



# Alexandria Central School

## January 2013 Newsletter

### **NEW AT ACS: e-mail notifications of our latest online newsletter**

- ◆ If you currently receive a copy of our newsletter in the mail and would prefer to read the newsletter online instead, please send an email to: [greenteam@alexandriacentral.org](mailto:greenteam@alexandriacentral.org)
- ◆ Please include your name and mailing address in your email.
- ◆ We will remove your name from our paper newsletter mailing list and we will notify you via email when the latest version of our newsletter has been added to our website.



2012-2013 School Year

## Alexandria Central School

34 Bolton Avenue, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

Phone: 315-482-9971

Website: [www.alexandriacentral.org](http://www.alexandriacentral.org)

The Alexandria Central School District considers all applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, or veteran's status in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

**Robert B. Wagoner, Jr., Superintendent**  
**Julie Ludwig, Secondary Principal**  
**Michelle Law, Elementary Principal**

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**Rod Tidd, Head Mechanic**  
**Yvonne Bartlett, Cafeteria Supervisor**  
**Darin Trickey, Head Custodian**



### *ACS Alma Mater*

*Let's join in song to the school that we love  
She stands in her glory all others above  
She hopes for the victory  
With courage she'll fight  
Let's hold a torch for the Purple and White*



From the desk of Superintendent Robert B. Wagoner, Jr.

The Board is again in the middle of the budget season and this year, like last, is going to be a very difficult budget season. I have met already this year with Congressman Owens, State Senator Ritchie, and Assemblywoman Russell. I have attended meetings with the Statewide School Finance Consortium and New York State Council of School Superintendents. In all of these meetings no one offered a bright picture of school financing for this budget season.

I have been told any increase we may have received will probably be given to the schools hit hardest by Hurricane Sandy. I was also told that the Teacher Retirement System (TRS), Employee Retirement System (ERS), and health benefits will all be going up. We are predicting that our TRS increase alone will be about \$170,000 which is a 2.5% increase on the tax levy. The ERS is predicted to go up about \$38,800 which is .5% increase on the levy. We are hearing that our health care plan is looking at an increase of about \$200,000 which is about a 3% increase on the levy.

To add to our problems the Governor has not done away with the GEA or the Gap Elimination Adjustment. The Governor will again allow the state aid formula to run as usual and then he will use his formula to take back aid from schools. This allows him to close the deficit in the State budget on the backs of schools. The GEA for Alexandria Central for the past three years is about 2 Million dollars. That is money that the District had to make up by either raising taxes, reducing staff, eliminating programs, putting off purchases, and putting off repairs. We are at a point that we must deal with the purchases, repairs, and there are fewer cuts that can be made.

I will again this year try to get to each of our communities to do a budget presentation. This will allow me to present the latest budget information to you. Remember that the budget building is a process and the numbers change as new information is made available. Please attend if you can as it will give me an opportunity to answer your specific questions.

As mentioned above we have some repairs that we must make. For those who are unaware we have a water problem in the 1929 part of our building with pipes leaking and water unable to pass through portions of the piping. I am looking into possible ways we can start the project without it impacting the levy this year.

Finally we have security improvements that we will be addressing in this year's budget. As many of you are aware we have now moved to a one point of entry when school is in session. We need to address how this is going to look in the future and we have plans for other building changes that will be needed. We also have the need for additional cameras for the front of school, and the parking lots to name a few. These are only a few of the security changes that the Board is implementing this year and next. All of the security issues that will be made to protect our students and staff will cost and have to be included in the budget.

**Important dates:**

**February 18-22: No School: Winter Break**

**February 26 @ 6:30pm: Board of Education Meeting-  
open to the public**

**March 15: Standard's Day-dismissal at 11:15am**

**March 26 @6:30pm: Board of Education Meeting-  
open to the public**

**March 29: No School: Good Friday**

**April 1-5: No School: Spring Break**

Please visit our school website at: [www.alexandriacentral.org](http://www.alexandriacentral.org)  
to view:

- this newsletter in color (go to: "Quick Links"; click on "ACS Newsletters")
- our sports schedules (go to: "Quick Links"; click on "Sports Schedules")
- our calendar of events (check the scrolling calendar)

**Julie Ludwig**  
**High School Principal**



As the new Secondary Principal of Alexandria Central School, it has been my pleasure to begin to get to know the students, families and community members that make up this amazing community! Throughout the school day and evening events, I have enjoyed getting to know many of you and I look forward to the opportunity to continue becoming a part of the ACS family. As I transitioned into the school, I have worked on coming to understand the people and the culture of Alexandria as an academic and social institution. I will continue to explore the community and build relationships with stakeholders in order to be prepared to support the staff and students of ACS.

Prior to coming to Alexandria Central School, my professional career experience has included teaching for seven years at the Middle Level in Baltimore City Schools and Carroll County Schools in Maryland. After our move to New York I spent four years teaching at the high school level. For the past five years I have worked for the Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Center, a New York State Education Department Network, as a School Improvement Specialist for the Jefferson Lewis BOCES. These varied experiences have afforded me many opportunities to learn and to work with many schools and school leaders. These experiences have provided a rich template for supporting and leading Alexandria Central Secondary.

The focus of the work for the remainder of this school year will be building a foundation for the future by establishing and building strong relationships, examining the strengths of the school, and identifying areas for growth. The role of the principal is multifaceted with responsibilities to many stakeholders. My hope is to work with the faculty and staff to ensure the success of each student based on their individual needs. This work will include implementation of the new Annual Professional Performance Review, review of key policies and procedures that impact student learning, and initiating a visioning process that establishes goals for our continued growth. I look forward to beginning conversations with grade levels to seek student feedback on many aspects of their education. Parents, families and community members will also be an important part of these conversations.

I would like to thank everyone in the community for my warm welcome to Alexandria Central School. I have been overwhelmed by the generosity and heartfelt welcome and look forward to many years as part of this community!



**Important Attendance Information**

Attendance is a critical area of focus to improve student achievement. I would like to emphasize the importance of daily attendance for all students. As students enter the secondary programming, there are specific time requirements for participation in state courses and assessments required for graduation. We want students to attend daily and be on time. Please call the high school office by 9:00 am to notify the school of your child's absence. If the office is not called, the parent/guardian will be contacted directly. As always, your child will still require a note upon their return to school, per New York State regulations.

## From the Elementary Principal's Desk - Mrs. Michelle Law

### Special Events at ACS Elementary

Alexandria CSD hosted Joe Trianfero and his Show of Love, on January 11, 2013. The Show of Love is a Character Education Program with primary focus on empathy skills and effective communication. Mr. Trianfero's message was clear: *Treat others the way you want to be treated by putting yourself in others shoes.* In addition, Mr. Tiranfero, reiterated to his K-6<sup>th</sup> audience that ACS is a "NO BYSTANDER" school, by actively involving all members of the audience in unique music, song and video challenges. Excerpts included the audience and volunteers whom later made it to the finals were asked "challenge" questions. Mr. Trianfero was very impressed with ACS students' behavior during the assembly, which affirms ACS students' character. Thank you to the PACE organization for funding the event.



ACS Elementary Students participate in a listening skills portion of the program entitled, "Show of Love".

### Attendance

It is crucial for healthy children to come to school each day. School begins at 7:55 AM sharp. Students may eat breakfast in the MPR or pick up breakfast to take directly back to their classrooms to eat and begin their morning routines/instruction. All students are marked tardy after 8:15, no exceptions. The entire ACS building will automatically lock for safety at 8:15. After 8:15, please enter through the main door (single access point) and sign the student in at the Main Office.



### Absences

In an event of an absence, you will receive a phone call from authorized school personnel regarding the absence. Some parents/guardians like to call the school if their child is absent to report the absence to the office. Please know that phone calls do not serve as legal excuses, and that the District will need a written excuse with the date, the reason for absence(s) as well as the appropriate parent or guardian signature.

### Make-up of Instructional Work

In addition, parents/guardians may arrange for make-up work by contacting their child's teacher. Please contact your child's assigned teacher by their preferred mode of contact communicated at the beginning of school year (i.e. email, phone message, etc.). It is important that the instructional materials are gathered and that parents are able to access those materials, so please feel free to contact ACS Elementary Office if you have questions regarding missed instructional materials due to absences.

### New to ACS Elementary

There are few little things you may notice around the ACS elementary wings. One is the "letter" day schedule. Many thanks to the aides and TA's whom constructed the nifty looking posters that help the ACS Learning Community keep track of the Learning Letter Days.

In addition, you will see a "Goal of the Week". Each week, students, faculty and staff are asked to focus on a goal. Past goals are:

- Listen to others while they are speaking.
- Play fairly.
- Settle differences peacefully.
- This week's goal is: Be kind to others.



The ACS cafeteria has a positive addition as well, called the **Purple Tray Award**. Each week, students following cafeteria expectations as determined by the cafeteria staff as a whole, will be awarded the **Purple Tray Award**. The class then gets presented the Purple Tray on a Friday, "owns" it for a week and then surrenders it on a Monday whereas the competition starts again.

### Cafeteria Expectations:

- Talk in a "lunch room" voice with your friends.
- Eat your lunch.
- Keep your lunch area clean and tidy.
- Raise your hand to discard your lunch items.
- Ask to use the restroom, and return promptly when done for safety.



Purple Tray Award



## Important School Security Information

In our efforts to ensure the safety of all members of our school community we would like to share with you our current security procedures for Alexandria Central School.

- After 8:15a.m., the front doors will be the single point of entrance to the building.
- We ask that all visitors sign in at our front desk, sharing their destination within the building and receiving a visitor's badge. We ask that these badges be visible throughout your visit to our school. As you are leaving the building we ask that you sign out at the front desk.
- The door located at the parking lot entrance is designated as our handicap accessible entrance. If you require this service please press the buzzer and indicate that you need to use the accessible entrance. We will be happy to assist!
- We ask that doors are not opened from the inside of the building by anyone, including staff, students and parents, to allow entry to the building. We ask that all visitors be directed to the front door and sign in.
- Another change in practice for secondary students is the implementation of a closed campus. Permission will not be given to leave the building for lunch. This practice is to ensure the safety of all students.

## Would you like to read our newsletters online instead of receiving a paper copy in the mail?

The ACS Green Team has worked to lessen our school's environmental impact by creating a new recycling program and promoting habits that reduce our resource consumption. Looking for new ways in which we can reduce our impact, we have targeted the school newsletter as an opportunity to save on the amount of paper we use. Currently, our newsletter is printed and mailed to each student's family, using a large amount of paper. We therefore propose that, if able, families choose to view our newsletter on the ACS website. We can notify you via email when a new newsletter is posted on our website and provide you with a link to the newsletter. The switch to the electronic newsletter is not required, and if you wish to continue to receive a paper version you may do so, although we ask that you consider the environment in making your decision. Another benefit of viewing our newsletter online is that it appears in color. If you have any questions, please contact our Main Office at 482-9971.

**If you would like to remove your name from the ACS newsletter mailing list and instead, access the electronic copy of the newsletter on the ACS website, you may do so by:**

- (1) emailing your name and current mailing address to: [greenteam@alexandriacentral.org](mailto:greenteam@alexandriacentral.org) OR
- (2) cutting out the form below and mailing it to the ACS main office.

**If you would like us to continue to mail you a copy of the newsletter, no action is required.**

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I would like to remove my name from the ACS Newsletter mailing list (paper version) and instead, view the electronic version of the newsletter online at [alexandriacentral.org](http://alexandriacentral.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

email address: (to receive notification of our latest newsletters) \_\_\_\_\_

## DASA: Dignity for All Students Act

Patty Wagoner, Dignity Act Coordinator for Alexandria Central School

In order for children to grow into strong, healthy adults, one of the most important things they need to understand is the concept of dignity. Dignity is the idea that all people are treated with respect, even if they appear different than you, or possess different values than your own.

As the number of teen suicides continued to increase around the country during the past decade, mental health experts determined that many of these young people were feeling both hopeless and helpless as they were being tormented by others due to their differences. They were not being treated with dignity and their safety became a priority of law makers.

Along with many other states around the country, The State of New York became very concerned with the safety and emotional welfare of our young people. The legislature passed a law which went into effect this past July of 2012 called THE DIGNITY for ALL STUDENTS ACT (DASA). The intent of this legislation is to protect children in New York public schools from harassment due to their differences, either real, or perceived.

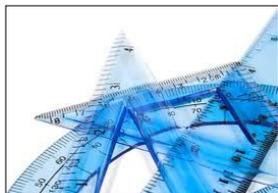
Although very similar to previously passed laws protecting students' Civil Rights and persons with disabilities, DASA protects different classifications that have been identified as experiencing increased harassment. Students are now protected from discrimination and harassment of a student based upon but not limited to: race, national origin, ethnic group, religion, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, physical or mental abilities and weight (perceived as being too high or too low).

Each NYS public school was responsible for identifying a Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) who is responsible for attending trainings regarding DASA and then training all students and staff members about the new law. The DAC and district administrators are responsible for providing a mechanism where staff, students and parents are able to report a Dignity Act violation to the school's coordinator. Having been appointed and trained as Alexandria Central's DAC, it became my responsibility to be sure that all school employees and all ACS students had been part of a district wide training. The training taught ways to respond to situations in which a person was harassing another or treating them without dignity. Staff and students were also taught how to register a Dignity Act violation by using the link on the ACS website.

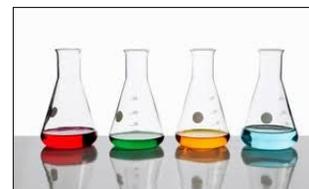
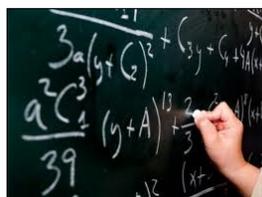
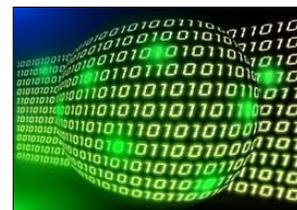
To date, we have had 34 violations registered; 14 reports were made by teachers, 11 by administrators, 2 by students, 2 by parents, 2 by bus drivers, 2 by counselors and 1 by a substitute teacher. Every violation is documented and information is tracked; looking for patterns, such as a student harassing other students, or a particular student perhaps being harassed in multiple locations.

As a school, ACS students and staff have been very open towards these trainings and have responded appropriately. As a school community we see value in changing the culture to allow for all students to be treated with dignity. Many good conversations have occurred in classrooms between students and teachers, and between parents and school personnel.

### Alexandria Central Receives STEM Grant ~ Ms. Lowe



Through a great deal of hard work Mrs. Mulford (former ACS Elementary Principal) was able to procure a large grant from the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). The grant is a three year grant to help ACS improve interest and scores in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). As part of the STEM grant ACS has instituted after-school mini-courses. Each mini-course runs twice a week for a period of three weeks. The first STEM mini courses were run in late November through mid-December and included Anatomy & Strength Training and Fun with Engineering. These courses were available to any interested 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade student. Both courses had the maximum 15 students participating. Presently the STEM mini-course offerings include Basic House Electricity for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades and Desktop Publishing for beginners for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Each month we will be adding more courses and different grade levels. As courses become available and schedules are made registration forms will be sent home with eligible students.



## News from Mrs. Bearup's Pre-Kindergarten Classes

Pre-K was busy with holiday crafts, stories, snacks and special visitors. Thank you to all of the parents for sending in the wonderful supplies for our Christmas cookies and all of the food pantry items. The month of December reinforced to the children the importance of sharing and giving to others.



Santa reading to the morning Pre-K class



Santa reading to the afternoon Pre-K class



Liam Connor with his decorated Christmas cookie!



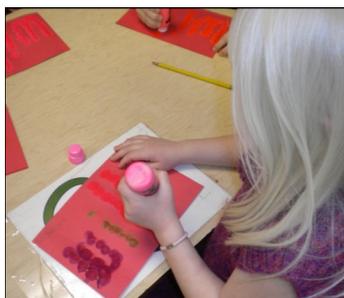
Special thanks to Mrs. Weldon who baked all of the cookies and came in to help decorate with her son Liam Weldon.

## What's Happening in Kindergarten? Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Plantz, and Mrs. Putnam

Kindergarten wants to wish everyone a happy new year. It is hard to believe that January is almost over and the 100th day of school is quickly approaching! The students in kindergarten have been reading *The Mitten* by Jan Brett and will soon go on a virtual field trip where they will see and learn about the animals from the story.

Guided reading and literacy centers are in full swing! Children have been busy learning to read and complete tasks independently. It is amazing to see the growth that has been made since September.

Mrs. Edgar, our occupational therapist has been busy in each of our rooms. She has been working with the children on many fine motor skills, including scissor cutting and pencil gripping. Ask your child about their crab claw!





### First Grade News

2013 is here and the students returned from their Christmas vacation ready to start the New Year. We have embraced the new common core curriculum. They have enjoyed learning about fables, fairy tales, and the human body. They will be learning about Early World and American Civilizations and animal habitats. We have been able to dig deep into adding and subtracting and are now onto place value and comparing numbers. We are looking forward to the rest of the year.



### Second Graders Donate Winter Clothing

Mrs. Morgan's second graders brought in hats, mittens and gloves in lieu of exchanging gifts for Christmas. The students gathered just shy of thirty items! These donations were forwarded to the local food pantry for families to take, if needed, when picking up other supplies.



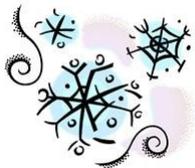
### Purple Pride Readers

December was a good month for reading in second grade! All of these students read a minimum of 400 minutes. They each received certificates for being Purple Pride Readers and were treated to extra activity time with jump ropes and hula hoops. We hope to get in some outdoor time in the snow next month providing cooperation from Mother Nature!



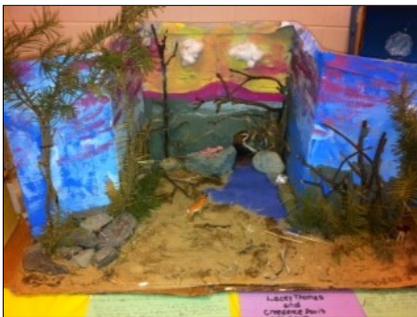
## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and Kindergarten Team Up

During the week leading up to Christmas vacation, A.C.S. fifth graders in Mr. Plantz's class and Kindergartners in Mrs. Plantz's class had a unique opportunity to get to get to know each other. Students in each class were given "buddies" in the other class to work with in different activities. The fifth graders chose a Christmas picture book to read aloud to their kindergarten buddies. Following this, the students collaborated in creating Christmas ornaments. This was a very unique bonding experience for students in both grade levels.



## Sixth Grade Science Projects

In the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Mr. Hudon's science class has been studying a unit about swamps, marshes, and bogs. For an assignment the students were asked to create a diorama to represent one of the wetlands and present it to the class. A diorama is a 3D replica that shows a scenic representation in miniature size and usually placed into a small box. Here are some pictures of his student's accomplishments. Mr. Hudon explains that the students had to do research in the library, find pictures, come up with the materials and work in a small group to build the diorama. The students enjoyed working on this project and had fun while they learned about the topic.



Vocal Music ~ Mrs. Taylor

This fall brought us many great music memories with the production of "West Side Story!" The cast and crew were fantastic! Special thanks to Mike and Mary Witt, Bob and Cindy Nelson, Betsey Murphy, and Chris Storino for all their help! Mr. Hochmuth did a smashing job as Officer Krupke, and the music department would like to thank him for his support over the years, and congratulate him on his retirement! We welcome Mrs. Ludwig and Mrs. Law – who are both great supporters of the arts – to our ACS family!

December brought us to our winter concerts, and all went off without a hitch! I am super proud of my "kids," and I thank all of the parents (particularly the elementary level) for coming up with adorable costumes and props, and for helping your kids learn and memorize their lines at home! Select Choir performed at the Densmore Church on Wellesley Island for a concert series and did a beautiful job! They also shared some holiday cheer with the community by caroling at the Ives Hill Retirement Home in Watertown, and right here in Alexandria Bay at the River Hospital for the patients and staff! They loved us!

January brings auditions for a brand new after school a cappella choir of kids in grades 7-12. This is via request from THEM, and will provide an extra opportunity for kids to get in even more choral singing and to train their ears to hold harmonies without any instrumental accompaniment! February brings Bi-County Chorus for junior high level, and the ACS representatives are Emily Massa, Bailey Rogers, Trenton Service, Kyle Gorman, Jacob Hunneyman and Shealynn Hebert. Also performing at Bi-County is the Select Vocal Ensemble, an audition only group of students in grades 10 – 12 from the Jefferson Lewis County schools. The ACS representatives are Sierra Sourwine and Tommy Robinson. The concert is Sat. Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> at Indian River High School at 2pm.

Spring Concerts will be the following dates – save them on your calendars!!

- May 9th = 5th and 6th grade Chorus - "Dateline USA!!" 7pm
- May 16th = Grades 1 & 2 "Everybody Smiles in the Same Language" at 6:30pm
- Grades 3 & 4 "I Have a Dream!" at 7:30pm (all students in grades 1 - 4)



June 4th = Grades 7 - 12 Choral Concert! 7pm

June 6th = Grades 5 - 12 "Concert in the Park" at the Pavilion. (Mr. Hammond and I will select students who stand out throughout the year to perform at this concert :-)

Also keep an eye out for future Select Choir events to help us raise money for a possible upcoming trip! Have a great winter!!!



Some of the elementary students at their concert



Select Choir at their Winter Concert



Sierra Sourwine and Ryan Cullen as "Tony and Maria" at the dance



Ian Kearns and Ashlynn LaLonde as "Riff & Velma" at the dance



Amanda Lingenfelter and Chris Carrasquillo as "Anita and Bernardo" at the dance



Mr. Hochmuth, Kyle Gorman, and Ben Nelson as "Officer Krupke, A-Rab, and Baby John after the rumble



## News from the Special Education Department ~ Mrs. Monica

Hello, Parents! We are starting annual review meetings beginning in February and running through June to meet and discuss your child's special education plan and recommendations for services and accommodations for next year. We make every attempt to notify you at least one month in advance to give you time to make arrangements. If there is a problem with the time that we have scheduled for your child's meeting, please contact the CSE office to make alternate arrangements (315) 482-9971 ext. 1620. We appreciate you contacting us well in advance for any changes so that we can ensure a re-schedule time that works for all of us and can provide coverage for your child's teachers so that they can attend. You will receive a copy of your child's DRAFT IEP in the mail prior to the meeting for your review. Your input is welcome and needed.

As you may already know, parent representatives are no longer mandated members of the Committee on Special Education; however, you can still request a parent member be part of your child's meeting if you give the school at least 72 hours notice.

### Occupational Therapy Tidbit ~ Mrs. Edgar

Fine motor skills are such an important part of the school day for students. It is the coordination of the small muscles that control the hands and fingers that allow us to be successful with tasks such as controlling a pencil, coloring, cutting, managing buttons and shoe laces, turning the pages of a book, folding paper, picking up and manipulating small objects, etc. Some fun activities that you can do with your child at home to enhance their fine motor skills are as follows:

- play-doh..
  1. use rolling pins, scissors, plastic knives, cookie cutters
  2. hide small buttons or beads in the play-doh and have your child dig them out
  3. sculpt simple objects out of the play-doh (snowman, turtle, etc.)
- cut a slit in the lid of a coffee can... have your child push coins, buttons, bingo chips, etc. through the slit
- write letters on clothespins...have your child clip the clothespins around the edge of a shoebox, coffee can, etc. to order the alphabet, spell their name, spell words, etc.
- play tug-of-war from the sitting or kneeling position; wheelbarrow walk; bear walk; crab walk
- pick up a penny, bead, button, etc. with your thumb and index finger...hide it in the palm of your hand.... then try to move it back out to your fingertips (all without the help of your other hand)
- Lite Brite, Etch-a-Sketch, practice the letters of the alphabet in sign language, spin tops
- lay a piece of newspaper or tissue paper on the table...lie your hand flat on top of it... try to crumple up the paper



### ACS Helps Restock Local Food Pantries

The students and families of Alexandria Central School again showed their community spirit this holiday season by donating generously to our two local food pantries. Over 1,000 items were donated for families in the Alexandria Bay, Plessis and Redwood areas.



Every classroom in Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade had boxes where students and teachers put their donated food and personal hygiene items during the week before Christmas. Various high school students collected the boxes and helped to organize the boxes for delivery. Junior high students helped with the deliveries and stayed to help organize the shelves at the food pantries.

Thank you to the ACS families who generously donated to the food pantries as they are in great need this season. The Alex Bay food pantry is located at the Reformed Church of the 1,000 Isles, and the Redwood food pantry is located at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Those families in need are encouraged to visit either pantry, and those families that are able, are asked to contribute food items or cash donations to either pantry at any time of year.

## FFA News ~ Mr. Campany

The FFA would like to thank everyone that helped make their annual fruit fundraiser a huge success. The chapter enjoyed a nice Christmas get together just before the holidays- cards, games, food, and fun. Currently, several members are preparing for the FFA Leadership contests: employment interview, prepared speaking, extemporaneous speaking, creed speaking, ag issues, and people in agriculture. Competition takes place at Beaver River Central in February. The Ag Program is pleased to welcome Ms. Sefra Levin, a student teacher from Cornell, who will be spending 14 weeks working with Mr. Campany.



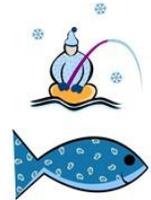
Several FFA members decorate for Christmas in front of the school



Environmental Science class tour the Alexandria Bay water treatment facility

Left to Right: Brock Ward, Ray Dickhaut, Alexa Hanson, Kaleb Utterback, Kristen Swart, Kayla Utterback

(back), Alicia Constance, Ms. Levin (student teacher w/ Mr. Campany), and Rod Tidd (bus driver)



## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade English news ~ Mrs. Mangione

Your students in both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades had the opportunity in January to read their second book of choice, for which they were able to practice their writing, analyze the book's content, and speak in front of their classmates about it. This project is a great way for your student to learn, not only about how to better write and understand the English language, but also about things that interest them. The third book of choice project will be completed during the week of March 18<sup>th</sup> and will be another chance for them to have a say in what they learn.

In the last week of January, your students will learn about poetry from the perspective of 18 high school students in the class of Mr. Ward, the subject of Nikki Grimes's book, Bronx Masquerade. This book shows how your students can express themselves in their writing, as the book's students tell their stories in part through poetry. In addition, your students will have the opportunity to read, study and analyze some great poetry from other authors.

In March, your students will again have the opportunity to learn from a guest speaker in another classroom interview to help them develop their listening, note taking, and writing skills. These are foundational skills your students will need for the practical application of what they learn in English class, leading up to test preparation for the state English Language Arts exam, which your students will take on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>. If you are not on my weekly email list and would like to be, please contact me. Also if you need or want a hardcopy version, it is available for your child to take home.

## Teen Brain Development and Alcohol ~ Ms. Eberle

- A person who starts drinking at the legal age of 21 has only a 7% chance of becoming addicted.
- Children who begin drinking at age 13 have a 45% chance of becoming alcohol dependent.
- Most parents talk to their kids about drinking two years too late.



Alcohol affects a teen brain differently than an adult brain by greatly increasing the risk of addiction. Alcohol use can cause young people to develop social problems, exercise poor judgment, get into trouble, do poorly in school and experience failure in achieving lifelong goals. To compound the problem, many parents underestimate the extent of teen drinking and its negative consequences. A national survey found that 31% percent of youths who said they had been drunk were said by their parents to be nondrinkers. Others may view underage drinking as inevitable, but it is not.

To be alcohol-free, a teen needs the active involvement and help of a parent. All children need help from their parents to guide them through their teenage years. Staying bonded to parents is critical if youth are to emerge from their teens as healthy, safe, alcohol-responsible adults.



# Upcoming Events



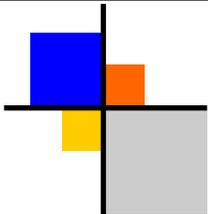
- Feb. ▶ Carnation & Chocolate Sale
- Feb. ▶ Winter Carnival [Date TBD]
- Feb. 2 ▶ Winter Fire/Ball [7-10 @ ACS, MPR]
- Feb. 4-25 ▶ Gertrude Hawk Easter Catalogue Sale
- Feb. 9 ▶ Valentines Dance [8-11 @ ACS, MPR]
- Mar. 14-18 ▶ Lil' Caesar's Pizza Sale
- Apr. 20 ▶ Spring Fling [7-10 @ ACS, MPR]
- May 11 ▶ Prom [8-11 @ Bonnie Castle Resort]
- June 5-9 ▶ Senior Trip
- June 10 ▶ MORP [Time & Location TBD]

Note: Billy Martin's All Star Circus and the WWNY No Stars Game have been canceled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Thank you,  
Your ACS Student Council and Class Advisors



## Yearbook News ~ Mrs. Donovan



The yearbook order has been submitted for this year. Due to costs, only 25 extra yearbooks have been ordered and will be available on a first come, first serve basis when the books arrive in late spring.

### To Parents of Seniors:

Personal ads are available in the back of the yearbook. Collect pictures and write some words of wisdom to your graduate. Ads are available for \$150 for a full page. These ads make the yearbook extra special. All personal ads must be turned in by February break.

### Business Ad Space:

Business ad space is available for the 2013 yearbook. Ads are full color, custom and available in the following sizes:

- Full Page--\$150
- Half Page--\$100
- Quarter Page--\$75
- Business Card--\$30

Contact Ann Donovan: [adonovan@alexandriacentral.org](mailto:adonovan@alexandriacentral.org)



ACS Class of 2013 is selling Hockey Jerseys. The jerseys will be purple with white and will have the ACS Ghost logo on the front in black and white. The cost is \$50.00 per jersey. Sizes available are Adult Small-Adult XX Large. Personalization with name and number on the back is available for an extra \$15.00. If you are interested in buying a jersey please fill out the order form below. Payment is due when ordering. Checks are to be made out to ACS Class of 2013 and sent Attention T. Lowe, Alexandria CS, 34 Bolton Avenue, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607. Please do not send cash in the mail. Order forms and payment may also be sent in with students or dropped off in the main office.

Please when ordering take into account these jerseys are made to go over hockey equipment so you may want to order a size smaller than you usually wear.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Jersey Size: AS AM AL AXL AXXL

Personalization: Please specify name and number to be put on the back. Names may be up to 15 letters long and numbers available are 00-99. Please write neatly.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please visit our school website at: [www.alexandriacentral.org](http://www.alexandriacentral.org) to view:
- this newsletter in color (go to: "Quick Links"; click on "ACS Newsletters")
  - our sports schedules (go to: "Quick Links"; click on "Sports Schedules")
  - our calendar of events (check the scrolling calendar)



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**SENIORS – CLASS OF 2013**

There are many scholarship applications that are available for seniors who will be attending a 4-year college, 2-year college, or technical/trade school in the fall of 2013.

**General guidelines for scholarships:**

- All available scholarship applications are posted on the 9-12 Counselor webpage as they become available. In addition to them being presented to students in classrooms, they are also available on the web for parents and students to download. To access the download area from the school webpage, click on ACS Counselors -> 9-12 Counselor -> Scholarship Download Area.
- Students are reminded to review the criteria for the scholarship before applying, and to apply for as many as possible if they meet the criteria!
- Students must be aware of deadlines and when the applications are due to the organization (unless otherwise noted, they are due to Mr. Durr). A deadline means that the scholarship must be at the sponsoring organization's office by that date, so please keep in mind mail delivery times.
- Students should request letters of recommendations from their teachers, and then request an official copy of their high school transcript.
- Please be sure to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for your collegebound student. I suggest doing this as soon as possible! [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) is the correct name of the website, and there is no cost to do this. Need some help? Try [www.startheregetthere.org](http://www.startheregetthere.org) to get started!

**The following are the most recent scholarships that are available to seniors who meet the eligibility/criteria:**

**Jefferson Community College Freshman Scholarships:**

Students are required to file the Free Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) to be considered for the JCC scholarships. There are a variety of scholarships available for students by the JCC foundation. **Scholarships are due to JCC by March 1, 2013.** Scholarships from JCC include: Merit Scholarships (including the Jefferson-CAN scholarship for full tuition for students in the top 15% of their class), General Scholarships, Organizational Scholarships.

**Association of Fire Districts of NY State:**

Four \$1500 scholarships are given to students who are firefighters or related to a firefighter in an affiliated member organization of the Association of Fire Districts of NY State. Students must also be entering a career of service to the community (Nursing, Social Work, Teaching, Librarian, etc). Applications are available online at [www.firedistnys.com](http://www.firedistnys.com) or in the Counseling Office. Applications are due to the association by **March 1, 2013.**

**New York State Retired Teachers Association Scholarship**

These \$500 scholarships are awarded to any high school senior pursuing a career in the teaching profession. Application form, essay, letter of recommendation, high school transcript and appraisal must be received by **March 11, 2013.**

**Alpha Delta Kappa International Educators Scholarship**

This \$500.00 scholarship is awarded to any male or female graduate of a Jefferson County High school who will continue study towards a baccalaureate degree in the field of education. Deadline is **March 31, 2013.**

**Irish Festival Scholarships**

The Irish Festival of Watertown offers scholarships to students pursuing degree programs or technical education. Deadline is March 30, 2013.

**Air and Waste Management Scholarships**

This scholarship is available for any student pursuing an environmental degree. Deadline is February 10, 2013.

## **ORATORICAL CONTEST**

Congratulations to all that participated in the contest! Nicole Pierce, Kacy Baum, Stacy Baum, Dylan Kernehan, Trenton Service, and Tommy Robinson competed at the local level and were sponsored to compete at the county level on January 5<sup>th</sup>, where Nicole Pierce advanced by claiming first place. She advanced to the district level and competed at South Jefferson High School the following weekend and is now going to the Zone level in February.



*Photo credit: Sharon Drake, Post 904 Historian*

## **JEFFERSON EDGE PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORTED BY ROTARY**

A special thank you goes out to the Alexandria Bay Rotary Club, who supported the Jefferson EDGE Matching Scholarship Program this year. In addition to the Rotary supporting two annual \$1000 scholarships, \$1500 was given to the matching scholarship program with another generous donation from Connie Wagoner. This matching scholarship program supports the tuition for EDGE programs at Alexandria Central School and is for students who are high achievers but may not have the financial means to pay for the EDGE tuition. EDGE courses this year are Ceramics, Intro to American Government, Guitar, Intro to Microcomputers, Personal and Community Health, CPR and Responding to Emergencies, and American History.

## **JUNIORS – CLASS OF 2014**

February starts academic advisement and I will be meeting individually with juniors to plan their courses for next year. After our meetings, I will send home (via email) a course request sheet, outlining the courses they have selected to take for their senior year. Please feel free to call me and set up a meeting if you would like to further discuss academic options for son's or daughter's senior year.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION PLANNING NIGHT – Thursday, March 7**

I will be hosting a Higher Education Planning Night on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the high school auditorium. I will be discussing how to financially plan for college, selecting a post-secondary institution, timelines and deadlines for colleges, and financial aid. There will also be an interactive question and answer session. This event is geared specifically towards parents of juniors.

## **SOPHOMORES – CLASS OF 2015**

### **BOCES / JCC VISITATION DAY**

All Sophomores will visit the Jefferson Technical Center on Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> to visit programs that BOCES has to offer. Many programs offer enough training to where students can exit high school with skills to gain meaningful employment, and some programs offer embedded college credit so that a student may get a jumpstart on their vocational program in college. After the BOCES visit, students will take a field trip to Jefferson Community College for a presentation and lunch on campus. Students will hear presentations about educational programs are offered at Jefferson.

**FRESHMAN AND UP –**

Since many colleges and scholarship organizations have stressed the importance of community service, a new online service record for maintaining a record of service hours has been established. Any student aged 14 and up is encouraged to start this electronic record. This can be very helpful to document community service hours. The link to the “Presidential Volunteer Service” is provided below:

<https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/tgact/ros/dspROSlogin.cfm>

**UPCOMING EXAMS**

**SAT EXAM – register on www.collegeboard.com**

<u>TEST DATE</u>	<u>REGISTRATION DEADLINE</u>
March 9, 2013	February 8, 2013
May 4, 2013	April 5, 2013
June 1, 2012	May 2, 2013

**ACT EXAM – register on www.actstudent.org**

<u>TEST DATE</u>	<u>REGISTRATION DEADLINE</u>
April 13, 2013	March 8, 2013
June 8, 2013	May 3, 2013



**\*\*\* NEW TO ALEXANDRIA CENTRAL’S WEBSITE \*\*\***

The solar array located outside the greenhouse has been producing energy to sell back to the power company. Monitor the progress of energy savings by viewing the ACS webpage under our “quicklinks”.



**This just in..... SAVE THESE DATES (from Mrs. Taylor)**

- ◆ **Friday, Feb. 1st = TALENT SHOW and SILENT AUCTION (7pm):**  
\$5 general admission
- ◆ **Friday, March 1st = PRINCESS & PIRATE PARTY (6 - 8pm)** fund raiser for Select Choir. \$15 for admission for children of any age. Dress as a princess or a pirate and come for face painting, dancing, story time, crafts, snacks and photo ops with your favorite princess or pirate!
- ◆ **Friday, March 22nd = POPS CONCERT** fund raiser for Select Choir (7pm) - \$5 general admission.

