



Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

November 2023

Inside this Issue

A note from Principal Barber; First-graders setting PBIS example; Second-graders enjoy farm trip; Reading Eagles newsPg. 2

Fire Prevention Week celebrated with firefighter visits and contestPg. 3

Elementary at work and play; Trout in the Classroom; Attendance Reminder.....Pg. 4

Morning announcements go live; Bridge program kicks off year; Class learns value of giving backPg. 5

Fine arts boosters hold festival; Concerts planned for 2023-24; High School Musical On StagePg. 6

Hispanic Heritage Celebrated; Thank you, Board members; Cafeteria UpdatePg. 7

Snow and emergency closing info; Mark your calendars; Order your 2024 yearbook; Book fair returning.Pg. 8

A message from the Superintendent

November is a beautiful time of year filled with opportunities to show gratitude, appreciation and kindness. This month, we celebrate our Veterans on November 10, World Kindness Day on November 13 and Thanksgiving on November 23. Veterans Day is a celebration to honor all of America’s Veterans for their patriotism, love of their country and willingness to serve and sacrifice. It is also a day for reflection and remembering. I would like to recognize and thank all of our Veterans for their service to our country. In recognition of Veterans Day, no school will be held on Friday, November 10.

We are excited to announce the opening of our new S.O.A.R. low ropes course and teaching center this fall! The S.O.A.R. course is a fun and challenging way for students and faculty/staff of all ages and abilities to learn about teamwork, problem-solving and leadership.

The course consists of a series of interconnected elements that participants must navigate together. These elements challenge participants to work together to overcome obstacles, communicate effectively and support each other.

The S.O.A.R. course is an excellent activity for groups, classes and teams of all sizes. It is also a valuable tool for team building and leadership development.

Some of the benefits of participating in the low ropes course are:

- Improved communication and teamwork skills: Participants must work together to complete the course, which helps them to develop their communication and teamwork skills.
- Increased problem-solving skills: The course presents participants with a variety of challenges that they must solve together. This helps them to develop their problem-solving skills and learn to think creatively.
- Enhanced leadership skills: Participants have the opportunity to practice their leadership skills by encouraging and supporting their teammates.
- Increased self-confidence: As participants complete the course, they develop a sense of self-confidence and accomplishment.

The S.O.A.R. low ropes course is only open for school district use. Unauthorized use and trespassing is prohibited.

School safety remains very important to all of us, and we continue to ask for your help and support in keeping our campus safe. We require all visitors to enter the school through the main entrances of the buildings. Be sure to have a valid ID when entering our facilities. Visitors, staff and students are reminded to close doors and encouraged to report any behavior or conditions that may be observed as threatening. In the year ahead, we will practice fire, lock down and emergency go home drills. Before the first lock down drill, we will discuss the protocol and purpose with students. We ask that you reinforce the purpose of all drills and encourage children to take them seriously.

The week of October 16-20 was School Board Appreciation Week. A special thank you goes out to our five school board members, who collectively have more than 50 years of experience serving our district.

Superintendent's message (continued)

If you see one of our board members, please thank them for their commendable and dedicated service. We could not do it without them and we appreciate the time they volunteer on behalf of our communities, students and district as a whole.

In closing, please contact the school administration 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 an extraordinary place; all of you are essential to what makes it so unique. I hope you enjoy the remaining days of fall.

In Education,

Brett A. Dusinberre

Superintendent of Schools

A note from Principal Barber

Happy November! We have had a fantastic and fast start to the school year. I am so proud of our students for their hard work and dedication to their learning. We continue to focus on social-emotional learning and helping our students develop the skills they need to be successful in and out of the classroom.

School Improvement Team (SIT) News:

The Elementary SIT hosted the annual Move and Groove night on October 12. Students had a fun time learning about lacrosse and soccer. Thank you to Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Mann and the Alfred University Women's Lacrosse and Soccer teams for supporting our event. Be on the lookout for more information about the December 7 SIT event. We have some exciting things planned!

Thank you for your continued support of AACCS.

Casey Barber

Elementary Principal

First-graders setting PBIS example

First-graders have been setting a great example of our PBIS expectations while walking silently in the "zero zone" hallway back to their classroom with student teacher, Miss Mattison.

Great job, everyone!



Second-graders enjoy farm trip

Again this year, our second-graders enjoyed a trip to Alfred State Farm, where they were greeted by many animals including horses, cows, sheep and pigs and saw an automatic milk machine and a large "robot" sweeper. To wrap up the visit, the students were treated to milk and a cheese stick.



Reading Eagles news

Our Elementary Reading Eagles are enjoying reading together every Friday afternoon. All of the students are reading and learning how to be active listeners by having authentic discussions about the stories together. The older students meet with Mrs. Emrich during their lunch on Mondays to learn the Question Formulation Technique and prepare their read-aloud. We have groupings for one-on-one reading as well as entire classes that participate. Our goal is to continue sharing and expanding the love of read reading to anyone who would like to participate.



Fire Prevention Week celebrated with firefighter visits and contest

Alfred-Almond is fortunate to be served by three local fire departments: Alfred, Alfred Station and Almond. During Fire Safety Week (October 8-14), several firefighters made visits to the school to talk to students about fire safety and show them the workings of their fire equipment.

A poster contest was held to emphasize safety in the kitchen. Congratulations to Imari Kelleher. She won the contest and was driven to school in a fire truck! We are grateful to Chief Bryan Dodge, Assistant Chief Travis Clark, Second Assistant Chief Justin Haynowski, Firefighter Jamie Stuart, Firefighter Blake Mayo (from Alfred Station) and Firefighter Rodney Wilcox (Almond) for taking the time to educate our students about fire safety.



Elementary at work and at play

Mr. Weller's fourth grade math classes partnered up and had lots of fun practicing their addition and subtraction with dice.



In September, our sixth-graders helped mulch the beautiful gardens and had the opportunity to learn about milkweed and monarch butterflies.



As part of our "Nonfiction Friday" time, sixth grade ELA students read *Time for Kids* magazine.



Our students and teachers have enjoyed taking some time to soak up the sunshine on our playground before winter weather arrives.



Trout in the Classroom

Alfred-Almond sixth-graders are participating in *Trout in the Classroom*, a national program that has been sponsored by Trout Unlimited for more than three decades. This environmental education provides students the opportunity to set up and maintain a healthy ecosystem for raising trout and serves as a gateway to stewardship and conserving our precious resources.



The program is made possible by generous sponsors through DonorsChoose.org. Parents, teachers and friends such as the Sonic Foundation helped make this possible for our students.

The trout tank at Alfred-Almond has been up and running for weeks and students eagerly awaited the October 11 arrival of eyed-eggs of trout from the NYS DEC hatchery in Randolph, NY.

Once the trout are fingerlings, we'll be releasing them into the wild through a NYS DEC permitted process.



Attendance reminder

Consistent school attendance is important for the success of every student.

- Please send your child to school every day they are able to attend.
- Attendance letters will be sent home if your child has significant absences. These letters aim to inform caregivers of attendance and offer support, if needed.
- Watch ClassDojo and AACCS Facebook for updates and information.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Morning announcements go live

Our sixth-graders have taken on a new and exciting responsibility; putting on the morning announcements for the elementary school. The announcements are broadcast live each morning and feature a variety of content including the weather, lunch options, birthdays, upcoming events and fun facts.



The students work hard to create a production that is both informative and entertaining and they write and script the announcements themselves. The broadcasts have helped build a sense of community between the grade levels and have been a big hit with the elementary school students, who love seeing their older peers on the screen and are enjoying the fun and engaging presentation of the announcements.



Bridge program kicks off year

Our seventh grade bridge program kicked off the school year in August with some of our seniors helping our new high-schoolers get comfortable in our building.



Since then, the high school has had a great official start to the year and students have been busy with field trips, college visits and athletic events.

Class learns value of giving back

The senior Participation in Government class has been learning the value of giving back to their community with several local projects. The class has worked with the Village of Almond, the Town of Almond and the Alfred-Almond Community Sports Association to make improvements to Lions Park and Greg Norton Memorial Park. These parks provide a fun and safe place for community members to spend time and the students in class are helping improve the parks' utility and aesthetics.



The class has been having fun learning to give back and take pride in the communities from which they come. Thanks to Mr. Murphy and Mr. Goho for taking leadership roles in this endeavor. The class will continue to give back to the local communities throughout the school year and hopefully for many years to come.



Fine arts boosters hold festival

The Fine Arts Boosters held the first annual Fall Family Festival on sunny Saturday, September 30, in the school courtyard. The event featured 10 creative activity tables, a series of raffle baskets, a food truck and live music.

The Alfred University Student Guzheng Ensemble and the Popular Music Ensembles both provided musical entertainment, as well as a performance by Alfred-Almond's own Ukuladies, Jami Snyder and Amy Powers. The weather was beautiful and we welcomed many AACCS families to this interactive event.



Children were able to participate in activities including squeegee painting, black-out poetry, face painting, button making, balloon animals, mini sketchbook decorating, origami, marbled holiday ornaments and zine making.

Many thanks to all of the local businesses and families who donated items for the basket raffle or their time to help



setup and run this event. Thank you especially to Julie Bensley, the president of the Fine Arts Boosters, for her time and energy to bring this event to life, to Lauren Lake for her organizational help and numerous donations, to Sarah Cote for event publicity, to Lisa Goho and Shawn Carstens for organizing and running the raffle table, to Amy Powers and Heidi Jensen for organizing our AU student musicians, to Andrea Fioretto for food arrangements and overall organization, to Jami Snyder for managing the physical setup, to Matt Lake for running the ticket table and to our numerous student volunteers who ran the tables and helped with setup and tear down.

The Alfred-Almond Fine Arts Boosters is a parent-led group that works to raise funds to supplement the needs of the art, music and drama departments at AACCS, and welcomes new members.

This fundraiser was a big success and it was great to see so many Alfred-Almond families come over on a Saturday to participate in this energizing community event.



Thank you to all the families and teachers who helped or attended. We hope to see you again in the fall of 2024.

Concerts planned for 2023-24

The Alfred-Almond Music Department is busy preparing this year's musical selections.

The first performance of the season will be the secondary fall concert on Thursday, November 2. We hope you'll join us for this and the numerous other performances we have planned this year.



Concert Schedule

- Secondary Fall Concert: November 2, 7 p.m.
- Elementary Holiday Concert: December 14, 7 p.m.
- Secondary Holiday Concert: December 19, 7 p.m.
- Secondary "Music in Our Schools" Concert: December 21, 7 p.m.
- NYSSMA Instrumental and Choral Majors at Hornell High School, Time TBD
- Elementary Strawberry Festival: June 4, 7 p.m.
- Secondary Strawberry Festival and Senior Concert: June 6, 7 p.m.

The Alfred Almond Performing Arts Department proudly presents



Friday, March 8, 2024 @ 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 9, 2024 @ 7 p.m.
Sunday, March 10, 2024 @ 2 p.m.

Tickets will be available online and at the door. Online ticketing information will be coming to the District website and Facebook page in February 2024.

You won't want to miss this!

Hispanic Heritage Celebrated

Alfred-Almond Spanish Classes and World Language Club celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month that initiates each year on September 15.

Spanish II students decorated a hallway with their informative postcards from each Spanish-speaking country. Illustrated short biographies of many influential Hispanics are displayed in the entryway of our school. World Language



Club took a virtual tour of Chile and its Easter Island before making stock paper Moai Statues, modeled after the stone statues found on the Island.

Students also enjoyed an adventurous trip to Rochester's Memorial Art Gallery (MAG) for a Hispanic Heritage Celebration where they experienced folklore dances and music and had the opportunity to tour the rich art on exhibition. Señora Burr and the students would like to thank our administration, chaperones, bus drivers, Mrs. Powers and Mrs. Chambliss for their support in making the "la magia" (the magic) happen. Gracias!



Thank you, Board members

School Board Recognition week was held October 16-20 to honor the board for their dedicated leadership in public education and their continuing service to the children of this community.

Thank you to our Alfred-Almond Board of Education members (*pictured left to right*): Earl Pierce, John D'Angelo, Gary Acker, Maeghen Kuhn and Jason Burdick. We value your service and continued support.



Cafeteria update

It has been a busy start to the school year for the cafeteria crew. We celebrated some staff anniversaries - Brittany, Karen and Liz have been with our team for two years and Kristy, Anne and Jessie for one year. It has been a pleasure seeing the enthusiasm they each bring to their roles and the care they put into preparing meals for our students.

Much has taken place behind the scenes, including processing of free and reduced meal applications. Thank you to the families who have submitted applications to date. Families whose income changes and/or have not yet submitted an application are strongly encouraged to do so. Applications are processed all year and can be downloaded on the website: <https://alfredalmondcafeteria.gstbooces.org/> or requested by calling the cafeteria at 607-276-6550. Please note that students qualified for free meals must take a complete meal in order to receive it at no charge. If a full meal is not taken, items are charged at a la carte prices.

If you haven't viewed the menus lately, take a moment to see what's cooking in the cafeteria. A number of wholesome, scratch-based meals are offered, such as macaroni and cheese, baked ziti and tacos. For grades 5-12, we also offer made-to-order wraps/subs three times per week and feature a salad bar daily with fresh veggies and house-made dressings. We also feature a rotation of specialty chicken sandwiches and cheeseburgers for those looking for a break from the "norm"!

Menus and complete nutritional analysis can be found on the cafeteria website at the link listed above.

POSTAL PATRON

Alfred-Almond Central School
6795 Route. 21
Almond, New York 14804
Return Services Requested

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

Mark your calendars

- November 2.....Secondary band and chorus concert
- November 3..... Math Team competition at Alfred
- November 3..... Elementary Fun Night
- November 3-4 Junior High All State Festival
for band and chorus
- November 9..... End of first marking period
- November 10..... NO SCHOOL - Veteran’s Day
- November 17-18Senior High All State Festival
for band and chorus
- November 20-21Parent/Teacher conferences
(Elementary dismissal at 11:50 a.m. both days)
- November 22-24 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving recess
- December 1Talent Show
- December 4-7..... Scholastic Book Fair
- December 19 Secondary Holiday Concert
- December 22-January 1 NO SCHOOL - Holiday recess
- January 15NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 29NO SCHOOL for students - Conference day
- February 19-23..... NO SCHOOL - Winter recess

Snow and emergency closing info

As a reminder to parents, with the winter weather, it is sometimes necessary to close school because it is not safe for the 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.



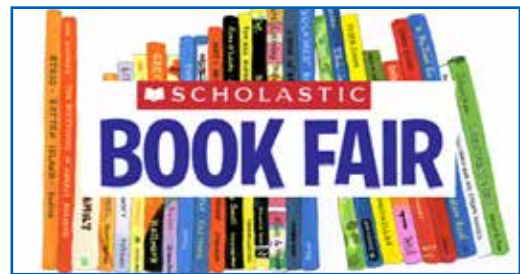
For additional information on school closings, please listen to one of the following radio or TV stations:

- WGRZ-Channel 2
- WIVB - Channel 4
- WHDL (PIG 95.7)
- WKBW - Channel 7
- Spectrum News
- BIG OLY 107.1

Order your 2024 yearbook today

The 2024 ALCEN Yearbook is now on sale! Again this year, all yearbooks must be ordered online. The cost is \$60. To order your yearbook, please:

- 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 ALCEN Staff members have been hard at work selling business ads, taking pictures in school and at our sporting events and working on designing the yearbook pages.
- Thank you for supporting the Alfred-Almond Yearbook.



Exciting news! The Scholastic Book Fair is returning to Alfred-Almond on December 4-9.