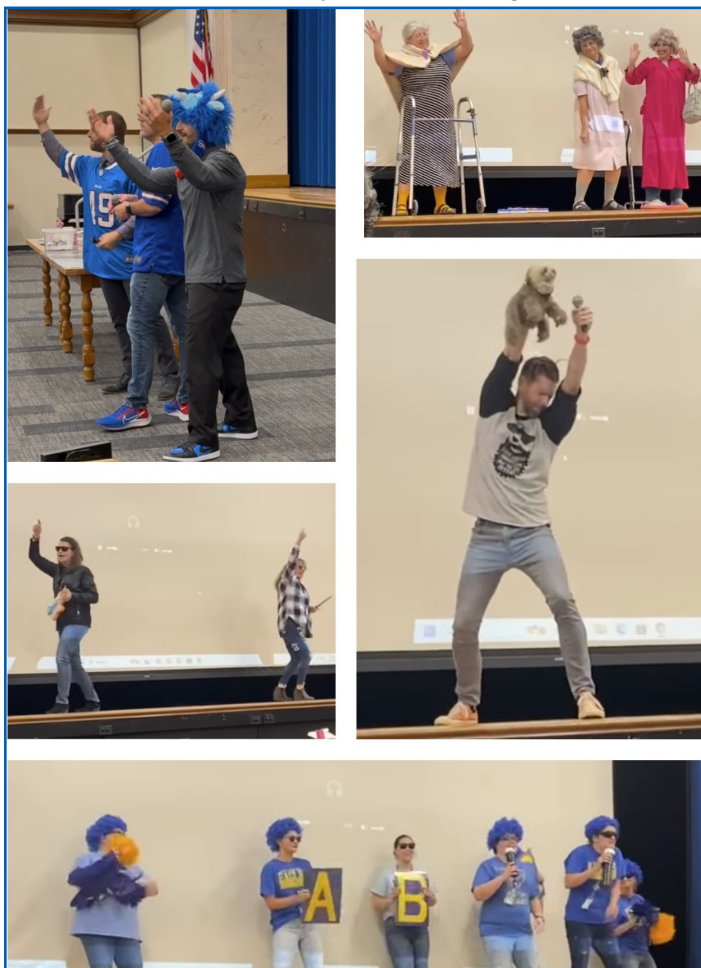
Teachers rock lip sync battle

The Elementary School was filled with laughter and cheers on November 22, thanks to our amazing teachers who participated in the PBIS Lip Sync Battle and made our assembly a smashing success.

Students from classes earning the most PBIS tickets had the exciting opportunity to spin the wheel to determine which teachers would perform and our teachers did not disappoint.

Mr. Dusinberre, Mr. Gaffney and Mr. Hurley brought the house down with their rendition of “The Buffalo Bills Shout Song,” while Mrs. Olin, Ms. Koegel and Mrs. Emrich got their groove on to “All the Single Ladies.” Mrs. Dwyer and Mrs. Cady wowed the crowd with their impressive dance moves to “We Will Rock You.” Mr. Palmer and Mr. Sloth energized the audience with “RATATATA” and the Eagles Seven reviewed their ABCs by dancing to the Jackson 5’s version.

The Lip Sync Battle was a fantastic way to celebrate positive behavior and school spirit. A huge thank you to the PBIS Committee for organizing this fun-filled event and to all the teachers who bravely took to the stage.



We can’t wait to see what the PBIS Committee has in store for our next assembly. Students, keep demonstrating positive behaviors to earn PBIS tickets. You never know what excellent opportunities await!

Second-graders publish book

Our second-grade students are excited to see their writing come to life in an actual published book. A copy is now available in the Alfred-Almond Elementary School library for your reading pleasure.



Elementary club spreads kindness

The Elementary Kindness Club started off the year with a new and used shoe drive. The club collected approximately 900 pairs of shoes to be sent to underdeveloped countries for those who may not have shoes. Thank you to all who donated.

In November, the students created place mats for a local nursing home to use for Thanksgiving and during December, they made trays of goodies for the bus garage staff, custodial and maintenance staff and cafeteria staff to thank them for all they do. On the last day of school before holiday break, they handed out Polar Express bells to all elementary students.

We love spreading kindness at Alfred-Almond CSD and beyond.

National Honor Society news

Members of the Alfred-Almond National Honor Society have been busy during the past few weeks.

On December 9, the students hosted the annual Red Cross Blood Drive and on December 16, they volunteered their time bell ringing in front of the Hornell Walmart for the local Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign.



Hispanic culture celebrations

Spanish classes and World Languages Club have been busy with Festejos (festivities). At the beginning of the school year, they celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15) and students attended the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery's Hispanic Heritage Celebration for a fun-filled day of Hispanic music, dance and traditions hosted by community members and clubs.



October was an exciting time with class activities and field trips celebrating Day of the Dead. Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is considered a part of the world's intangible cultural heritage, having been recognized by UNESCO in 2008 as part of its Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list, signifying its importance as a cultural tradition that should be protected globally.

Spanish III and IV classes had an opportunity to put their restaurant vocabulary to work at La Cabaña mexican restaurant in Hornell. Students tried authentic foods and drinks and placed their orders in Spanish.



World Languages Club learned about the origins and uses of Piñatas. The Mayans and Aztecs venerated their god of war,

Huitzilopochtli, by breaking piñatas at his altar. The Chinese broke their piñatas to bring good fortune and harvests, whereas the Italians used them to celebrate Lent. The Spanish missionaries wanted to proselytize Latin Americans for Christianity. They used piñatas to represent Catholic lessons.

A traditional piñata in Mexico in the 16th Century had seven points, each representing one of the seven deadly sins. What better way to teach the locals about Catholicism than with an interactive game they already loved.

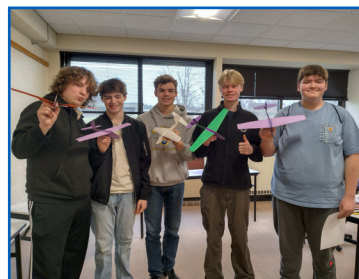


Math team attends competitions

The Alfred-Almond Math Team had an exciting autumn, as they competed in three competitions. In November, the team traveled to Alfred University to participate in the AU Nevins Math Competitions. At home, students took part in the American Mathematics Competition, a national math contest.

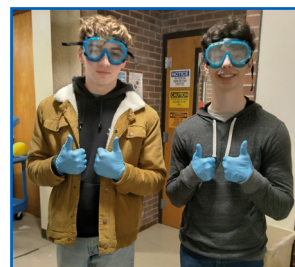
On December 18, Alfred-Almond upper level math and science students joined the Math Team for Corning Community College's STEM Day. Our 28 students participated in and enjoyed a variety of sessions on STEM jobs.

Favorite activities included dissecting an eyeball, building a model plane, chemistry experiments and hands-on with nursing mannequins.



William D. commented, "I enjoyed the engineering speaker and the architecture. Having professionals from the area who have

worked on local projects that we see in our day-to-day along with local people working on big projects/being popular outside of our area was interesting." Katen added, "The nursing class was very interactive and exciting. The people teaching were very positive and enthusiastic. It was a very fun time!"



At the end of the day, the Corning Math Contest awards were given. The Alfred-Almond Math Team took home first place in the small school category, beating out seven other small schools.

Our top five scores that made up our team score were from Brogan D., Gabe F., Micah M., Adam F. and Leon B. Congratulations, team!



Continued on page 4

Sixth grade collecting postcards

Once again our sixth-graders are collecting postcards from across the United States and worldwide to showcase on our bulletin board. We have received cards from 16 of the 50 states, as well as seven other countries.

If anyone would like to help us add to our collection, postcards may be mailed to:

Alfred-Almond Central School Sixth Grade
6795 State Route 21
Almond, NY 14804



Culture celebrations (continued)

Greed, gluttony, pride, wrath, envy, lust and sloth could be hammered away from reach, while the fruits and sweets that spilled out represented earthly temptations. Players hit piñatas blindfolded to show that faith can overcome sin.

Alfred-Almond and Alfred University launched their first year collaboration AU-AA Spanish Literary Fest. Alfred University students presented stories to Alfred-Almond Spanish II, III and IV students who judged and awarded prizes. Students also enjoyed delectable Spanish dishes prepared by Alfred University's language faculty and staff.

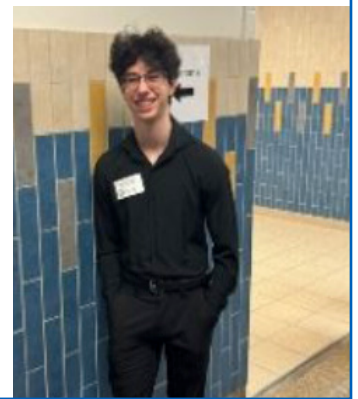


Spanish III students and World Languages Club welcomed the New Year with The Twelve Grapes (Spanish: Las Doce Uvas de la Suerte or the twelve grapes of luck). This Spanish tradition consists of eating a grape with each of the twelve clock bell strikes at midnight of December 31 to welcome the new year. Each grape and clock bell strike represents each of the coming twelve months. This tradition dates back to approximately 1895, but was greatly popularized in 1909.

Music students represent A-A

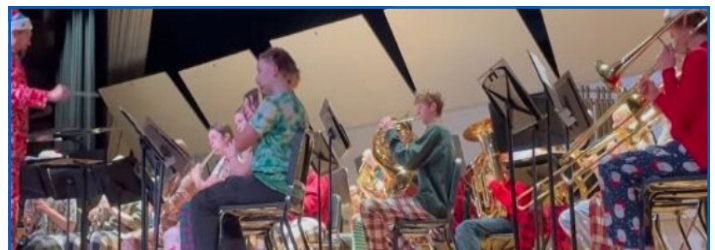
Several music students were selected to represent Alfred-Almond at NYSSMA Area All-State concerts held in November.

Imari (violin), Bradley (bass), William (Tenor) and Leon (french horn) performed at Jr. High Area All-State at Genesee Valley Central School. Cohen (bass), Noah (bass) and Gabe (percussion) performed at Sr. High Area All-State held at Haverling High School in Bath.



Band and choir members worked hard to prepare for their holiday concert and school assemblies held before break. Choir members also volunteered their time to carol at the Alfred Farmer's Market.

Special thank you to Ms. Rech, choir student teacher from Houghton University, for helping the students prepare their music.



Seniors perform community service

This fall, seniors in Economics and Participation in Government classes, led by teachers James Dineen, Steve Donlon and Todd Goho, happily continued their commitment to serving the Almond Community. The students rolled up their sleeves for some hands-on projects. They worked on trail maintenance along the brand new Riverwalk Trail, spruced up the gaga ball pit surface, picked up trash and sticks, got the park ready for winter and tidied up the storage facility.

Through these fun activities, the students not only discovered the joy of community service, but also felt a sense of pride in caring for the community spaces that their families love to use and enjoy.



A message from the Board

Hello to our awesome Alfred-Almond community. I hope you and your families have had a wonderful start to 2025. The Board is looking forward to a positive and productive year.

One of our top priorities is the advancement of our capital project, which represents a significant investment in the safety, functionality and future-readiness of our schools. The capital project is a big undertaking, but it's an important one. Our schools need upgrades – some for safety, some to modernize outdated spaces and others to improve how our buildings serve students and staff. This project is about more than just fixing things; it's about creating the kind of schools that reflect the future we want for our community. We're committed to doing this responsibly, keeping you informed along the way and making decisions that benefit everyone.

At the beginning of this school year, I asked the Board to share their goals and priorities. We unanimously agreed that communication is at the top of our list. We hope that you will see this through our work, considerations discussed at meetings and at school events. We hope that you can come to a meeting soon, if not for any reason other than getting to know us and how the board operates. We, as board members, cannot speak on matters as individuals, but only as a whole – so we also encourage you to use our meetings to communicate with us. We switched up our meeting schedule this year, with the goal of being intentional not just with our time but with yours. So far, so good.

Overall, our goal is to make sure our schools and our community are moving forward together. There's a lot of work ahead, but we're excited about what's possible and look forward to sharing more as we go.

If you have any questions or want to share your thoughts, I encourage you to reach out, attend a meeting or send us an email. Just remember, we can only respond as a board not as individuals. We're all in this together and your perspective matters.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to thank you once again for your support of our schools and our students. Together, we can ensure that Alfred-Almond remains a place where every child has the opportunity to succeed and where our schools serve as a cornerstone of pride and excellence for our community.

Maeghen Kuhn

Board of Education President

**All meetings (except executive session) are open to the public. Upcoming meetings will be Tuesday, February 4 and Tuesday March 4 at 5 p.m. A work session will be followed by the regular meeting at 6 p.m.*

Alfred-Almond KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

In order to identify all children who will enter Kindergarten in September 2025, 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 11, 2025. Your child must be 5 years of age on or before December 1, 2025. 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)

Father's Name: _____
 First Middle Last

Street Address: _____
 House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: _____
 (If different from above)

Child Resides With: _____

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

Alfred-Almond PRE-KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

In order to identify all children who will enter Pre-Kindergarten in September 2025, we are asking those parents who have eligible children to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 11, 2025. Your child must be 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2025. 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)

Father's Name: _____
 First Middle Last

Street Address: _____
 House # Street City State Zip

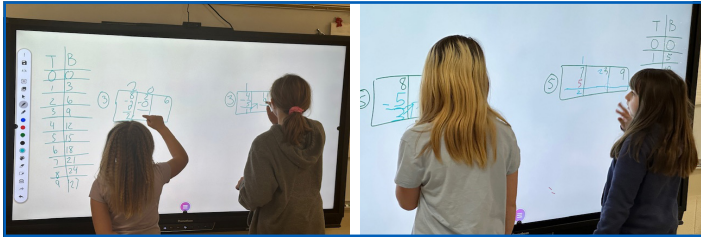
Mailing Address: _____
 (If different from above)

Child Resides With: _____

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

Math students demonstrate skills

Some of Mr. Weller's amazing math students showed off their long division skills using a new strategy (the grid method). What a smart group of fourth-graders!



School Tax Relief (STAR) credit

Eligible new homeowners will receive their STAR tax savings in the form of a check directly from New York State. New Basic and Enhanced STAR applicants must register with the New York State Tax Department to receive a STAR check.

Register anytime at www.tax.ny.gov.star or by phone weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 518-457-2036.

Are you eligible for STAR credit?

If you own your home, it is your primary residence and your income is \$500,000 or less, you are eligible for the Basic STAR credit.

If you are 65 or older with an income of \$107,300 or less, you may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR credit.

Before you register:

You will need the following information to register for the STAR credit:

- names and social security numbers for all owners of the property and their spouses;
- name of the school district where your primary residence is located;
- approximate date the owners purchased the property and the name of the sellers;
- most recent school tax bill, if the current owners have received one;
- address of any residential property owned in another state;
- if the property is owned in trust, legal name of the trust;
- 2023 federal or state income tax returns for all owners; if you were not required to file a 2023 income tax return, you will be asked to provide financial information for all property owners.

STAR exemption recipients:

You may need to reapply with your assessor if you are a longtime homeowner with an existing STAR exemption and have filed a new deed.

If you are a senior citizen who has been receiving the Basic STAR exemption and has become eligible for the Enhanced STAR exemption, apply with your local assessor.

Eagles of the Week announced

At the secondary school assembly on December 3, our inaugural "Eagles of the Week" were honored.

To be named an Eagle of the Week, students are nominated by a staff member for demonstrating positive characteristics such as leadership, perseverance, empathy, respect kindness, personal responsibility, positivity towards others and self-discipline. A student may be recognized for a specific act or for exhibiting these qualities on a long-term basis.

Each Wednesday, during morning announcements, the the Eagle of the week is announced. "It is a recognition for students who do the right thing. It is important for students to know that we are noticing when they show good character. Having good character leads to great things in life," said Mr. Hurley, secondary principal.

So far, Eagles of the Week include: Rihanna Stuart, Bailee Snyder, Cohen Cumberbatch, Rose Schreiber, Calob Diaz, Leon Beaudry and Jasper Roberts. Hurley added, "These students embody what it means to be a representative of our school. I am very proud of them. They shine more than they know!"



POSTAL PATRON

Alfred-Almond Central School
6795 Route 21
Almond, New York 14804

US Postage Paid
Alfred, New York 14802
Permit No. 20
Non-Profit Organization

Important Dates

January 20NO SCHOOL: Martin Luther King, Jr Day
January 29 NO SCHOOL: Asian Lunar New Year
February 17-21NO SCHOOL: Winter Recess
March 13 & 14Parent/Teacher Conferences
Elementary Students Dismissed at 11:30 a.m.
March 21 & 22 NO SCHOOL (Students) : Conference Days
April 14-18..... NO SCHOOL: Spring Recess

Snow and emergency closing info

As a reminder to parents, with winter weather, it is sometimes necessary to close school because it is not safe for our 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 WLSV790 AM WKPQ 105.3 FM
WCKR 92.1 FM WJQZ 103.5 FM WZKZ 101.1 FM
WKBW-TV (Buffalo) WETM-TV (Elmira)

Transportation requests

Any parent requesting transportation for his/her child to a non-public school for the 2025-26 academic year must make such request in writing *no later than April 1, 2025.*

These written requests should be submitted to the Alfred-Almond District Office.



Order your 2025 yearbook today

The 2025 ALCEN Yearbook is now on sale. Again this year, all yearbooks must be ordered online. The cost is \$60. To order your yearbook:

- Visit www.jostens.com;
- Click the link: Order Your Yearbook Today;
- Search for Alfred-Almond Central High School;
- Follow the prompt to input your information.

The staff is hard at work completing the elementary and underclassmen sections of the book and are accepting winter sports photos. If anyone has sports photos we could potenton use in the yearbook, please feel free to send them to Kelly Valentine at kvalentine@aacssapps.com.

Alfred Almond Performing Arts presents
Meredith Wilson's
The MUSIC Man

Book, Music and Lyrics by MEREDITH WILSON
Story by MEREDITH WILSON and FRANKLIN LACEY

Friday March 14th
Saturday, March 15th
Sunday, March 16th
at the Alfred-Almond CSD Auditorium

Tickets sold online or at the door.

General Admission costs \$7
For tickets, go to <https://our.show/musicmanaacs>
or scan the QR Code



The Music Man is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com