



Alexandria Central School

Home of the Purple Ghosts



Newsletter & Budget Information

May 2024, Page 1

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Vote Date Details

What will I be voting on?

Budget: \$16,288,556

Bonding of Transportation Vehicles,
BOE Candidates

When and where is the vote?

Tuesday, May 21, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Alexandria Central School
Room 260

Who is eligible to vote?

American citizens at least 18 years of age who have lived in the district at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Do I need to pre-register to vote?

No, pre-registration is not required.

How do I vote by absentee or early ballot?

Obtain an application on the district website or by calling 315-482-9971.

The application must be returned by May 14th if the absentee or early ballot will be sent by mail. Or the application must be returned by May 20 if the voter will pick it up at ACS. Absentee and early ballot must be returned no later than 5:00 pm on May 21, 2024.

Alexandria Central School District residents will vote on a \$16,288,556 budget proposal for the 2024-2025 school year on Tuesday, May 21 from 10 am to 8 pm in Room 260. It will be clearly marked where to enter the building. Voters will also select two candidates for the ACS Board of Education and consider one additional proposition: a proposition for bonding student transportation vehicles as part of the district's routine fleet replacement.

This year marks the first year of fully funded foundation aid. However, it also marks the first year of the state's potential fiscal cliff, whereas the state's expenses are exceeding its revenues. As a way to hedge against this, the Governor had proposed a change in the foundation aid formula, essentially eliminating those schools who were "held harmless." Many schools have seen enrollment decreases, but New York State had never punished those schools by decreasing aid. Governor Hochul wishes to address that issue and change the formula. Initially, that change would have cut over \$500,000 in state aid for ACS. Ultimately, the legislature agreed on a zero percent increase year over year for foundation aid and begin a tiered approach in 2025.

The ACS Board of Education, recognizing the ongoing economic climate the taxpayers have faced for three years, has worked diligently analyzing expenditures and anticipated revenues in an effort to maintain programs while minimizing the tax impact. Ongoing cost saving ventures involve shared services with Hammond CSD and the Village of Alexandria Bay. For 2024-2025, those cost sharing agreements continue to generate approximately \$80,000 in additional revenue.

Cost increases for the 2024-2025 fiscal year are attributed to contractual salary and benefit increases. The district has consistently been mindful of the impact budget increases have on taxpayers. With this in mind, the district has proposed a tax levy increase of 3.90%. Next year, this would be an estimated \$50 increase in the school tax bill for a property assessed at \$100,000.

2024-2025 Capital Outlay

Each year ACS budgets for a capital outlay project. These projects are state-allowable, state-aided projects that can be no more than \$100,000 in scope. Each project must undergo a rigorous NYSED approval process and include transparent public bidding. The district has focused on projects complementing our larger gym project in the past few years. In 2021-2022, the district focused on replacing the bathroom in the boys locker room. In the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years, the district began the process of replacing bathrooms, showers, and the floor in the girls locker room. In the 2024-2025 academic year, the district will build into the regular school budget a capital outlay project that continues to modernize the locker room. Additional work will include shower and floor replacement, plumbing upgrades, lighting fixtures, and ceiling replacement.

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Budget Information

Propositions

#1: 2023-24 School Budget

Proposed Budget: \$16,288,556

Budget Change: 2.43 %

Tax Levy Increase: \$324,805 +3.90%

#2: Bonding Three Student Transportation Vehicles

Voters will consider a proposition for the purchase of three student transportation vehicles.

If Proposition #2 is approved, the district will borrow up to \$300,000 to purchase two 66-passenger buses and a school vehicle. This purchase is eligible for approximately \$157,500 in state aid, which is about half of the purchase price. This cost is included in the debt service calculation for the 2024/2025 school year, so it does not increase the proposed budget.

These purchases are part of an ongoing effort to maintain a bus fleet under seven years old with less than 100,000 miles each. This helps maintain safety while providing coverage under a six-year warranty and preserving the resale value.

New York State has passed legislation mandating that all schools and state facilities begin switching vehicles, including buses, to electric vehicles. This requirement is state law with no discretion in interpretation. In an effort to minimize the cost to taxpayers, the district applied for and was awarded an EPA grant of 3.6 million dollars to help transition the district to an all-electric fleet over the next 7 years. These funds will be used to offset the cost of each bus purchased as well as all electric charging infrastructure to support the fleet. We have worked closely with Blue-Bird bus manufacturers and NYS Bus Sales to ensure new buses are safe, reliable, and have a sufficient range for all of our bus runs. The cost to purchase the same number of gasoline buses, rather than electric buses, is roughly twice the cost!

Budget Q & A

What is a "tax levy limit" and is ACS below its limit?

The tax levy is the highest allowable tax levy a school district can propose for which only the approval of a simple majority of voters (50% plus one) is required. The limit is calculated using a multi-step formula that takes into account any allowable exclusions (such as pension costs and capital expenditures). Any proposed tax levy above this limit requires budget approval by a super majority of voters (60%). The ACS Board of Education has proposed a budget that includes a tax levy BELOW its limit. For the 2024-25 fiscal year, the ACS tax cap limit is 5.60%.

How is the tax levy different from a tax rate?

The tax levy is the amount of money the district raises from local taxpayers while the tax rate is the amount of tax residents pay per \$1,000 of property value. In 2024-25 the school tax levy would increase by 3.90%. The impact on school tax bills is projected to be an approximate \$50 next year for a property assessed at \$100,000.

With the tax levy limit, does the public still vote on a school budget?

Yes, residents will still vote on a proposed school budget on May 21, 2024.

What happens if the budget is defeated?

If the proposed budget is defeated in May, the ACS Board of Education can put another budget, revised or not, up for a vote in June or immediately adopt a contingency budget. If the budget is defeated twice, ACS would have to adopt a contingency budget, with a zero percent tax levy increase, which could mean an additional \$493,080 in reductions to programs and services.

Under contingency, there would be \$493,080 worth of reductions in programs and capital components.

If the proposed budget is defeated by voters, the ACS Board of Education, as in the past, will have the option of putting the same or a revised budget up for a revote, or adopting a contingency budget. If voters reject the budget twice, the district must adopt a contingent budget.

More significantly, under the law, if ACS adopts a contingency budget, the district would have to keep the 2024-25 tax levy the same as or less than the 2023-24 tax levy; in effect, a 0 percent tax levy increase. In other words, the district would have to levy the same amount of taxes as in 2023-24 -or less -without any adjustments for contractual obligations or other costs, whether or not they are mandated.

Adopting a contingency budget would prohibit ACS from spending any money in certain areas, including community use of school facilities (unless all costs are reimbursed to the district); new equipment purchases; non-essential maintenance; capital expenditures (except in emergencies); salary increases for non-instructional, non-unionized employees; and certain field trips and student supplies. Contingency rules also cap the growth of the administrative component of the budget.

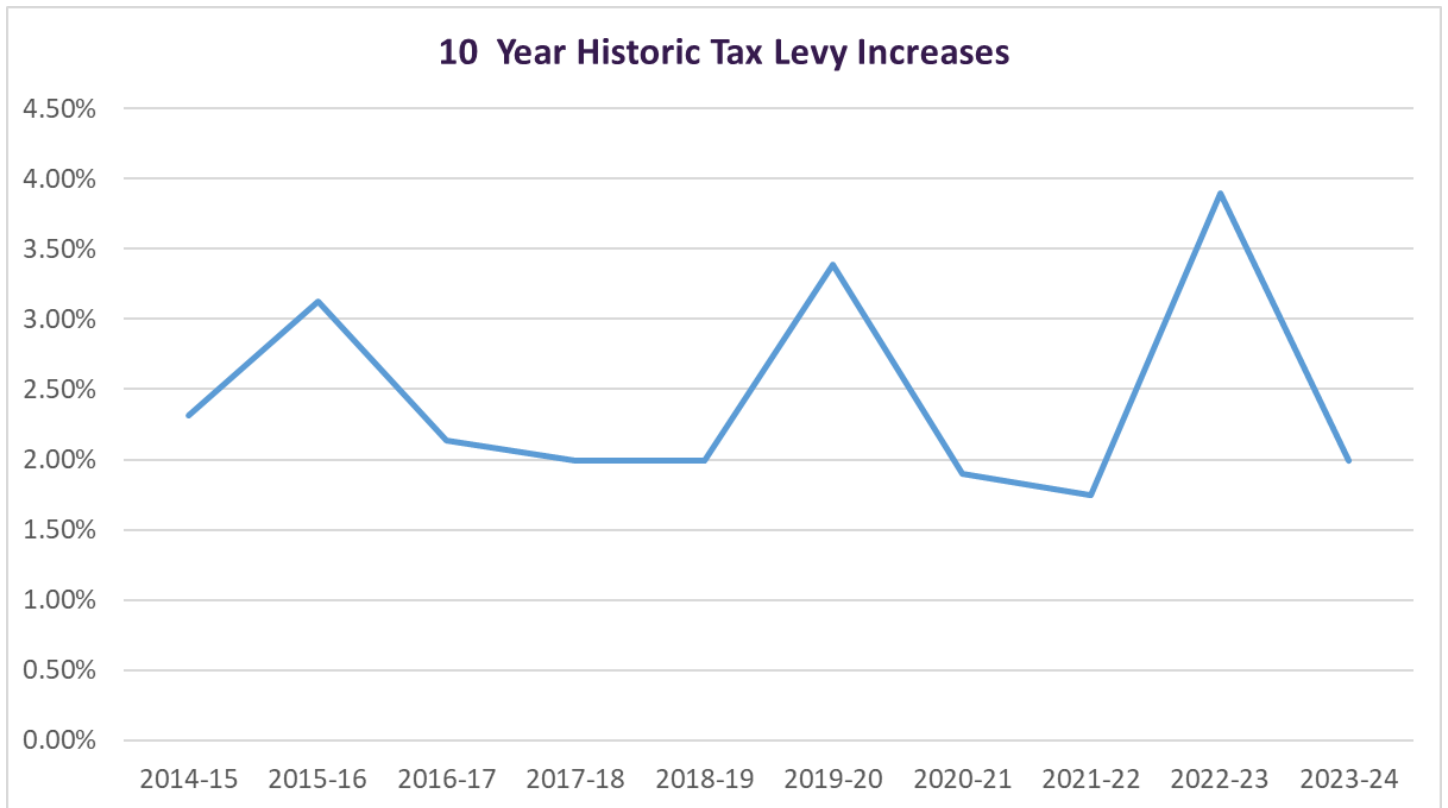
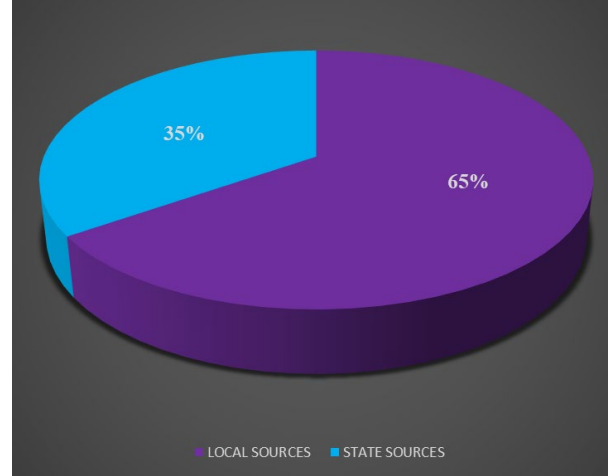




Budget Charts

Where does the money come from?

	Approved 2023/24	Proposed 2024/25	Percent Change
State Aid	\$ 5,645,668	\$ 5,652,005	0.11%
Federal Aid	\$ 60,800	\$ -	-100.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 1,459,959	\$ 1,675,932	14.79%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 307,475	\$ 307,475	0.00%
Property Tax	\$ 8,328,339	\$ 8,653,144	3.90%
Reserve Funds	\$ 100,000	\$ -	-100.00%
Total Revenue	\$ 15,902,241	\$ 16,288,556	



INSTRUCTION: 41% of proposed budget

	2023/24	2024/25
Teaching, Regular School	\$ 3,223,710	\$ 3,264,649
Special Education	\$ 1,578,569	\$ 1,595,804
Occupational Education	\$ 403,558	\$ 428,392
Staff Development	\$ 140,320	\$ 136,898
Teaching, Administration	\$ 310,807	\$ 247,102
Teaching, Summer School	\$ -	\$ 37,500
Library	\$ 102,498	\$ 106,282
Technology	\$ 277,936	\$ 299,396
Guidance	\$ 181,320	\$ 166,446
Health Services	\$ 71,573	\$ 76,959
Psychological Services	\$ 79,600	\$ 79,600
Co-Curricular Activities	\$ 64,043	\$ 71,135
Athletics	\$ 179,172	\$ 207,683
Community Services	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Total	\$ 6,613,106	\$ 6,742,846
Percent Change		1.96%

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: 26% of proposed budget

	2023/24	2024/25
Employees' Retirement	\$ 232,537	\$ 323,219
Teachers' Retirement	\$ 483,791	\$ 509,578
Social Security	\$ 497,818	\$ 529,009
Workers' Compensation	\$ 60,104	\$ 57,011
Unemployment	\$ 11,200	\$ 11,200
Health Insurance	\$ 2,605,635	\$ 2,651,464
Other Benefits	\$ 132,727	\$ 114,091
Total	\$ 4,023,812	\$ 4,195,572
Percent Change		4.27%

OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE: 8% of proposed budget

	2023/24	2024/25
Custodial Services	\$ 668,392	\$ 588,166
Maintenance	\$ 764,334	\$ 708,787
Total	\$ 1,432,726	\$ 1,296,953
Percent Change		-9.48%

Where does the \$16,288,556 go?

TRANSPORTATION: 8% of proposed budget

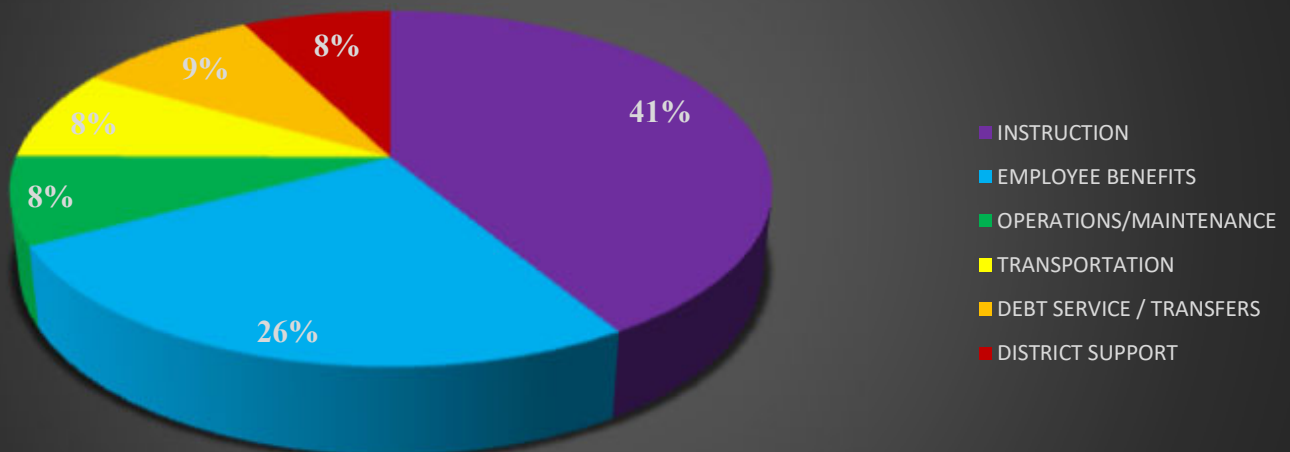
	2023/24	2024/25
Transportation	\$ 986,014	\$ 1,232,862
Garage	\$ 139,750	\$ 111,250
Total	\$ 1,125,764	\$ 1,344,112
Percent Change		19.40%

DEBT SERVICE: 9% of proposed budget

	2023/24	2024/25
Construction	\$ 1,028,987	\$ 961,188
Buses	\$ 239,977	\$ 309,039
Interfund Transfer	\$ 320,000	\$ 220,000
Total	\$ 1,588,964	\$ 1,490,227
Percent Change		-6.21%

DISTRICT SUPPORT: 8% of proposed budget

	2023/24	2024/25
Board of Education	\$ 31,897	\$ 30,406
Central Administration	\$ 236,216	\$ 225,610
Business Administration	\$ 203,447	\$ 234,883
Auditing	\$ 22,600	\$ 26,200
Tax Collection	\$ 10,100	\$ 19,300
Legal / Fiscal Services	\$ 47,330	\$ 57,809
School Security	\$ 51,600	\$ 51,600
Central Services	\$ 317,799	\$ 368,800
Insurance / Special Items	\$ 85,200	\$ 94,200
BoCES Administration / Capital	\$ 111,680	\$ 110,038
Total	\$ 1,117,869	\$ 1,218,846
Percent Change		9.03%



School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$15,902,241	\$16,288,556	\$15,795,476										
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$386,315	(\$ 106,765)										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.43 %	(- .7)%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 8,238,339	\$ 8,653,144											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0											
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0											
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0											
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 8,238,339	\$ 8,653,144	\$ 8,653,144										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 672,393	\$ 703,091											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 7,856,558	\$ 8,091,945											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 7,655,946	\$ 7,950,053											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 200,612	\$ 141,892											
Administrative Component	\$ 1,606,466	\$ 1,457,395	\$ 1,456,695										
Program Component	\$11,215,853	\$11,885,491	\$11,650,791										
Capital Component	\$ 3,079,922	\$ 2,945,670	\$ 2,687,990										
<p>A contingency budget would require a \$493,080 reduction in expenditures. This figure includes purchases of equipment, carpeting, furniture, and a capital outlay project.</p>													
<p>** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bus Bond Proposition</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 300,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Description	Amount	Bus Bond Proposition	\$ 300,000		\$		\$		\$	
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	\$												
	\$												
	\$												

***NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS:** Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
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Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 323.87
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Alexandria Central School District, Jefferson County, New York, will be held at Alexandria Central School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 10:00am and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the Alexandria Central School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



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Board Of Education Candidates

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ABOUT THE BOE

On Tuesday, May 21, voters will vote for candidates for 2 open seats on the Alexandria Central School District Board of Education. The candidate on the ballot is: Timothy R. Davidson.

The school board is made up of seven non-paid citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of three years each. Together they establish district policies, develop an annual budget proposal, approve or disapprove the superintendent’s recommendations on personnel matters and contracts, and act as a communication link between residents and the superintendent.

TIMOTHY R. DAVIDSON

Occupation: Occupation: Defense Health Agency Civilian at Fort Drum Guthrie Ambulatory Health Clinic, Chief of Quality Management and is a Retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant of 27 Years.

Family: Wife Kelli, also graduate of Alexandria Central School (ACS) and their two daughters Aurelia and Madi both are recent graduates of the school.

Community Service & Why Serve on the Board of Education: Tim has served the past 3 years on the Board of Education where he has been part of a dynamic team influencing positive changes in the district in areas of community/employee relations, facilities, finance, technology, and student achievement just to name a few. Tim currently serves as a Town Councilman for the Town of Alexandria. He also volunteers in his local church on a regular basis as worship leader and serves the elderly in the community. He has served as a prior school board member in Texas while in the Air Force and an advisory board member for a local college while stationed in Texas. Tim has embodied the Air Force’s core value of “Service Before Self” and has served communities across the globe in Europe, Asia, Maine, California, Montana, and Washington D.C just to name a few.



Why serve on the Board of Education: Tim wants to continue to serve to promote the Board of Education’s and District’s strategic mission, vision, and priorities of ensuring the community’s parents’ most valuable resource, their children, are protected, educated, and molded into the highest caliber of young adults as possible. Tim feels that the opportunity to serve on the Alexandria Central School Board of Education would provide him the continual platform to serve his community and nation to support the future leaders of tomorrow. Tim has a very diverse background from a love of sports, to being a lifetime student with a Master’s Degree, a Bachelor’s Degree, 2 Associate’s Degrees and a National certification. He has been exposed to a lot of different cultures and societies. Tim feels his experiences and knowledge could provide a different perspective or lens for other board members to pull from in an effort towards leaving things better than we found it.

What are the top issues facing our schools? Providing the safest environment for learning and working amidst an increase school shootings. We must continue the mitigation of the adverse effects from a global pandemic (COVID 19) while buffeting our district against cultural and societally negative influences, and possibly any financial/budgetary pitfalls.

What would he like people to know about him?

Tim and wife Kelli are 1992 graduates of Alexandria Central School. He believes Together Everyone Accomplishes More (TEAM) especially in regards to the education and molding of the young minds the school is entrusted with. He has practiced servant leadership in his service to his country all while staying abreast of the challenges his hometown school has faced over the years. His dedication, commitment, and drive to provide the community’s students and staff the best possible opportunities to teach and learn will be unmatched.

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From the Desk of Mrs. Morgia

May 2024, Page 7

Hello and happy spring to Alexandria Central School families and community. I am delighted that we are moving into warmer weather with a longer frequency of daylight and sunny skies. The brighter days of spring always bring giant smiles and happiness that fill the hallways of ACS. This time of year is refreshing and exciting for our students and staff. Our students have more opportunities to get outside to enjoy nature through our new nature trail, recess, physical education class, and sporting events. Students also appear to be more active and excited about the hands-on learning experiences outside the classroom. Our staff enjoys this time of year because it is a time when we begin to see how much our students have grown over the academic school year.

Alexandria Elementary was excited to begin the 2023 - 2024. Our goals were to drive instructional plans, curriculum, scheduling, enrichment, and programming. Through new programs, enrichment, and after-school programs, we hope our students have grown, learned how to make healthy choices, develop a growth mindset, and become contributing citizens in their school community. In working to meet these goals, we also want to teach our students how to be respectful and empathetic, which is why we have worked hard to build a strong character education program through morning meetings, our Random Acts of Kindness curriculum, assemblies, and other activities. During the fall and winter, our students learned about Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, and Caring. Each month, our students learn a new word and participate in activities that connect to the word. These words align with our character education curriculum and monthly morning meeting lessons.

Additionally, we wanted to embrace and teach our students how to “pay it forward” and “give back.” Being from a small community that continually supports our student programs, we felt strongly that it was our time to learn, teach, guide, and give back. For the 2023 - 2024 school year, our students are working hard to build a wall of blue stars. Our students have raised money each month for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The Make-A-Wish Foundation is unique to us as one of our faculty members is a past recipient. We aim to build a community of blue stars and present the 2024, 1000 islands Make-A-Wish recipient with the money raised during the school year. A new school and community activity we are excited to introduce to our students is our “Alexandria Bay & School Community” clean-up day. We will work with various community organizations and partners to help clean up the community by picking up trash, sweeping sidewalks, picking weeds, and supporting those who help improve our community.

As December quickly came, our students participated in a program called “Christmas Around the World.” Students in Universal Pre-Kindergarten through 6th grade all learned about an assigned country. They learned about the geography of the country, its heritage, culture, and Christmas traditions. The students conducted research, created interactive presentations, and became knowledgeable about their designated country. They presented and taught their classmates about their country and participated in hands-on activities. In alignment with “Christmas Around the World, our students learned Christmas songs from different countries worldwide. They shared their learning and excitement at our holiday concert. The students lit up the auditorium with talent, dance moves, and festive holiday attire. December can be considered one of the best months of the school year. The magic and ability to believe brings joy, happiness, and excitement. It is truly a magical time for our elementary school.

After we returned from the Holidays, we celebrated our 100th day of school with an ice sundae bar provide by PACE (Partners in Alexandria Central Education). We then geared up for “Read Across America.” Through friendly competitions, our hallways were filled with pictures of students reading at home, student-completed book reports, and thousands of minutes recorded of students reading outside school. It was heartwarming to see those students building their confidence in learning to read and finding a new love for reading. During our “Read Across America” program, many staff members, retired staff, community members, and high school students spent time reading in various classrooms in the elementary school. Additionally, Mrs. Haddock, our school librarian, and other elementary staff members volunteered their time to coordinate family literacy nights. Literacy nights were open to all families in the elementary.



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From the Desk of Mrs. Morgia

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Families learned different strategies to teach their children how to read and took away reading activities to complete at home. Children and their parents also participated in a read-aloud, literacy arts and crafts, and other hands-on activities. We want to thank our PACE partners for always helping to volunteer their time to make these events a success.

The benefit of being a Universal Pre-Kindergarten through 12th-grade building is that our elementary students can work and learn from our secondary students. In many elementary classrooms, a high school student is assigned as a "student helper." Our elementary students enjoy this program. The younger students look up to their older classmates as role models. It is lovely to see our students interacting in a positive, helpful, and nurturing way. As we prepare for the end of the school year and graduation, the elementary building will begin to prepare for the "Adopt A Senior" program. Each elementary classroom adopts one or two seniors. At the beginning of the school year, our elementary classes interview their assigned senior(s). They get to know their seniors by inviting them into their classrooms to help, participating in recess, attending special area classes, participating in morning meetings, or spending some time each lunch with their class. This allows students to get to know each senior and build a bond with them throughout the school year. At the end of the year, each class honors their senior during the "senior walk."

As the 2023 - 2024 school year quickly ends, we are excited about everything our students have learned and experienced. This includes a one-in-a-lifetime experience of witnessing the solar eclipse. We hope that our students were able to share this with their families, as it was such an incredible experience in our own backyard. As we move forward, we have many things to complete before we prepare for the 2024 - 2025 school year. We are gearing up to take the NYS English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments and our end-of-the-school-year benchmarks this month. Our work with Science of Reading, explicit direct instruction, small teacher-to-student ratios, and individualized interventions have prepared us to complete these assessments successfully. Over the next few months, we will continue to provide strong Tier I, II, and III instruction and explicit interventions to build academic growth. Students will be assessed in June, giving us essential information on our teaching, curriculum, programs, and systems; it will also help us identify areas of improvement and strengths. Lastly, our grade-level teams will be able to meet to identify students who still need additional instructional support to close the gaps and learning loss.

We are excited for June as it is a time to celebrate our successes. Our students look forward to educational field trips, moving-up day, field days, and more. Our goal is to build programs for academic success and personal growth. The elementary building has had a great year, and we look forward to all the great things over the next few months. We hope everyone is enjoying spring and looking forward to the summer months along the river.

Warm regards,

Kylie Morgia
Elementary Principal

Important Dates & Information:

May 24th & May 28th - No School

June 21st - 6th Grade Graduation

June 24th & June 25th - Elementary students with dismiss at 11:30 am

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From the Desk of Mr. Fountain

May 2024, Page 9

Hello, Alexandria Central School community! As spring blossoms around us, it signals a time of revitalization, expansion, and promise. Together, we embrace the arrival of sunnier days and extended evenings, offering more moments to cherish with our loved ones.

I'd like to extend my appreciation for the dedication and commitment demonstrated by our students, teachers, and families during the past 30 weeks of this school year. We remain deeply committed to the academic, social, and emotional well-being of our students, fostering resilience and perseverance within our student community every day.

Throughout this year, we've remained steadfast in our pursuit of meaningful ways to provide our students with academic rigor, extracurricular opportunities, and social engagements. It's been inspiring to witness our student body wholeheartedly embrace all that we offer.

Earlier this year, we welcomed a fresh cohort into our National Junior Honor Society, and I am genuinely excited about witnessing the leadership potential within this group as they guide our student body at Alexandria in the coming years. It has been a joy to acknowledge students from grades 7 to 12 with our Student of the Month Awards. These teacher-nominated student honorees have been commended and celebrated for their outstanding academic achievements, active class participation, and exemplary character. We continue to dedicate ourselves to fostering connections and involvement among our UPK-12 grade students through classroom assistantship opportunities, which have become beloved not only by our Elementary students, but also by many Secondary students. Observing these connections flourish within our hallways, sporting events, and community exemplifies one of the most rewarding aspects of a UPK-12 school district.



Throughout the academic year, students have had the opportunity to explore the Bohlen Technical Center as they decide upon career paths in technical education. The achievements of those enrolled in such programs have been evident this year with many participating in and earning honors within SkillsUSA. We firmly support them and believe that they will be well-equipped for either employment or further education in their respective fields of study.

College-bound students have engaged in a range of aptitude and career interest assessments facilitated by our Secondary guidance counselor, Ms. Mourino. They have toured both State and Private colleges this year, and we anticipate a hearty cohort pursuing higher education this coming Fall. We remain committed to enhancing our course offerings, electives, and college-level classes through partnerships with SUNY Jefferson (9 courses), SUNY Canton (3 courses), and Syracuse University (6 courses). Additionally, this academic year, under the guidance of Mr. Hollis, Secondary Science teacher, students now have the opportunity to obtain a Remote Pilot (Drone) Certification from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This coursework prepares students for a rigorous written examination and also provides ongoing hands-on flying experiences.

Within the Arts, our students and community had the opportunity to witness the impressive talent, dedication, and teamwork of the cast and crew during our Musical performance of Mary Poppins. Under the direction of Mrs. Taylor, the students' commitment was apparent, culminating in a memorable production. Congratulations to all involved in this fantastic show! Art Teacher, Ms. Donovan, and students have adorned the Secondary hallways throughout the school year with beautiful works of art. Many of these works will be featured in the upcoming Tri-County Art Show at the Dulles State Office building in Watertown!

Congratulations to Secondary English Teacher, Mrs. McIlrath and her students. Mrs. McIlrath recently transitioned out of the Junior High and has humbly guided her students to a 100% pass rate on the English 11 Regents over the past two years. It is to be noted that of the over 700 school districts in the state of New York, only 14 have earned this accolade. Within our Languages Other Than English (LOTE) department Mrs. Ascough has strived for her students to earn the NYS Seal of Bi-Literacy over the past few years. This April, Mr. Erik Croll set the standard for the first time and earned this dotted seal following his presentation on Alpine Ski Racing in Quebec! ACS is seeking students interested in earning the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness. We are primed and ready to go with an approved New York State Education Department (NYSED) plan for the attainment of this distinguished accolade. We encourage interested students to engage with their Social Studies teachers and begin their pathway.

The Alexandria FFA chapter continues to grow under the leadership of Mr. Green and Ms. Cullen. Students are consistently presented with opportunities for local and national competition, growth, and networking. This November, Callie Dishon and William Weldon earned 7th place in

Alexandria Central School
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From the Desk of Mr. Fountain

May 2024, Page 10

the United States for their division and were awarded a Silver Emblem. Members volunteered at the Alex Bay Ice Fishing Derby, met with Assemblyman Scott Gray, Ken Blankenbush, and the staff of Senator Mark Walczyk, attended the Substate Leadership Development Event public speaking competition in Cincinnatus, NY, attended Winter camp at Camp Oswegatchie, and most recently traveled to SUNY Cobleskill for the NYS Agriculture Mechanics Competition!

Junior High students recently completed Computer-Based-Testing (CBT) in English Language Arts and Mathematics. They will complete a new NYS Science 8 exam this Spring as well. Our Junior High teachers play a crucial role in preparing students for high school success. Their dedication has equipped students with vital skills and the confidence to continue their secondary academic journey. We appreciate their contributions to student growth and development.

In March Junior High students benefitted from our partnership with the Clayton Opera House as they hosted ACS and several other districts for a dynamic performance by the Buffalo Bills drumline, Downbeat Percussion. Junior High students will soon have the opportunity to experience "Mad City Money" in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension. Mad City Money is a financial literacy program designed for students. It's a hands-on simulation that aims to teach practical money management skills in a fun and interactive way. Participants are given a fictional scenario where they have to manage a budget, make financial decisions, and navigate various aspects of personal finance such as paying bills, budgeting for necessities, saving, and dealing with unexpected expenses. The goal is to provide them with real-life experience and knowledge about financial responsibility before they enter adulthood. We thank our community partners for the continued opportunities they provide our student population.

Again this year students have been presented with an array of motivational speakers and events with a common theme of, building resiliency. Missy West, a Malone, NY native, inspired us to conquer fears and transform negative self-talk into positivity and compassion. Elite BMX athlete Tony Hoffman recounted his growth in the face of adversity and his triumph over substance abuse. Tom Varano, known for "Emotion in Art," dazzled with his speed painting skills and encouraged students to "Dream B-I-G" (Books, Individuals, & Goals) as they live today and think about tomorrow.

Other noteworthy extracurricular happenings included a lively Pi Day celebration on 3/14 organized by Mr. Roslonowski and Mr. Elizando. The event featured contests in the memorization of Pi and even pie eating! Student Council hosted a Fall Homecoming spirit week, pep rally, and a dance. A High School semi-formal Winter Ball was held and a Glow Dance for 7-8th grade students. We enjoyed an ice cream social before April break, with plans for Secondary field days before our Memorial Day break, and a 7-9th grade MORP celebration including yard games and dancing in June! Thank you, Ms. Mourino and the Student Council!

Continued engagement and educational programming for our students from outside agencies and within our local community throughout the remainder of the school year is our goal. Students will have the opportunity to meet with many local businesses this Spring to help educate them about the number of work opportunities that exist here in the Thousand Islands during the Summer months!

There is much to celebrate and be proud of within the Secondary School here at Alexandria Central. Our students have been actively engaged in a wide range of academic, social, and extracurricular activities, and this list continues to lengthen. We are committed to building on these achievements together. The faculty, staff, and administrative team express our gratitude for your ongoing partnership and support at home.

As we progress through the remainder of the school year, I urge everyone to remain involved, optimistic, and focused on our students' success. Your investment of time and attention to your children holds significant value, assisting them in unwinding after a busy day at school. I encourage each of you to allocate some time every evening to disconnect from technology. Springtime brings a sense of renewal, with its sunny skies and vibrant energy. Enjoy some fresh air together, go for walks, ride bikes, plant flowers, and engage in activities that bring you joy.

I am eagerly anticipating the forthcoming end-of-the-year celebrations of achievement, which promise to be memorable events for students spanning from UPK to twelfth grade. From acknowledging academic accomplishments to recognizing extracurricular achievements, these celebrations will serve as a culmination of our student's hard work and dedication throughout the school year. It's a time to honor their successes and reflect on their growth while fostering outstanding pride within our Alexandria Central School school community!

All my best,

Robert Fountain
Secondary Principal

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Thank You, Superintendent Clapper!

May 2024, Page 11

With tremendous sentiment, I would like to offer a thank you and well wishes to Superintendent Clapper in his future endeavors. Mr. Clapper has provided invaluable guidance and camaraderie to every stakeholder he has worked alongside. Every department at Alexandria has felt the impact of his leadership and professionalism, and the connections he has forged will be cherished.

Mr. Clapper's commitment and collaboration in devising solutions for the advancement of our entire school community has led to the establishment of programs and initiatives that consistently propelled ACS forward, even during some of the most challenging times in education. With charisma and composure, he has imparted wisdom, foresight, and knowledge that position us for success and continued growth.



I am grateful for the opportunity to have collaborated with him over the last three years and I am committed to carrying forward the progress we have made under his leadership. Thank you for your years of service and the passion you have devoted to education and the people of the Alexandria Central School community.

Sincerely,

Robert Fountain
Secondary School Principal

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EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER

- Open House (Aug 31st)
- Schedule changes
- Senior Meetings
- SUNY Potsdam Admissions Counselor Visit (18th)
- Air Force Recruiter Tabling (19th)
- SUNY Canton Admissions Counselor Visit (22nd)
- St. Bonaventure Admissions Counselor Visit (25th)
- Missy West Assembly (28th)

OCTOBER

- Adopt-A-Senior program start: Elementary classrooms adopt seniors. Seniors visit classrooms to do activities until the end of the year. (2nd)
- Higher Ed Day: 11th & 12th grade attended JCC to visit a variety of college admissions counselors (2nd)
- SUNY Delhi Admissions Counselor Visit (2nd)
- Alfred Admissions Counselor Visit (3rd)
- Air Force Recruiter Tabling (6th)
- Fort Drum Career Fair (12th)
- SUNY Oswego Admissions Counselor (17th)
- Navy Recruiter Tabling (18th)
- ASVAB (18th)
- Choices Assembly (19th)
- Manufacturing Day: 9th grade got to visit several manufacturing plants to explore careers (19th)
- PSAT/NMSQT (24th)
- North Country Community College Admissions Counselor Visit (26th)
- SUNY Oswego Admissions Counselor Visit (27th)
- Senior Meetings



EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

NOVEMBER

- MASH Camp presentations during Advisories (1st)
- JCC Financial Aid Parent Night (6th)
- Syracuse University & Lemoyne College Trip (7th)
- Air Force Recruiter Tabling (9th)
- Veterans Day Celebration
- BOCES Programs & Information Presentation for 10th (13th)
- Workforce Connections: 11th grade got to do mock interviews with companies, and businesses, as practice for the future (15th)
- Parent-Teacher Conferences (20th&21st)
- Internet Safety Assembly (17th)
- JCC Financial Aid Parent Night (28th)
- Elementary Thankful Community Event

DECEMBER

- Marine's Recruiter Tabling (1st)
- Oratorical Contest (1st)
- Emotion in Art Assembly (4th)
- ASVAB results & explanation (21st)

JANUARY

- Army Recruiter Tabling (17th)
- Army & National Gard tabling in the cafeteria (30th)
- 10th-grade BOCES visit (31st)

FEBRUARY

- Junior Scholarship applications
- Spelling Bee (7th)
- Secondary Awards Ceremony (16th)
- Army Recruiter Tabling (26th)



EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

MARCH

- Read Across America UPK - 6th
- Junior Meetings
- Pre-ACT for 10th grade (12th)
- Air Force Recruiter Tabling (13th)
- Army Recruiter Tabling (15th)
- SAT for 11th grade (20th)
- Pizza Lunch with Legion for Boys State Applicants (22nd)

APRIL

- ACT for 11th grade (4th)
- Junior Meetings
- Marine Recruiter Tabling (5th)
- ELA CBT Testing grades 7th&8th (16th&17th)
- SUNY Canton & St. Lawrence Trip (16th)
- Youth Alliance Meeting (17th)
- Plessis Cemetery Clean-Up (30th)

MAY

- Sophomore Meetings
- Mad City Money 8th Grade (1st)
- BOCES Acceptances (1st)
- Student Summer Employment Opportunities during advisories
- SUNY Potsdam & Clarkson Trip (7th)
- MASH Camp Presentation during Advisories (8th)
- Math CBT Testing 7th&8th grade (7th&8th)
- BOCES Orientation (9th)
- Career Jam 8th grade, exploring careers (25th)
- Erin's Law Presentations
- Freshman Meetings
- BOCES Student Presentations (TBD)
- BOCES Orientations (TBD)
- 7th-grade acceleration invitations offered (TBD)



EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

JUNE

- Algebra Regents (4th)
- Regents (14th - 25th)
- 7th - 11th award ceremonies (TBD)
- UPK & Kindergarten Graduation (TBD)
- 6th grade orientation (TBD)
- 6th grade Graduation (TBD)
- Elementary Field Days (TBD)
- 12th-grade award ceremony (TBD)
- Graduation (TBD)

SUMMER

- Summer counseling sessions- more information to follow
- Junior High Jumpstart
- KinderCamp

COUNSELORS

- Katie Durand UPK - 6, kdurand@acsghosts.org
- Michelle Mourino 7 - 12, mmournio@acsghosts.org
- Andrea Miller UPK - 12, amiller@acsghosts.org

Please reach out to any of the counselors for more information!





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Spelling Bee

May 2024, Page 16

Alexandria Central School held the school portion of the Scripps National Spelling Bee on Wednesday, February 7th. Students from grades 5 through 8 competed. The winners were Grey Denesha (1st place), Kathrin Trickey (2nd place), and Aubrey Barrett (3rd place).

Congratulations to all who participated!



Downbeat Percussion

In March, students in grades 5-9 went to the Clayton Opera House to see Downbeat Percussion. At the event, students were invited to participate.



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International Club

May 2024, Page 17

The ACS International Club has enjoyed a variety of activities throughout the 2023-2024 school year. Students' favorite highlights include tie dying and crêpe making. We were successful in our cookie dough and cheese curd fundraising and were able to use those funds to continue to support activities related to cultures, languages, and traditions around the world.

The International Club's officers were instrumental in supporting our events:

President: Wade Stone

Vice President: Ciara Dawley

Secretary: Elijah McIlrath

Treasurer: Olivia Adsit

These four seniors, along with Molly Edgar, have been involved in the club since as early as 7th grade. We wish them the best of luck as they near the end of their senior year at ACS!

Any students in grades 7-12 interested in joining us can see Mrs. Ascough for more information.

Christmas Gift Shop

On Monday, December 16 and Tuesday, December 17th, Alexandria Central secondary students and faculty partnered with the Alexandria Bay American Legion Auxiliary to bring the "Children's Gift Shop" to ACS.



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Christmas Gift Shop

May 2024, Page 18

Students in grades UPK through 6 had the opportunity to shop for their immediate family members during the school day. The secondary students worked with the elementary students to carefully and thoughtfully choose their gifts for the holiday season. Volunteers from the Alexandria Bay American Legion Auxiliary were on hand to help wrap the gifts with care. Alexandria Central is fortunate to have the opportunity for our students to work together, from UPK through 12th grade.

The Alexandria Bay American Legion and Auxiliary graciously donated half of their earnings from this event to the school's Backpack Club. Each week the Backpack Club packs over 50 backpacks with food, hygiene supplies, and other necessities to help families get through each weekend. Secondary students help organize and deliver the backpacks each week. This essential program runs purely on our community's gracious donations and we are grateful for the continued support from our local American Legion and Auxiliary.

Programs such as the Backpack Club and the Children's Gift shop help teach secondary students the importance of volunteering, showing empathy, and supporting one another.



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Mary Poppins the Musical

May 2024, Page 19

ACS's Spring Musical - "MARY POPPINS" - was a big hit! 35 students were involved in the cast and crew of the show, and they did such an amazing job! The music, sets, costumes, singing, and dancing were on point, and Mrs. Taylor is so incredibly proud of her "team!" Way to go, everyone! You're PRACTICALLY PERFECT in every way! Thank you to everyone who came and cheered them on!



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This year we have celebrated reading all year. Students are encouraged to send their book titles to Mrs. Haddock and become part of our wall of Remarkable Readers. The more a student reads, the more bling and prizes they will receive. Students will receive a grand prize for the total number of books they have read on May 18th. Prek -3 receive a prize/bling after every 10 books they have read and 4-12 receive a prize/bling after every 5 books they read.

During Read Across America Week students had the opportunity to dress as their favorite Seuss Character, and have guest readers from the community and the senior class. Students also received stickers, bookmarks, and popcorn throughout the week. The library also hosted a Seuss Literacy Night.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

In preparation for the solar eclipse, ACS brought in Dr. Aileen O'Donoghue, Henry Priest Professor of Physics, from St Lawrence University to speak to teachers and community members.





FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT



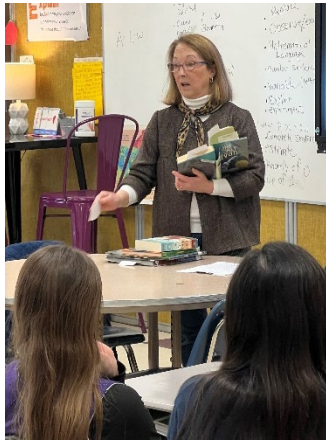
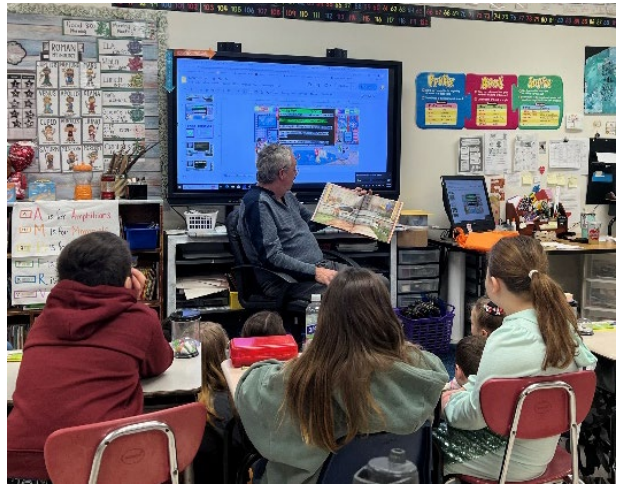
SOME OF THE REMARKABLE READERS





READ ACROSS AMERICA GUEST READERS

During Read Across America week every elementary classroom was visited by a guest reader.





BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

We had three teams compete at Macsherry library for Battle of the Books. Teams were the Chapter Champs (Kathrin Trickey, Elliettte Boyer, Gabrielle McCormick, and Kaden Beers), Chapter Raptors (Margaux Gionet, Sawyer Hazelton, Kayleigh Gionet, and Elliana Symenow), and the The Yard Goats (Emma Murphy, Henry Fram, Ava Martin, and Keagan McAdoo). The Chapter Champs will go on to compete regionally in May.





ACS SENIORS

Another tradition is having our graduating seniors read and spend time with elementary students.





Some highlights from the FFA and Ag Program



FFA Members carve pumpkins at the first FFA meeting of the year in October.



Maddy and Mavery getting to meet Triple Crown winner American Pharoah!



Mavery and Callie touring the capital building in Albany as a part of the State Leadership Experience.



Eli and Nathaniel working to remove the carburetor from this snowmobile engine as a part of the small engines class.



Woodworking project at the January FFA Meeting.



Ciara working with elementary school students as a part of Ag Literacy Week.





FFA Members participate in the Theresa Christmas Parade.



FFA Members participating in the FFA District 6 Public Speaking Competition at JCC in February.



FFA members from Alex Bay, Belleville Henderson, Byron-Bergen, and Indian River attend the 97th annual National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.



FFA members Callie Dishon and William Weldon with their exhibit in the National Agriscience Fair at the 97th Annual National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Callie and William placed 7th nationally with their project in the area of Agricultural Power and Technical Systems.





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Adventure Club

May 2024, Page 27

The Adventure Club is a 7-12 Extracurricular Club where students are able to visit many places available in the region for outdoor recreation. Students meet at school to prepare for their adventures and learn how to be a minimal impact visitor by following "Leave No Trace" ethics. Field trips this year have included local visits to trails maintained by the Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) and Indian River Lakes Conservancy (IRLC). Further afield, we visited the Tupper Lake Wild Center and have two more trips planned in the Adirondack region. The pictures featured here are from our latest trip to Whetstone Gulf State Park in Lowville. The kids proved their hiking chops and enjoyed the views with a dash of April snow!



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School Store

May 2024, Page 28

Students from the Business 101 class operate a school store open to all PK-12 students. Students are responsible for choosing products to stock, tracking inventory, record keeping, and bank deposits. Both building principals reward students with gift certificates to the store for various achievements: perfect attendance, student of the month, etc.



PI Day

On March 14, ACS students celebrated Pi Day with a Pi Memorization Contest and Pie-Eating Contest. Fun was had by most!!





Music Department News!

May 2024, Page 29



Five ACS students participated in the spring 2024 JEFFERSON- LEWIS BI-COUNTY festival held at South Jefferson High School on April 5 & 6.

Participating in the Junior High Chorus were (pictured L-R) Charlie Colello (8th grade), CeCellia Lucidi (8th grade), Aubree Eager (7th grade), & Erabella Bogenschutz (7th grade).

The chorus was made up of approximately 120 students representing all the schools in the Jeff-Lewis County area. They were conducted by Elizabeth Zehr, who teaches high school music at Lowville Academy. The program was varied and the kids were challenged to learn pieces in both Gaelic and Swahili. It was excellent!!

The high school band was conducted by Robert Bridge, a professor of music at Onondaga Community College! Our ACS representative, playing clarinet, was Alexandra Burkett (9th grade). Their program was beautiful, and it was so wonderful to see so many instrumentalists showing such respect for the music, the conductor, and one another. An incredibly mature and polished performance was the result!

Congrats to these 5 musicians who represented ACS with their talents, hard work, and maturity! Mrs. Taylor and Ms. Cohen are very proud of you!!





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Band Updates

May 2024, Page 30

We have been very busy in the band room this year! Our 5th and 6th grade students have officially mastered their first 4 notes/rhythms and can play Hot Cross Buns at multiple different tempos and in large or small groups. We will continue to learn new notes, rhythms, and songs before our concert. The 7th grade band is currently preparing two pieces that challenge them rhythmically and tempo wise. Concert band is also preparing two pieces for the concert, specifically focusing on extended techniques, such as sliding and bending notes. Both groups are preparing pieces that are not our typical "classical" pieces, including Concert band memorizing music so we can add in some marching band style horn moves! Please mark your calendars (June 5th, 2024 @ 7:00pm) for our spring band concert. You don't want to miss any of the hard work our students have been putting in in the band room! Looking forward to seeing you all there.



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The poster features a vibrant floral border with various flowers in shades of yellow, orange, pink, and blue. The background is a light purple. The title 'Spring Concerts' is written in a large, white, cursive font with a green outline. Two musical notes are drawn in black ink, one on the left and one on the right, appearing to float around the title.

Spring Concerts

WED May 22nd

6pm = "Go Fish!" Gr. 1 & 2

7pm = "We Honor You" Gr. 3 & 4

THUR May 23rd

7pm = "DISNEY on Stage!"

Select Choir, Concert Choir,

Elementary Chorus

Class of 2024 Seniors!

WED June 5th

7pm = Grades 5-12 Instrumental

Directed by Mrs. Taylor (ktaylor@acsghosts.org)

and Ms. Cohen (scohen@acsghosta.org).

More info to come!



FEATURING:
ELEMENTARY BAND,
7TH GRADE BAND &
CONCERT BAND

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

SPRING BAND CONCERT

JUNE 5TH, 2024

@ 7:00 PM

ALEXANDRIA CENTRAL SCHOOLS
AUDITORIUM



Alexandria Central School

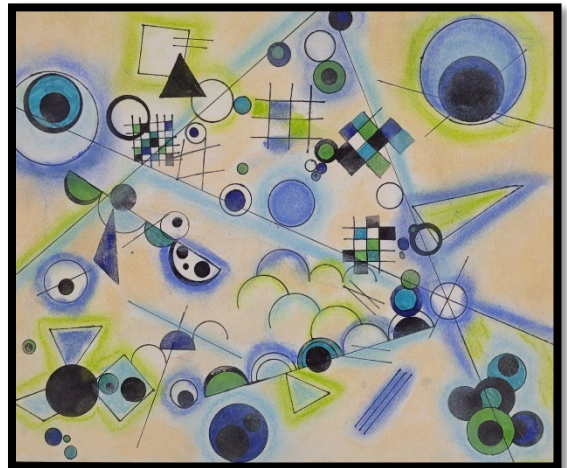
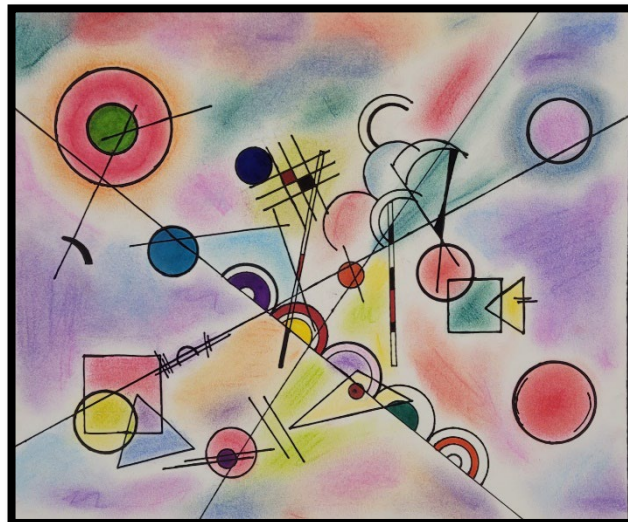
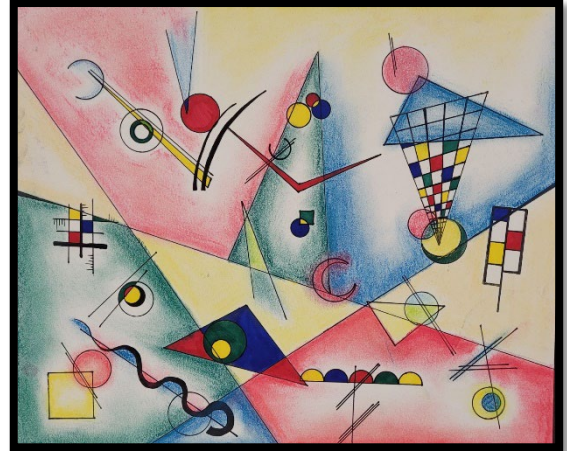
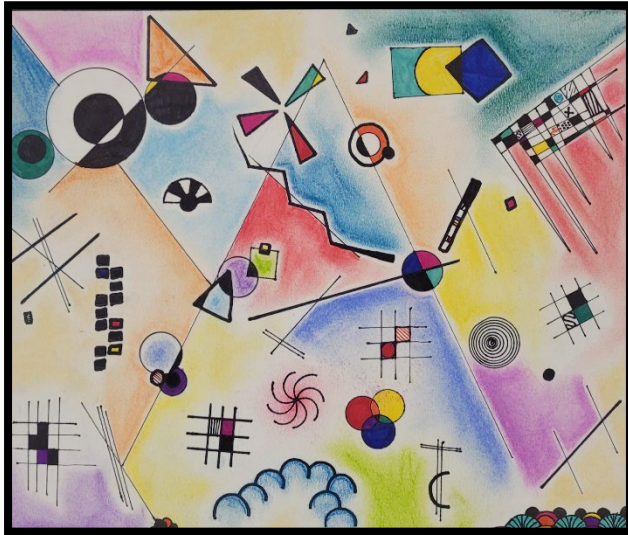
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Art News

May 2024, Page 33

Ms. Donovan's high school art students have been learning about the artist Vassily Kandinsky and creating works of art inspired by his abstract style. Students in Intro, Painting and Printmaking studied "Composition #8", "Stripes" and "Thirty", respectively. Each class worked with different media to create their own Kandinsky inspired piece. Pictured here are some works from the Intro to Studio classes where the students studied 'Composition #8" and used pencil, sharpie markers, and chalk pastel on watercolor paper to create their work.



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Pre-K News

May 2024, Page 34

The Pre-K classes have had a busy winter. Starting in December, the students participated in their first school Christmas concert. What a show! The students did an amazing job. They also visited Gordon Courts retirement home and sang Christmas Carols for the residents. The seniors enjoyed listening to the songs and many joined in to sing with the students. The Pre-K class gave out handmade cards and Christmas ornaments and wished them a Happy Holiday. Pre-K also took a trip on a hay wagon to sing Christmas carols around town. The students celebrated Valentine's Day by handing out cards and snacks to each other and enjoyed some tasty treats sent in by the parents. On our 100th day of school, the students enjoyed eating ice cream sundaes to celebrate this milestone. The students have had an enriching experience so far this year. They have learned new skills and knowledge, met new friends, and participated in many first-time experiences.



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Kindergarten News

Kindergarten has SO MUCH spirit! We have won class parties from PACE twice already this year. Thank you to our students and families for their support in Purple PRIDE Fridays!





Fun times in first grade!





Second grade is having a blast this year. We have made so many beautiful memories and plan to make many more this spring. We have learned so much this year. Some math concepts we have explored are adding and subtracting with many strategies within 1,000 and learning how to measure with centimeters and inches. Next up, we will explore coins and telling time. We have also read many 2nd grade readers in ELA class and learned many new phonics rules. Our favorite reader so far has been *The Cat Bandit*. Soon we will read another second grade favorite titled *Sir Gus*. Some other interesting topics we have discussed are Life Cycles, the War of 1812, and Ancient Asia. We have also listened to many fables and myths. With spring soon in full swing, we are excited to see how many more memories we can make.



Mrs. Putnam's class celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday.



Mrs. Putnam's class decorating cookies for the holidays.



Mrs. Putnam's class celebrating Halloween together.



Mrs. Thomas' class celebrating Halloween.



Mrs. Thomas' class celebrating Grinch Day.



Mrs. Thomas's class enjoying some Music with Mrs. Taylor.



Second Grade skating at the rink.





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3rd Grade News

May 2024, Page 38

Third grade has been having fun learning all year! Some winter fun festivities, purple pride, and Read Across America- guest readers Mr. Maturi, Mr. Company, and Ella & Gabs. We are working on getting new trashcans installed onto our property, learning about being a citizen, and how we can make a difference in our community. Town Clerk Sandra Caputo came in to visit and show us the big check that will benefit our town!



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4th Grade News

May 2024, Page 39

Fourth grade has had an amazing year so far! We have learned about problem solving and the importance of teamwork. We have grown and harvested fresh fruit and vegetables in our aeroponic tower gardens. Through our daily morning meetings we have built relationships and created a safe space to talk about thoughts and feelings.

During daily silent sustained reading, we have enjoyed a wide variety of books. We have also had many opportunities to let loose and have fun, from ice-skating to dressing up for spirit days!



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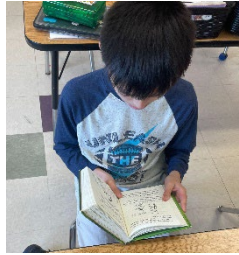
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4th Grade News



"The more you read the more things you know."



The more that you learn



the more places you'll go." - Dr. Seuss





5th Grade Annual Arctic Day

5th graders had a fantastic time learning about the Iditarod dog sled race and participating in their very own race. Each team had to work together to make preparations, bring in needed items, and work together to complete various tasks.





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6th Grade News

May 2024, Page 42

Sixth grade has been having a great year, enjoying all the “lasts” of elementary school. They have been working hard academically, but they have also had many moments of fun, laughter, and memory making. This fall, we raced against each other in full firefighter gear as we learned more about what it means to be a volunteer firefighter in our community. We learned about Christmas traditions in Germany as part of our Christmas around the world celebration, including the myth of St. Nicholas and his sidekick the evil Krampus. We have celebrated holidays, made cider with Mr. Company, and delivered Christmas treats to some of our local community members to thank them for all they do for our school.

One of the highlights of our year so far has been a class field trip to the Landmark theater in Syracuse to see the off-Broadway production of Disney’s Aladdin including a meet and greet with some of the cast members and dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse. As we move into spring, we are looking forward to making more great memories as we prepare to head into 7th grade!



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We have had a busy year in the Life Sciences Classroom!



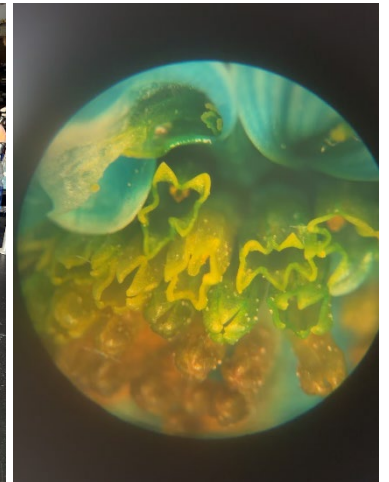
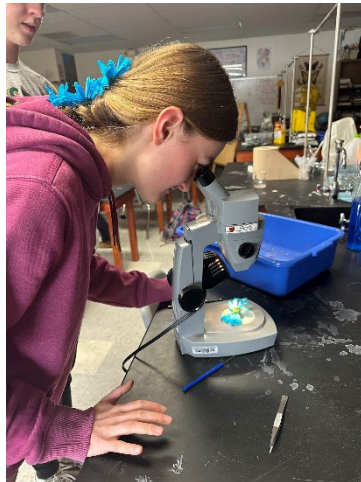
AFNR students Korra Trayer, Mellissa Collette, and Hannah Stine exploring watersheds and the movement of water based on topography.



AFNR Students Maesin and Hayden exploring the parts of a daisy through a dissection.



Living Environment student Tailour Bessette observing bubbles produced by an evergreen sprig in a lab that explored the process of photosynthesis.



SUPA Biology students evaluating flowers under a dissecting microscope while learning about plants and flowers.





Alexandria Central 11th grade English students have been reading the classic novel *The Scarlet Letter*. In that novel, the main character Hester takes a punishment meant to label her negatively, and in her maturity and kindness is able to change the minds of her community. Our 11th graders were challenged to choose a letter that represented both a negative character trait or flaw that they have overcome as well as a positive trait that they are fostering in their lives. Some examples that the students came up with are:

- V--vulnerable to valued**
- S--sensitive to sympathetic**
- G--greedy to grateful**
- E--energetic to efficient**
- A--aloof to ambitious**
- U--unsure to unique**
- F--foolish to forgiving**
- C--careless to confident**
- I--impulsive to imaginative**
- M--messy to meticulous**

These are just a few of the amazing character traits that our students are recognizing and developing in themselves here at ACS. The students each created a letter to display and wrote about their transformation.



2024-25 School Year New York State Immunization Requirements for School Entrance/Attendance¹

NOTES:

All children must be age-appropriately immunized to attend school in New York State. The number of doses depends on the schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Intervals between doses of vaccine must be in accordance with the ["ACIP-Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule."](#) Doses received before the minimum age or intervals are not valid and do not count toward the number of doses listed below. See footnotes for specific information for each vaccine. Children who are enrolling in grade-less classes must meet the immunization requirements of the grades for which they are age equivalent.

Dose requirements MUST be read with the footnotes of this schedule

Vaccines	Pre-Kindergarten (Day Care, Head Start, Nursery or Pre-K)	Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5	Grades 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11	Grade 12
Diphtheria and Tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine (DTaP/DTP/Tdap/Td) ²	4 doses	5 doses or 4 doses if the 4th dose was received at 4 years or older or 3 doses if 7 years or older and the series was started at 1 year or older	3 doses	
Tetanus and Diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine adolescent booster (Tdap) ³	Not applicable		1 dose	
Polio vaccine (IPV/OPV) ⁴	3 doses	4 doses or 3 doses if the 3rd dose was received at 4 years or older		
Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine (MMR) ⁵	1 dose	2 doses		
Hepatitis B vaccine ⁶	3 doses	3 doses or 2 doses of adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax) for children who received the doses at least 4 months apart between the ages of 11 through 15 years		
Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine ⁷	1 dose	2 doses		
Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) ⁸	Not applicable		Grades 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11: 1 dose	2 doses or 1 dose if the dose was received at 16 years or older
Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccine (Hib) ⁹	1 to 4 doses	Not applicable		
Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine (PCV) ¹⁰	1 to 4 doses	Not applicable		

1. Demonstrated serologic evidence of measles, mumps or rubella antibodies or laboratory confirmation of these diseases is acceptable proof of immunity to these diseases. Serologic tests for polio are acceptable proof of immunity only if the test was performed before September 1, 2019, and all three serotypes were positive. A positive blood test for hepatitis B surface antibody is acceptable proof of immunity to hepatitis B. Demonstrated serologic evidence of varicella antibodies, laboratory confirmation of varicella disease or diagnosis by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner that a child has had varicella disease is acceptable proof of immunity to varicella.
2. Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine. (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
 - a. Children starting the series on time should receive a 5-dose series of DTaP vaccine at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and at 15 through 18 months and at 4 years or older. The fourth dose may be received as early as age 12 months, provided at least 6 months have elapsed since the third dose. However, the fourth dose of DTaP need not be repeated if it was administered at least 4 months after the third dose of DTaP. The final dose in the series must be received on or after the fourth birthday and at least 6 months after the previous dose.
 - b. If the fourth dose of DTaP was administered at 4 years or older, and at least 6 months after dose 3, the fifth (booster) dose of DTaP vaccine is not required.
 - c. Children 7 years and older who are not fully immunized with the childhood DTaP vaccine series should receive Tdap vaccine as the first dose in the catch-up series; if additional doses are needed, use Td or Tdap vaccine. If the first dose was received before their first birthday, then 4 doses are required, as long as the final dose was received at 4 years or older. If the first dose was received on or after the first birthday, then 3 doses are required, as long as the final dose was received at 4 years or older.
3. Tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis (Tdap) adolescent booster vaccine. (Minimum age for grades 6 through 10: 10 years; minimum age for grades 11 and 12: 7 years).
 - a. Students 11 years or older entering grades 6 through 12 are required to have one dose of Tdap.
 - b. In addition to the grade 6 through 12 requirement, Tdap may also be given as part of the catch-up series for students 7 years of age and older who are not fully immunized with the childhood DTaP series, as described above. In school year 2024-25, only doses of Tdap given at age 10 years or older will satisfy the Tdap requirement for students in grades 6 through 10; however, doses of Tdap given at age 7 years or older will satisfy the requirement for students in grades 11 and 12.
 - c. Students who are 10 years old in grade 6 and who have not yet received a Tdap vaccine are in compliance until they turn 11 years old.
4. Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) or oral polio vaccine (OPV). (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
 - a. Children starting the series on time should receive a series of IPV at 2 months, 4 months and at 6 through 18 months, and at 4 years or older. The final dose in the series must be received on or after the fourth birthday and at least 6 months after the previous dose.
 - b. For students who received their fourth dose before age 4 and prior to August 7, 2010, 4 doses separated by at least 4 weeks is sufficient.
 - c. If the third dose of polio vaccine was received at 4 years or older and at least 6 months after the previous dose, the fourth dose of polio vaccine is not required.
 - d. For children with a record of OPV, only trivalent OPV (tOPV) counts toward New York State school polio vaccine requirements. Doses of OPV given before April 1, 2016, should be counted unless specifically noted as monovalent, bivalent or as given during a poliovirus immunization campaign. Doses of OPV given on or after April 1, 2016, must not be counted.
5. Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. (Minimum age: 12 months)
 - a. The first dose of MMR vaccine must have been received on or after the first birthday. The second dose must have been received at least 28 days (4 weeks) after the first dose to be considered valid.
 - b. Measles: One dose is required for pre-kindergarten. Two doses are required for grades kindergarten through 12.
 - c. Mumps: One dose is required for pre-kindergarten. Two doses are required for grades kindergarten through 12.
 - d. Rubella: At least one dose is required for all grades (pre-kindergarten through 12).
6. Hepatitis B vaccine
 - a. Dose 1 may be given at birth or anytime thereafter. Dose 2 must be given at least 4 weeks (28 days) after dose 1. Dose 3 must be at least 8 weeks after dose 2 AND at least 16 weeks after dose 1 AND no earlier than age 24 weeks (when 4 doses are given, substitute "dose 4" for "dose 3" in these calculations).
 - b. Two doses of adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax) received at least 4 months apart at age 11 through 15 years will meet the requirement.
7. Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. (Minimum age: 12 months)
 - a. The first dose of varicella vaccine must have been received on or after the first birthday. The second dose must have been received at least 28 days (4 weeks) after the first dose to be considered valid.
 - b. For children younger than 13 years, the recommended minimum interval between doses is 3 months (if the second dose was administered at least 4 weeks after the first dose, it can be accepted as valid); for persons 13 years and older, the minimum interval between doses is 4 weeks.
8. Meningococcal conjugate ACWY vaccine (MenACWY). (Minimum age for grades 7 through 11: 10 years; minimum age for grade 12: 6 weeks).
 - a. One dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menactra, Menveo or MenQuadfi) is required for students entering grades 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.
 - b. For students in grade 12, if the first dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine was received at 16 years or older, the second (booster) dose is not required.
 - c. The second dose must have been received at 16 years or older. The minimum interval between doses is 8 weeks.
9. Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine. (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
 - a. Children starting the series on time should receive Hib vaccine at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and at 12 through 15 months. Children older than 15 months must get caught up according to the ACIP catch-up schedule. The final dose must be received on or after 12 months.
 - b. If 2 doses of vaccine were received before age 12 months, only 3 doses are required with dose 3 at 12 through 15 months and at least 8 weeks after dose 2.
 - c. If dose 1 was received at age 12 through 14 months, only 2 doses are required with dose 2 at least 8 weeks after dose 1.
 - d. If dose 1 was received at 15 months or older, only 1 dose is required.
 - e. Hib vaccine is not required for children 5 years or older.
 - f. [For further information, refer to the CDC Catch-Up Guidance for Healthy Children 4 Months through 4 Years of Age.](#)
10. Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV). (Minimum age: 6 weeks)
 - a. Children starting the series on time should receive PCV vaccine at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and at 12 through 15 months. Children older than 15 months must get caught up according to the ACIP catch-up schedule. The final dose must be received on or after 12 months.
 - b. Unvaccinated children ages 7 through 11 months are required to receive 2 doses, at least 4 weeks apart, followed by a third dose at 12 through 15 months.
 - c. Unvaccinated children ages 12 through 23 months are required to receive 2 doses of vaccine at least 8 weeks apart.
 - d. If one dose of vaccine was received at 24 months or older, no further doses are required.
 - e. PCV is not required for children 5 years or older.
 - f. [For further information, refer to the CDC Catch-Up Guidance for Healthy Children 4 Months through 4 Years of Age.](#)

For further information, contact:

**New York State Department of Health
Division of Vaccine Excellence
Room 649, Corning Tower ESP
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 473-4437**

**New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
School Compliance Unit, Bureau of Immunization
42-09 28th Street, 5th floor
Long Island City, NY 11101
(347) 396-2433**

New York State Department of Health/Division of Vaccine Excellence
health.ny.gov/immunization



Here's what's happening!!!

The Booster Club hopes you have enjoyed the Fall and Winter sports this year so far! We certainly have! Many congratulations to those athletes for their achievements. So many great things have already happened this year so far. We had a small scale concession stand for the soccer season and finally were able to open our new concession stand for the basketball season. If you haven't been to the school to check out the new gymnasium, please take the time. It is well worth it! We purchased the digital score table for the gymnasium; it is nice to share photos on the screen of the athletes and sponsors. We managed to offer a small concession for the majority of our home hockey games. We purchased a home run fence for the baseball field and are excited to get that set up soon. We continue to purchase banners for the seniors in each sport to be displayed around the school and on senior nights. We are excited to once again offer a \$500.00 scholarship to one or more senior athletes this academic year! Hours that students volunteer for any Booster Club activity go toward our scholarship requirements. Please email the ACS Sports Booster Club (acssportsboosterclub@gmail.com) or Michelle Mourino (mmourino@acsghosts.org) for more information or the application for the scholarship!

Here's how you can help!!!

- **TI Half Marathon:** The Booster Club is the benefactor of the TI Half Marathon. The marathon is set to take place May 17th and 18th this year. We need volunteers to help pass out water, guide runners on the route, cheer runners along, and more. This is a great opportunity for students to earn volunteer hours! Please contact Barb Edgar (315-778-3144) for more information on volunteering. To learn more about the marathon, please visit: (<https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/WellesleyIsland/ThousandIslandsHalfMarathon5K>)
- **Volunteers:** The Boosters' community is at its best when we have volunteers to help run the many activities throughout the school year. Check out our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ACSSportsBooster/>) for volunteer opportunities or email acssportsboosterclub@gmail.com if you are interested in helping us out. Students and parents are welcome to volunteer.

If you are interested in making a tax deductible donation to support the mission of the ACS Sports Booster Club, please fill out the form below and return it to the address at the bottom:

_____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ other

Method of payment: _____ cash _____ check _____ Venmo (@ACSSportsBoosterClub)

Name: _____ Address: _____

Please mail to: ACS Sports Booster Club, PO Box 523, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

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Alexandria Central School
Home of the Purple Ghosts



School Budget Vote 24-25

Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 from 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Alexandria Central School, Room 260

