



**Alexandria Central School
November 2012 Newsletter**

2012-2013 School Year

Alexandria Central School

34 Bolton Avenue, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

Phone: 315-482-9971

Website: 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
Ronald Hochmuth, Secondary Principal
Michelle Law, Elementary Principal

Board of Education:
Stephen Dreizler, President
Patricia Aitcheson, Vice President
Andrea Adsit
William Farman
Larry McCauley
Cathryn Munna
Jane Aikins

Angela Norris, School Business Manager
Kim Carpenter, Secretary to Superintendent/District Clerk
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 Robert B. Wagoner, Jr., Superintendent

We are off and running through another exciting school year. We have a new elementary principal, Mrs. Michelle Law, who is working very hard at meeting our children and learning their names. She is also discovering who the Purple Ghost are and what we stand for at Alexandria Central. In November our new secondary principal, Mrs. Julie Ludwig, will be joining us and will be doing the same thing. Not only will Mrs. Law and Mrs. Ludwig have new students to become familiar with they will have new parents, new staff, and new community to meet and get to know. This will not only be an exciting time for our two new principals but for our instructional staff as well.

Our instructional staff, for the first time, will be evaluated using the State's new evaluation system. I will in one page give you a shortened version that is 90 pages in the State's guidance document. In this new system, part of a teacher's score will be made up of a State growth measure or a Students Learning Objective that is worth 25 points for some teachers and 20 points for others. Teachers' scores will also include a Locally Selected Measure that is worth 15 points for some teachers and 20 points for others. The combined number of points for any teacher using these measures, State Growth or Student Learning Objectives and Locally Selected Measure, is 40 points. The State determines which teachers receive the 25 or 20 points and those that receive the 20 or 15 points.

State Provided Growth Measure or SLO	Locally Selected Measure	Total
20	20	40
25	15	40

How teachers receive points for the Student Learning Objectives and the Locally Selected Measures is spelled out in our Alexandria Central Annual Professional Performance Review or APPR. The Alexandria Central APPR also explains how teachers will obtain the other 60 points of the teachers' evaluation called the Multiple Measures of Effectiveness. The Multiple Measures includes an announced observation, an unannounced observation, a summative observation and an evidence folder. All of these elements must be measured against a State Approved teaching rubric. Alexandria Central has selected the Charlotte Danielson's rubric.

Multiple Measures of Effectiveness

Announced Observation	Unannounced Observation	Summative Evaluation	Evidence Folder	Total
35	5	15	5	<u>60</u>

Composite Effectiveness Score

State Provided Growth Measure or SLO	Locally Selected Measure	Multiple Measures of Effectiveness	Composite Effectiveness Score
20	20	<u>60</u>	100
25	15	<u>60</u>	100

Teachers will be rated on the following Composite Scores:

Highly Effective if they receive a Composite Effectiveness Score between 91-100 points.

Effective if they receive a Composite Effectiveness Score between 80-75 points.

Developing if they receive a Composite Effectiveness Score between 65-74 points.

Ineffective if they receive a Composite Effectiveness Score between 0-64 points.

I have tried to put 90 pages of information into one as a follow up to the article in the Thousand Islands Sun.



Mr. Ronald Hochmuth
High School Principal

A most sincere **Thank you** to everyone who made my 17 *plus* years as principal at Alexandria Central a truly rewarding experience. There are too many people to list and personally thank for being part of my life over these years. From students, teachers, parents, community members and staff, so many of you have shown me kindness and support. I am humbled and appreciative. I appreciate that the “99%” always buoyed my spirits when on occasion a few “naysayers” tried to derail us from our goals and objectives. I believe you have a lot to be proud of regarding your school. I recall having lunch with two of our community members one time who commented to me that A-bay was like a private school for all the offerings we had and the individual attention given to our students. When you think of things like: our 8 college course offerings and multiple electives, an extensive counseling staff, organizations like the FFA and Hearts for Youth - housed in our building, events like Homecoming Bonfire dances, sports teams, senior trips and field trips are just a small sample of the things that come to mind when we reflect upon all that our school has to offer. I believe we can say with confidence that your children have had the benefit of not only a top notch education provided by some outstanding teachers but the other programs that balance their well-being and development. This all happened not because of me but because a *team* of competent, caring professionals who shared a vision of what our school should represent. It also happens because that is the standard you as a community have come to expect. We’ve never done a “where are they now survey” of our graduates. But anecdotally I hear from many parents that their children have ended up with good careers in small part due to their experience at Alexandria. You can get anywhere from here!

And my final words to you through this newsletter is to applaud you on the facet of this community that always comes to the forefront of my mind when I’m asked about our community – and that is your generosity. I am continually impressed and amazed with the fact that regardless of the need of our students there is always a positive community response to help our neediest. One of the more recent examples would be the nearly \$9,000.00 a year you donate to sustain our “*backpack club*” under the direction of Mr. Terry Satterley. Almost as if by a miracle, if a student needs a winter coat and gloves someone steps forward and makes that donation. If a senior is a few dollars short in order to participate in their senior trip a “donation” appears for that student. The community support for our graduate scholarships is most generous. No student wants for supplies or book covers due to their availability because of our generous benefactors. When a couple of our students had health issues fund raisers were held and \$1,000’s of dollars were raised to help the families. There is hardly a day that passes that I am not made privy to something someone has done to help our school - Pumpkins for elementary students, a set design for a play, donated materials and labor to construct dugouts, donations for scoreboards, free tickets to a concert at the Clayton Opera House for 160 of our students, free boat rides on the St. Lawrence and I’ve probably left out *so many other examples* that I apologize for that unintended oversight. Be proud ... you are a wonderful community. I will go forward in retirement with fond memories of the opportunity I had to serve you all.



**Mrs. Michelle L. Law
Elementary Principal**

Welcoming, inviting and warm are a few adjectives describing my first few days as the new Elementary Principal at Alexandria Central School. I was welcomed with an *Assembly* by the entire school on Tuesday, October 16, 2012, where students performed songs, poems, presented banners, cards and showered me with gifts to ramp-up my Purple Ghost spirit and aide me in my office work. One of my favorites is the dazzling purple stapler the sixth graders presented to me for my office. Thank you to the students, teachers, and the staff involved in welcoming the Law family during the assembly.

I have been busy, meeting new faculty and staff, getting around to individual classrooms to chat with students, learn names, and discuss the expectations of having a new principal. The experience has been positive, as I have observed a group of youngsters eager to come to school to learn, listen and put forth a positive attitude, as well as a group of faculty and staff dedicated to the process of learning.

I look forward to meeting the community over the next few weeks. Again, I look forward to fostering a healthy relationship between school and home. Therefore, call ACS, (315) 482-9971, elementary office, for questions, concerns, and/or clarification.

Important Dates



West Side Story Musical—November 8,9,10

End of 10 weeks—November 9

Veteran's Day—November 12: NO SCHOOL

Fall Athletic Awards—November 13

Picture Retake Day—November 14

Parent-Teacher Conferences: November 19-20 *EARLY DISMISSAL*

Thanksgiving Break: November 21,22,23

Book Fair: November 19,20,26,27,28

Board of Education Meeting: November 27



Please check the scrolling calendar on the ACS website for other upcoming events.

Please visit our school website at: 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)

Pumpkin Picking at ACS!



The school's front lawn looked like a very large pumpkin patch one sunny day in October. All students in UPK through 6th grade had the opportunity to select a pumpkin to take home. As you can see it was a beautiful fall day and all of the students were thrilled with their special treat. A HUGE thank you to Mr. Tom Petrie for donating all of the pumpkins!



Mrs. Plantz's Kindergarten class



Mrs. Putnam's Kindergarten class

Thank you
Mr. Petrie!



Mrs. Lynch's kindergarten class with Ms. Christina from Jefferson Community College's Early Childhood program



These second graders pose with their pumpkins!
Front row: Megan Monica, Adrienne Hyde, Hunter Muhlbaier, Drew Ferency, and Colin Hynes
Back row: Brody Sherbino, Gabby Williams, and Quinlyn Reed



Second grader John McAloon picks out his favorite pumpkin to take home.



Second Grade News

Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Morgan, and Mrs. Cullen

Our first ten weeks are flying by very quickly! All three homerooms have come together for some exciting celebrations. First we made applesauce in honor of Johnny Appleseed and had a chance to sample it. Boy was it yummy! On October 12th we had our first Purple Pride Readers celebration. Many of our students received certificates for at-home reading participation in September. We then enjoyed some time together on the playground. On October 17th we visited the Nature Center on Wellesley Island to become familiar with local plant and animal habitats. It was fun to learn about our local environment!



Fourth Grade News

Mr. Montigelli, Ms. Tuttle, and Mrs. VanCour

Fourth Grade had two field trips this fall. We first participated in the 20th Annual Ag-Extravaganza Days at Thompson Park in Watertown on September 18th. Students visited various stations and learned about the many crops and livestock raised in our area. They also learned the process of how maple syrup is made from the tree, packaged, and ends up in the grocery store. Syrup samples were enjoyed by all! Thursday, October 18th was spent on Wellesley Island at the Nature Center learning about seed dispersal along with forest and wetland habitats. We have had a great start to a new year!

We wish Mrs. Mulford farewell on her new life adventure and welcome Mrs. Law to our school community.

The Library Celebrates Summer Reading Incentive ~ Mrs. Tidd

Alexandria Central's elementary summer reading program was very successful with sixty-seven students participating. The program was held in conjunction with the New York State Libraries summer reading program, "Dream Big, Read!" Students were required to read a set number of books during July and August and submit their reading logs to the library upon returning to school in September.



Students in Kindergarten through second grade recently celebrated their reading success with an ice cream party. Students were also rewarded with a certificate and small prizes.

Front row: Ashaya Buckland, Brady Hyde, Faith Watson, Paiton Bridenbaker, Rylynn Bain, Ella Porter, Brayton Bradley
Second Row: Angelina Ciarfella, Katrina Sanford, Olivia Adsit, Owen Ingalls, Drew Hunneyman, Trevor Moffe, Alexandria Perkin-s Grimaldi, Erik Croll, Johanna Probst, Molly Edgar, Ella Graveline, Amaris Siebert
Third row: Robert Gibbs, Ethan Brennan, Hunter Muhlbaier, Colin Hynes, Lance Escudero, Bridget Watson, Adrienne Hyde, Mrs. Tidd, Megan Monica, Kiara Hardy, Kayden Anderson, Joshua Cha, Drew Ferency, Katarina Probst missing from photo: Payton Watson



Students in third through sixth grade enjoyed donuts, apples, and cider at their party as well as playing "Book Bingo". Participants also received certificates and prizes.

Third grade participants are:

Front Row: Kacey Woods, Lilly Yasonia, Kendall Croll, Emmalee White
Back Row: Dominic Tidd, Brock Hunter, Andrea Patterson, Ashlee Ferency, Xandyr Brennan, Emma Graveline, Jack Bridenbaker
missing from photo: Jordan Bartlett and T.J. Griswold



Fifth and sixth grade participants are:

Front Row: Hallie Bain, Ellie Hyde, Andrew LaLonde
Second row: Corbyn Toland, Taylor Calhoun, Presley Donegan, Mikayla Witt, Sarah Shaffer, Cristofer Tidd, Rachel Calhoun
Back row: Mackenzie Hyde, Marissa Ely, Mrs. Compeau, Madison Woods, Lacey Thomas, Blake Hunter, Mason Gorman
missing from photo: Tayden Jeffers, Lindsey Monica, Gabrielle Connor, Dylan O'Connor, Paige Sulski

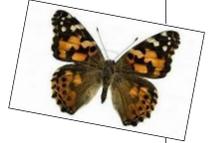


What's Been Happening In Third Grade?

Mrs. Cranker and Mrs. Heath

Third grade enjoyed a wonderful hike at the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center in October. Naturalists/realtors aided the students in finding just the right home for their animal cousins. Prior to the trip students researched an animal indigenous to the area to learn about their appearance, food and water sources, predators, neighbors, and need for forest products. With the help of our Library Media Specialist, Mrs. Cindy Tidd, and our substitute Technology Specialist, Mrs. Emily Mullikin, research was done using nonfiction books, encyclopedia, and internet sources. Students are publishing their findings in a word-processed report complete with illustrations, and are creating a diorama depicting their animal and its habitat.

Students were also busy studying the life cycle of the Painted Lady butterfly. Larva arrived in late September and students had the opportunity to observe them feed, grow, create a chrysalis, complete metamorphosis, and hatch into an adult butterfly. After a few days of observing the adults, the beautiful butterflies were released into the ACS Greenhouse under the supervision of Mr. Campany to continue their cycle of life.

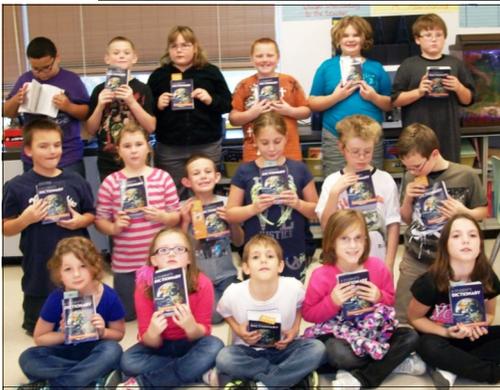


The Elk's Lodge of Watertown presented each Third Grade student a copy of their own dictionary. If you know a member of the Elk's Lodge, please thank them for their continuing support of literacy.

Third Grade gave a cheerful welcome to our new elementary principal, Mrs. Law. Although we are sad to see Mrs. Mulford go, we wish her safe travels as she moves south, and thank her for all she has done for our school and community.



A beautiful fall day at the Nature Center



Thanks you Elk's Lodge for our dictionaries.



Releasing a butterfly!



Third graders welcome Mrs. Law.



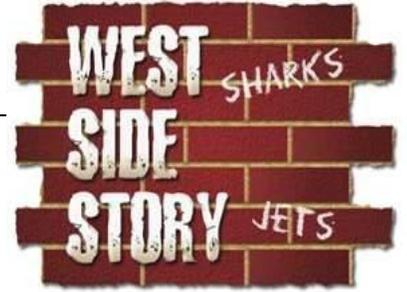
Meeting our new principal.

Vocal Music ~ Mrs. Taylor

The **Alexandria Central Music Department** is HOPPING this fall! We are preparing a very early fall musical, *West Side Story*, to be performed November 8th, 9th, and 10th! The shows are at 7:00pm, and tickets are \$5 General Admission. It's a classic musical that follows the story theme of Romeo and Juliet, with love, hope, and tragedy all intermingled.

You don't want to miss it! Here is our cast: we have over 60 people from grades 1 – 12 and even some alumni and faculty!

Hope to see you there!



Alexandria Central proudly presents...

Featuring.... Ryan Cullen as *Tony* & Sierra Sourwine as *Maria*

JETS:

Riff – Ian Kearns Action – Chris Vaphiadis A-Rab – Kyle Gorman Baby John – Ben Nelson
Snow Boy – Ryan Charlebois Big Deal – Zach Patterson Diesel – Tommy Robinson

SHARKS:

Bernardo – Chris Carrasquillo Chino – Cameron Morgan Pepe – Coltin Sochia
Indio – Gage McCauley Luis – Zachary Erwin Toro – Alex Delavergne Juano – Jacob Hunneyman

SHARK GIRLS:

Anita – Amanda Lingenfelter Rosalia – Madison Tierney Consuela – Victoria Ciarfella
Francisca – Ashley Harten Estella – Madelyn Diaz Margarita – Julie Daigle Teresita – Rachelle Johnson

JET GIRLS:

Graziella – Rebecca Hitchcock Velma – Ashlynn LaLonde Anybodys – Lindsey Bradley
Clarice – Haley Heath Pauline – Alexandria Hansson Minnie – Karoline Nelson

Doc –Tom Estes **Officer Krupke** –Ron Hochmuth **Lt. Schrank** –Robert Varney **Glad Hand** –Trenton Service

DANCE CREW:

Tisha Aikins, Sierra Penrose, Cheyenne Burns, Grace Felicia, Alicia Mitchell,
Taylor Hemmingsen, Carissa Purtell & Cassandra Purtell

YOUTH CHOIR:

Kira Grega, Stephanie Martin, Gabrielle Connor, Emily Davis, Chet Sourwine, Makayla Witt, Grace Goerger,
Sarah Shaffer, Hayley Neuroth, Presley Donegan, Dakota Reynolds, Addison Reed, Abigail Wolfe, Emmalee White,
Andrea Patterson, Kendall Croll, Emma-Lee Davis, Jordan Bartlett, Bridget Watson, & Olivia Adsit

Other upcoming events in the Music Department are our WINTER CONCERTS!



Tuesday, Dec. 11th = Elementary Chorus & Band (Grades 5 & 6) at 7pm
Thursday, Dec. 13th = Jr/Sr High Chorus and Band (Grades 7 – 12) at 7pm
Thursday, Dec. 20th = Grades 1 & 2 “The Littlest Reindeer” 6:30pm
and Grades 3 & 4 “Santa’s Holiday Playlist” at 7:30pm



ACS Students attend Center for Community Studies at JCC

Civic Engagement Forum: Meet John Zogby

Students in Mrs. Reilly's History and Political Science classes traveled to SUNY Jefferson on Thursday, September 13, to hear political pollster John Zogby give a presentation entitled "Who Votes, Who Doesn't and Why." Zogby is a senior analyst with JZ Analytics and founder of Zogby International, a market research and opinion polling firm founded in 1984 that has conducted public opinion research in more than 70 countries. Since the 1996 presidential election, Zogby has demonstrated pinpoint accuracy of polling the United States' presidential elections earning the monikers "the maverick predictor" (by *The Washington Post*) and "the prince of polling" (by political strategist Mary Matalin). Author of *The Way We'll Be: The Zogby Report on the Transformation of the American Dream*, Zogby is known for his data accuracy, trend spotting and global perspective. Annually, he delivers over 100 speeches, lectures and salon sessions, contributes to network television news broadcasts and has served as an election analyst on Al Jazeera English, an international 24-hour English-language news and current affairs TV channel.



Front row: Christopher Vaphiadis, Caitlin Ely, Madison Tierney, John Zogby, Stacy Baum, Molly Reilly, Alysa Honeywell, Ashlynn Lalonde
Back row: Dylan Rolfe, Ryan Cullen



Mrs. Reilly Receives Award

Molly Reilly was recognized by SUNY Jefferson Community College as the 2012 "Exceptional Contributor" for the EDGE Concurrent Enrollment program. Mrs. Reilly was awarded this honor during the October 5, 2012 EDGE Professional Development workshop at JCC. Mrs. Reilly teaches POL 121, HIS 150 and HIS 151 to our ACS students and is an Adjunct instructor for Social Science. (Pictured Molly Reilly and John Trumbell, JCC Continuing Education Coordinator - EDGE/Individual Studies)



Mrs. Aubertine's English Students Attend Presentation

Students in Mrs. Aubertine's Advanced Placement English class attended a production of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* in Ogdensburg on October 17th. Following the performance, students toured The Frederick Remington Museum. In attendance were Alysa Honeywell, Gulzan Suingarina, Brionna Ball, Rachael Calhoun, Ryan Cullen, Ashlynn Lalonde, Gabrielle Slate and Christopher Strough.

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming!

November 19, 20, 26, 27, 28

on the stage in the auditorium
during school hours;

Nov 19th until 6pm during parent conferences



Sponsored by PACE

Jr. High English ~ Mrs. Mangione

Your 7th graders are settling in nicely. They started off the year reading Ray Bradbury's "All Summer in a Day," which set them up for the theme of 7th grade English--making conscious choices about who they want to become. They are now reading "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes. During November your children will begin reading Tunes for Bears to Dance to by Robert Cormier.

Your 8th grade students started the year by reading "A Retrieved Reformation" by O. Henry. The story is about a bank robber who has to make the choice to continue a life of crime or change. This story describes the main character as being like the mythological phoenix. This set them up for the theme of 8th English—it's never too late to change. Your 8th graders will soon begin the book Pigman by Paul Zindel.



This year in both 7th and 8th grade English classes the students are practicing their interviewing skills. In September they asked Mr. Sproul (who is Mrs. Mangione's father) questions about his life and they took notes about what they heard. It is a slightly different way for the students to practice note taking, which is important in life, in their other classes, and part of what they are expected to learn according to state standards.

In November they will interview Mrs. Grady a Mary Kay Independent Sales Director, and in December they will interview Mr. Eberle who is a Paramedic Field Supervisor at Guilfoyle Ambulance Service. These interviews give students an opportunity to learn to practice their English skills in an interesting way.

FFA's Summer and Fall News ~ Mr. Campany

The FFA had a very rewarding summer program. The chapter sent members to compete at the Jefferson County fair, the Lewis County Fair and the New York State Fair. At all three events, the members came home with many ribbons for their efforts. Sixteen members also went to the State Fair to work the trams, a day filled with leadership development and public relations, as well as the usual fair enjoyment. The chapter also sent six members to the State FFA Leadership Camp for a week of leadership and recreational activities. Our school year is off to a great start with an Adopt a Highway pickup and elections of our new officers. President- Rachael Calhoun, Vice President- Gabby Slate, Secretary- Kayla Utterback, Treasurer- Chuck Livingston, Reporter- Kaleb Utterback, and Sentinel- Sierra Sourwine. On Sept 19, our chapter had the honor of hosting the National FFA Vice President from Idaho as well as the six state line officers. They spent nearly 2 hours at ACS visiting with our members.



Our annual fruit sale began Oct. 29 and our annual Red Cross Bloodmobile was held on Nov. 1
For more information, contact any FFA member, Mr. Campany, or our FFA website.



Pictured from left to right are the 2012-13 Alexandria Bay FFA chapter officers:

Rachael Calhoun- President

Sierra Sourwine- Sentinel

Kaleb Utterback- Reporter

Kayla Utterback- Secretary

Chuck Livingston-Treasurer

Gabby Slate- Vice President

YEARBOOK NEWS FOR SENIORS & PARENTS

- Senior portraits are due **DECEMBER 1st**.
- If ordering a personalized yearbook, the order must be placed before Christmas break.
- Personal ads may be taken out in the back of the yearbook to congratulate your senior. Full page ads are \$150 and your ad must be placed by the end of January.
- Seniors should bring in a baby picture by November 1st.

REPLAY IT!!!

Upload your photos for the 2013 yearbook! Go to **www.Replayit.com** to upload your photos today, it's easy and you may see your pictures in the yearbook. Any and all photos are welcome, from Elementary to last year's prom, sporting events and student candid! We are very excited to be bringing this to our school.

YEARBOOK SALES

The 2013 yearbook is on sale for just \$30 **UNTIL** January 30th. **NO BOOKS** will be sold after that until they arrive at the end of May. When the books arrive, extra copies will be sold for \$35 and the quantities **WILL BE** limited. **RESERVE YOUR COPY TODAY.**

Order forms will be sent home with all students. Order forms can be turned in to Ann Donovan or books may be ordered online at www.jostens.com.

BUSINESS ADS

To help offset the cost of the yearbook for our students, business ads are available for the following prices:

Full Page-- \$150 Half Page-- \$100 Quarter Page-- \$75 3 lines-- \$50 Business Card-- \$30

Please email any questions to adonovan@alexandriacentral.org

Thank you,

Ann Donovan, Yearbook Adviser

Varsity Softball Team "Pink Out" ~ Coach Bush

The 2012 Alexandria Central Varsity Softball Team would like to thank our student body, faculty, staff and community for their support of our school wide "pink out" and alumni softball game held in June. Together we raised \$582.00 for cancer research.

A special thank you goes out to the alumni who generously gave up free time to participate and contribute to this worthy cause. Also thank you to our volunteer officials Mr. Matt McCarthy and Ms. Teri Lowe.

The following is a list of participants: Sara Calhoun-'85, Liz Hutchinson- '85, Kim Bradley-'88, Angela Hunter-'88, Tasha Jeffers- '90, Barb Edgar – '95, Kara Pitts-'95, Heidi Hobbs – '95, Becky Byrns- '99, Brittany Smith- '07, Taylor Durand- '08, Tiffany Lingenfelter- '10, Mackenzie Bush-'10, Mollee Millett – '10, Jordan Bush- '12, Annie Griswold- '12.



Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) Chairperson ~ Mrs. Monica

Hello, Parents!

Of course all of you realize that we work with children here at ACS who are school-age. You may NOT be aware that there are options for children who are at the preschool level. Sometimes children need additional help due to delays in their speech and language, or maybe they are a bit behind in their motor development. Some children may have delays in multiple areas and need to get an extra "jump start" before they enter school.

If you have concerns that your preschool-age child may need to receive additional services, such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or perhaps a preschool program designed for children with special needs, there may be help available. Early intervention services are available through Jefferson County for eligible children ages birth – 2 years, and preschool special education services are available for eligible children 3-5 years of age. These services are at no cost to families for those children deemed eligible through evaluation.

If you would like more information or think that your child may need additional help with developmental skills such as those listed above, you can contact Pam Monica, Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) Chairperson at (315) 482-9971 ext. 1600. Early intervention can be the key to your child's success with learning!

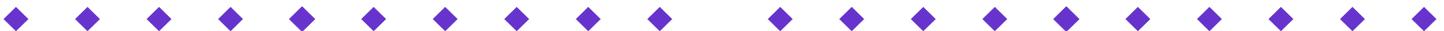


News From PACE ~ Mrs. Monica (Parents in Alexandria Central Education)

Hello, Parents! We are off to a great start at ACS. Our parent-teacher organization has had one meeting so far. We will be having our next PACE meeting on **Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 6:00pm**. Our meeting will be in the ACS library. Please come and join us.

We have already initiated our one and only fundraiser (Cherrydale sales). It was a great success and will help with funding activities and providing needed supplies for our children. We will be looking for parent helpers next month for our book fair as well as help when the Cherrydale orders come in. Please contact Patty Durand if you can help (482-9971 ext. 2031).

We will be discussing future activities for our families and children at our upcoming meetings. We welcome your input and look forward to seeing you there!



Parents-Did You Know?

Student Assistance Counselor, Mrs. Eberle

Did you know that a main reason why children chose not to use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs is parent disapproval? Do YOUR children know you do not approve?

Not sure how to have the conversation with your child? Keep it simple and direct and check for his/her understanding in the end. Here is a sample script:

- "My/Our expectation is that you will not use alcohol, tobacco, or any other kind of drug. If you do, there will be appropriate consequences for your actions. Do you understand?"

It is important for your children to hear this from you no matter what their age and keep having the conversation periodically.

Need more information? Please contact:

- Student Assistance Counselor, Kendra Eberle, at 482-9971 x 3350
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council, 788-4660
- Parents. The Anti-Drug. www.theantidrug.com





CLASS OF 2013

- SENIOR INTERVIEWS TAKING PLACE NOW! Please call me or email me to make an appointment with your senior student. We will create an activity record to send with college applications, go over the college application process, scholarship and financial aid information – and answer any questions you may have.
 Right now is time to get working on college applications and do college visitations if you have not done so already! Students apply to SUNY schools using www.suny.edu/student and Private schools using the “Common Application” – www.commonapp.org
- The Scholarship Packet is available online from our website. Please look this packet over with your son/daughter and encourage them to apply for scholarships. Scholarships are announced in classroom presentations throughout the year. If you have not done so already, be sure to log on to www.fastweb.com and fill out the questionnaire. They do the hard work for you and match your interests to find any available scholarships to apply for!
- Letters of recommendation for college applications and scholarships - please give at least two weeks notice so that staff members may write an effective letter.
 You will probably need to get financial aid for college. This is accomplished by completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and can only be done after January 1st. It is recommended that you file online at www.fafsa.org. Please contact my office with any questions you may have.

CLASS OF 2014

- Now is the time to start arranging college visits! There are many representatives visiting Alexandria Central School throughout the fall and many students have taken advantage of this opportunity to gather information about colleges that they are interested in.
- The results from the PSAT should be in by the end of December. I will be going over the results with students at that time and sending the results home with students afterwards.
 It is recommended that your son/daughter take one or more SATs and at least one ACT this year. Both are taken in Watertown or Ogdensburg test centers on several Saturdays throughout the year. Students can register online (www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org) for these exams - be sure to register on time to avoid late fees!
- There are a few national scholarships that are available to Juniors. I recommend that students log on to www.fastweb.com to start researching them.

CLASS OF 2015

- In the upcoming months, the sophomore class will have a presentation from the Jefferson Tech Center. Sophomore year is the time for your son/daughter to make the decision as to whether or not to attend vocational school for a half day during their Junior and Senior year – many of these programs offer advanced college credit to be earned while at the Technical Center. Students will sign up to visit two programs at BOCES to explore later this year. The Bohlen Technical Center offers the following programs:

ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTING / CADD	AUTO BODY REPAIR	AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY	BUILDING MAINTENANCE
BUSINESS COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY	CAREER OPTIONS	CARPENTRY/MASONRY	COSMETOLOGY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE	CULINARY BAKING / CULINARY COOKING	EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL WIRING	HEAVY EQUIPMENT	MEDICAL CAREERS	NURSING ASSISTANT
OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT	PLUMBING AND HEATING	SMALL ANIMAL CARE	VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS
VIRTUAL BUSINESS	WELDING TECHNOLOGY		

(continued from previous page)

- All Sophomores took the PLAN on October 18, a practice ACT test with a 90 question career interest inventory. The practice ACT is designed to predict what kind of score students could achieve on the college entrance exams. I will be going over the results with students in November and sending them home with the results.
Sophomore year is a very critical year with many students taking Regents in Math, Global Studies, Science, and Foreign Language!

CLASS OF 2016

- I have met with this year's Freshmen to help them to develop a "Four Year Plan". Whether it be vocational school at BOCES or earning college credits here at ACS, now is the time to start doing some serious mapping out of the future!
Study skills and strategies, student tutoring – Please encourage your son/daughter to contact me about these topics if needed! High school is more demanding - students may need some assistance with adjusting to this new level.

AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL CONTEST – December 7th

On December 7th, the American Legion Oratorical Contest will take place at Alexandria Central School at 8:15 in the Auditorium. This scholarship opportunity is open to any student in grades 9-12 who can speak for 8-10 minutes on any aspect of the United States Constitution. At this stage, students may use note cards to help them with their speech. Three students can advance to the county level where their speech must be memorized. Students can win thousands of dollars of scholarship money through this contest. Please encourage your son or daughter talk to their history teacher or myself to sign up for this event!

FINANCIAL AID PLANNING NIGHT – November 19th at 6:30PM in the auditorium

After Parent-Teacher conferences, I will be hosting a financial aid planning night. Several topics will be covered, including: applying for financial aid, scholarships, grants, loans, saving for college, starting a free 529 saving plan through www.upromise.com. A representative from Jefferson Community College's financial aid office will present to parents of juniors and seniors who are college-bound.

IMPORTANT DATES

- October 26th – ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude and Battery) for juniors and seniors at 8:15AM in the auditorium. A permission letter will be mailed home for permission to take this exam.
- November – PLAN results brought home by 10th graders.
- December 7th – American Legion Oratorical Contest at 8:15 in the auditorium.
- December – PSAT results brought home by 11th graders.
- SAT and ACT registration dates – please see our website for information.
- TBD – BOCES / JCC Visit Day for all Sophomores

OTHER TIDBITS

Youth Court of Jefferson County is taking applications for this school year for any student in grades 9-12 to participate in. Youth Court is a judicial system for Jefferson County students, where participants act as judge, jury, lawyer, etc. Please see me for more information.

The manufacturing area of employment is making a steady comeback and there is a shortage of workers to fulfill many positions. There is a planned manufacturing summit for students being planned in the spring through the Workforce Investment board.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

All scholarships that are available are scanned and uploaded to the ACS webpage and are listed with their due date. Please make sure that scholarship applications are started EARLY as many scholarship applications require letters of recommendation, essays, and transcripts. Teachers, students, and counselors are not prepared to submit information in a short amount of time. Please allow at least one week for a letter of recommendation to be written.



Please visit our school website at: 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)



Request for Parent/Guardian Username and Password

First Name		Last Name	
Child(ren) Name	1.	2.	3.
Your Personal Email Address			
Your Home Phone Number			
Your Desired Username		Date of Request	
Your Desired Password		Date of Completion (office only)	

SIGNATURE: _____

Your username should be all lowercase, consisting of the first two initials (or one initial) of your first names as parents. Please choose a password you will easily remember, and write it down. Please return to Kevin Durr, School Counselor, Room 307. You can also scan and email the form to kdurr@alexandriacentral.org

