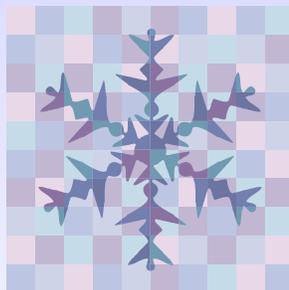




**Alexandria Central School
Newsletter—February 2014**



2013-2014 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.

Kyle Faulkner, Superintendent
Julie Ludwig, Secondary Principal
Amy St. Croix, Elementary Principal

Board of Education:
Patricia Aitcheson, President
Stephen Dreizler, Vice President
Andrea Adsit
Jane Aikins
William Farman
Suzanne Hunter
Christine Lingenfelter

Brianne Frizzell , School Business Manager
Kim Carpenter, Secretary to Superintendent/District Clerk
Rod Tidd, Head Mechanic
Anne Remington, Cook Manager
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*





Kyle Faulkner Superintendent



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the Alexandria Central community. My name is Kyle Faulkner and I began my duties on January 1, 2014. It has been a smooth transition for me so far as I have tried to meet as many people as possible while familiarizing myself with the school and the community. People have been warm and welcoming and have made me feel at home right from the beginning.

I am originally from Parish, New York so I am quite familiar with snow, to say the least! Although I cannot honestly tell you that I missed the snow, I am certainly happy to be back in this part of the state after spending the first 20 years of my career in Western New York. Prior to coming to ACS, I was a social studies teacher and also served as a grade 5-12 principal in a K-12 building for the last 15 years. My experience is in a small, rural school which is one of the main reasons I wanted to come to Alexandria Central. Although we are facing many challenges as we move forward, I have seen a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and a work ethic which will make these challenges less daunting.

I have spent the first few weeks at ACS trying to learn as much as I can about the school. I have reviewed the last several budgets, the school report cards, and several other documents that have given me a great deal of insight into how ACS has performed both financially and academically. It is fair to say that your Board of Education and administration have done an excellent job dealing with the devastating reduction in state aid over the last several years. The stress that the loss of so much money has on small schools in terms of programs and positions is hard to measure. ACS has been creative and strategic in their planning which has resulted in fewer losses than most schools. At the same time, academic achievement has been equal to, and in some cases exceeded, achievement in similar schools. The students do well here and the numbers of students moving on to higher education is increasing. These results do not occur without a concerted effort in which everyone works together. One of my goals will be to continue to encourage and improve the team approach as we look to deal with the issues that will most assuredly come our way in the near future.

I have also tried to spend some time in the hallways and classrooms of ACS getting to know the students and staff. I thoroughly enjoy experiencing the everyday happenings of the school and I am aware that this is how I will get to know everyone and learn about the culture of the building. Needless to say, I have seen teachers working hard and students listening, speaking and interacting. I have noticed a "student first" approach in which teachers are constantly encouraging and go above and beyond in order to offer each student opportunities to participate in as many activities as possible. I see a student body that is comfortable and yet prepared to be challenged each day to improve. I have found ACS to be an excellent environment for teaching and learning. I will work hard to support that atmosphere and improve it when and where it is possible.

I am looking forward to working at Alexandria Central and ensuring that our students succeed and become contributing members of society. We have a lot of work to do, but we will get it done together. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have thoughts or concerns.

**Julie Ludwig
High School Principal**



Welcome to Winter!!!

We are half way through the year and we have so much to be proud of! Our long holiday break – while including some icy, crazy weather – was a success and teachers and students have returned rested and ready to roll!

The unpredictable weather continues and we have had several early dismissals, late openings, and closures. These days impact the continuity of learning – and since there may be more on the way – it is important that students attend every day to ensure they have the time to work with our fantastic teachers to attain our learning standards. Our daily attendance is up and that is just one of many things we can celebrate!

Our students in the secondary are actively involved in our winter sports programs including basketball for girls and boys at multiple levels. We also have active participation in both girls and boys hockey. A group of our girls are also enjoying and succeeding in our bowling program! Our winter sports awards are scheduled for March 4th and we hope to see you there!

Juniors and seniors had the opportunity to attend Workforce 2020 on Friday, January 10. These students were able to sit and meet with local businesses to explore interests and discuss career opportunities. Throughout the fall many of our high school students also had the chance to visit several colleges. There will be more visits arranged for the future. These trips allow students to see what campus life is like and learn a little about the programs that are offered. It is a great way to spark interests and begin the exciting process of investigating future prospects. Our 8th grade will visit BOCES in early March to explore the many Career and Technical programs offered. This is a chance for them to begin planning their high school course of study.

Our air band competition was cancelled in December due to an early release for bad weather – we have (tentatively) rescheduled for March 7, our next Standards Day. Students have worked hard to create unique and entertaining acts – we look forward to the competition!

Students need to keep in mind the dress code and the cell phone policy. We need to remember that pants have seams on the outside – if you are wearing leggings (without seams, ladies) please wear a top that comes to the bottom of your fingertips. I will also remind everyone that we do not allow electronic devices to be used in the school from entry until 2:51. At teacher discretion electronic devices may be used in the classroom as instructional tools. At any time, students may come to the office to contact parents, and parents may contact the office and we will get messages to your students.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support you and your students!

Welcome to Alexandria Central School!
Kyle Faulkner - Superintendent
Brianne Frizzell - School Business Manager
Anne Remington - Cook Manager



**Amy St. Croix
Elementary Principal**



During the holiday season, the students of Alexandria Elementary enjoyed a multitude of activities, including story time with Santa, touring our community with a hay ride, giving trees, and meeting Santa at one of our local banks. We would like to thank all the community members and local businesses that gave our students the gift of the holiday season. Thank you!

As we progress into the second half of our school year, our teachers continue to work hard, during professional development, as we implement the Common Core Standards. Students are being exposed to a culturally diverse array of literature. During this past quarter, we are pleased to share that many of our students have achieved both honor roll and high honor roll. ...a monumental accomplishment!

On February 3, 2014, our 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders competed in our school-wide Spelling Bee. The following students competed against their peers for a chance to represent Alexandria Central at the Regional Spelling Bee, at General Brown, on March 11th @ 6:30p.m.

8th Grade

Christian
Ladabouche
Ian McIlrath
Alexandria Hansson
Garrett Wardell
Kirsten Jensen
Jacob Hunneyman

7th Grade

Dylan O'Connor
Marissa Ely
Iris Lower
Deegan Shaffer
Molli Hazelton
Mason Gorman

6th Grade

Daniel Barney
Wesley Burgos
Scott Dreizler
Sarah Shaffer
Sam Felicia
Billy Mitchell

5th Grade

Hailey Hemmingsen
Bailee Burgos
Colby Side
Rebecca Davis
Brendan Collette
Kane Smith

CONGRATULATIONS to our winners!!

1st Place: Dylan O'Connor

2nd Place: Molli Hazelton

3rd Place: Rebecca Davis



Left to right: Rebecca Davis, Dylan O'Connor, Molli Hazelton

This will be the 3rd year in a row that Dylan will compete in the Regional Spelling Bee - Good Luck Dylan!

BUDGET TIME—YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Letter Writing Campaign

Since 2010, Alexandria Central has lost \$2,497,040 due to the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) !! This can not continue!! Please consider writing a letter to your NYS Representatives to end the Gap Elimination Adjustment that has affected NYS Public School Budgets. Urge the Governor to Discontinue the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA).

Alexandria Central School is beginning a letter writing campaign to legislators, urging them to discontinue the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). When implemented in 2010, its original purpose was to help close the state's budget gap, by reducing education aid. However, the GEA has existed in every budget since. If the cuts continue and the situation continues, we've got less than a few years to offer a viable program.

Since the 2009-2010 school year, the State has deducted from each school district's state aid allocation an amount of funds to help the state fill its revenue shortfall. The state must stop shifting its costs to local school districts. Districts have been coping with the cumulative impact of four consecutive years of state aid losses resulting from the GEA. The net impact has been detrimental to students in the form of cuts in personnel, programs and services and the depletion of district reserves. Without relief, class sizes will continue to increase and opportunities for students will continue to decrease. The "trickle-down" effect of these reductions falls onto the backs of school districts and in turn, local taxpayers. There is only so much we can eliminate before the academic program begins to suffer and there is only so much we can ask of our taxpayers who are also feeling the crunch of a stagnant economy.

Continued state aid loss due to GEA reductions will continue to diminish the quality of education school districts can provide. School Boards will be forced to continue making strong cuts to personnel, the educational program, services and extracurricular activities, and to continue depleting what is left of their reserves.

Below are three easy ways in which you can help:

1. Learn about New York's Gap Elimination Adjustment and how it impacts your school district – fiscally and in relation to programs/services.
2. Write letters to your legislators asking them to support the elimination of GEA reductions (see addresses below and sample letters on the next page).
3. Meet face-to-face with your legislators to explain the impact of GEA reductions on your students, your schools, and your community.

We need the Governor to understand as he builds his budget, the effect the gap Elimination Adjustment is having. Alexandria Central School is urging community members to write letters to legislators, asking for a complete elimination of the GEA. Please support our school and students!

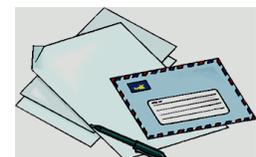
New York State Representatives addresses:

Assemblywoman Addie Russell
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601
RussellA@assembly.state.ny.us

Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush
15 Bridge St.
Carthage, NY 13619
blankenbushK@assembly.state.ny.us

Senator Patty Ritchie
330 Ford Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
Ritchie@nyssenate.gov

Congressman Bill Owens
120 Washington St. Suite 200
Watertown, NY 13601
Email: Go to <http://owens.house.gov>



Please see the next page for sample letters.

(continued from previous page)

Sample Letter #1

Representative's name: (see addresses on previous page)

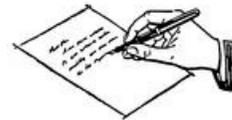
We need your help! The Alexandria Central School District is establishing a letter-writing campaign to eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) from our school budget for the 2014-15 school year. It is NOW that we need to make our voices and numbers heard in Albany.

Governor Cuomo will soon be instituting a fifth "one time" GEA to our school district. Since the take-back went into effect, Alexandria Central has lost more than 2.5 million dollars in aid under GEA legislation. To be responsible fiscal agents, our district has made deep cuts in staffing, extra-curricular activities, academic programs, and reserves. Even during these challenging fiscal times, our district remains in good standing with the State Education Department. Our spending per pupil is below the state average and by making painful cuts we still remain strong academically.

Attention needs to be focused on Albany to provide support to districts that are doing the right thing. The Alexandria Central community has felt the impact of the first four years of the GEA. Coupled with the Tax Levy Cap, this reduction in revenue will continue to have a devastating impact on the programs currently provided to our children. We need to ask for mandate relief and the removal, once and for all, of the GEA.

As voters, we have the right, and obligation, to contact our lawmakers to make our opinions known. Please make your opinion heard so that Alexandria Central School District can continue to provide quality education to our students. (**Express why you decided to move into or stay in the Alexandria Central School District.**) Please understand that we need mandate relief and removal of the Gap Elimination Adjustment. I'd like to see education aid restored. It is time to understand there is a need for mandate relief and the removal, once and for all, of the GEA.

Thank you for your time and dedication to the North Country.
(Your signature)



Sample Letter #2

Representative's name: (see addresses on previous page)

I am a resident of the Alexandria Central School District and I am writing to urge you to do what you can to discontinue the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) for Alexandria Central and all other school districts.

When first implemented in 2010, its original purpose was to help close the state's budget gap, by a onetime reduction in education aid. However, the GEA has existed in every budget since. If the cuts continue and the situation continues, we've got less than a few years to offer a viable educational program to our students.

Since the 2009-2010 school year, the state has deducted from each school district's state aid allocation an amount of funds to help the state fill its revenue shortfall. The state must stop shifting its costs to local school districts. Districts have been coping with the cumulative impact of four consecutive years of state aid losses resulting from the GEA. The net impact has been detrimental to students in the form of cuts in personnel, programs and services and the depletion of district reserves. In dollars, Alexandria Central has lost more than \$2.5 million. Without relief, class sizes will continue to increase and opportunities for students will continue to decrease. The "trickle-down" effect of these reductions falls onto the backs of school districts and in turn, local taxpayers. There is only so much we can eliminate before the academic program begins to suffer and there is only so much we can ask of our taxpayers who are also feeling the crunch of a stagnant economy.

Continued state aid loss due to GEA reductions will continue to diminish the quality of education the Alexandria Central School District can provide. School boards will be forced to continue making strong cuts to personnel, the educational program, services and extracurricular activities, and to continue depleting what is left of their reserves. This is the point that Alexandria Central is at.

Below are several easy ways in which you can help:

- Eliminate New York's Gap Elimination Adjustment
- Eliminate all new mandates for schools
- Eliminate unneeded mandates

We need your assistance in helping the governor to understand as he builds his budget, the effect the Gap Elimination Adjustment is having on Alexandria Central and other districts. Thank you.

(Your signature)



What's Happening in First Grade?

Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Ventiquattro, and Mrs. VanCour



First Graders are learning about Ancient American Civilizations. A civilization has farming, cities, leaders, and religion. The three civilizations we are focusing on are the Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas.

We are continuing our study on long vowel patterns. We are writing and reading with these patterns. Look for the magic e at the end of our spelling words!

Math stories are worked on every day. We read the problems, create a picture for the story, and draw a bond to solve the problem. Next, we write addition or subtraction number expressions. Finally, we create a statement to answer the question posed by the math story.



Second Grade Good Citizens

Mrs. Cullen, Mr. Hudon, and Mrs. Morgan

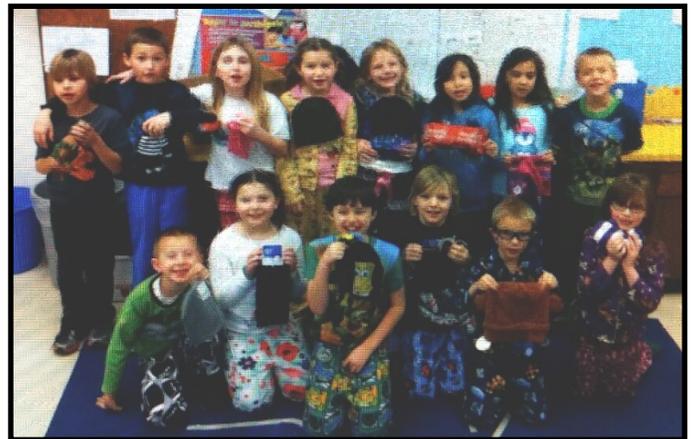


This past Christmas, in lieu of exchanging gifts, the ACS second graders generously brought in to school a large assortment of winter clothing accessories. In early January, these hats, mittens, gloves and scarves were donated to the Alexandria Community Food Pantry located on Route 12 just past the TI Bridge. The students were very excited to play a role in helping those in need in our community. Families using the food pantry were also excited to leave with an added bonus to their food supplies!



Mrs. Cullen's Class

Seated: Ian Donovan, Dominic Yasonia, Dylan Escudero, Brady Carpenter, Gabby Hoffmann, and Mary Felicia
 Standing: Ella Graveline, Adrian Reynolds, Aidan Schaefer, Owen Ingalls, Amaris Sibert and Alex Stephenson
 Missing from Photo: Maria Panunzio and Steven Mattison



Mr. Hudon's Class

Kneeling: Elijah McIlrath, Madison Delorme, Drew Hunneyman, Hayden Morrison, Austin Schaefer and Caitlin Rushlow
 Standing: Trenton Brinkman, Trevor Mofte, Ava Flinn, Kiana Carlisle, Alexis Baker, Kalea Barney, Elissa Saavedra-Crump and Payton Watson
 Missing from Photo: Michael Knipe Jr. and Cheyenne Blackwell



Mrs. Morgan's Class (left)

Seated: Ethan Rice, Gabby Hoffberg, Brynlee Starritt, Austin Parker, Ciara Dawley, and Katrina Sanford
 Standing: Erik Croll, Jack Castle, Alex Perkins-Grimaldi, Ella Saavedra-Crump, Olivia Adsit, Jordann Aikins, and Molly Edgar.
 Missing from photo: Trenton Dunn, Joseph Lopresti, and Yousef Panunzio

Jefferson Community College's EDGE Program



Alexandria Central School currently offers several concurrent enrollment courses through Jefferson Community College's EDGE (Education Demonstrating Growth & Excellence) program. Students are able to earn college credit while attending high school. Some classes are offered through distance learning and five faculty members serve as adjunct instructors here at ACS. Our ACS faculty offer courses in Political Science, History, French, Computer Information Systems, Business, and Health.

- Mrs. Turgeon's French IV class has 12 students earning 3 college credits through JCC EDGE. During the fall semester students continued to develop speaking and writing skills in French. In December a special guest presentation was given by Ms. Messenger about Senegal, Africa. She participated in an undergraduate exchange program through Wells College in Senegal and shared her pictures along with various experiences and cultural differences with the students. Mrs. Turgeon prepared a typical Senegalese dish called Maffe, which is made with chicken, peanut butter and sauce served over couscous for them to enjoy "authentic" cuisine.

Other cultural and historical themes were explored through some French films. Students viewed and discussed Les Miserables, a well known movie and Broadway show and The Rocket which is about Maurice Richard, a famous Quebecois hockey legend and his life and career with the Montreal Canadiens.

- "Researching Right" : Mrs. Reilly's HIS 150 and POL 121 students have finalized academic research papers concerning the US Federal System (1787-1877) and electoral behavior. Having been trained by SUNY Jefferson Librarian, Mr. John Thomas, earlier this year, students used SUNY library databases to find current social science academic articles to prepare and defend arguments. Student's practice of these valuable skills is one example of how ACS students are becoming ready for college and career.

Real World Economics ~ Mrs. Reilly

Senior economics students have completed an entrepreneurship project. As a class students planned, administered and closed a business. This year, students ran a candy sales business earning money to benefit the ACS backpack club. Class leaders include CEO Brock Ward, CFO Colby Hunter and COO Christopher Carrasquillo. Congratulations students on a job well done!



Library News ~ Mrs. Tidd



The library continues to be a very busy place! Students from Kindergarten through 12th grade visit the library on a daily basis to borrow books and other resources, work on computers, and attend library classes. Students have been enjoying reading many of the new books that our library has recently received; many of which were purchased with profits of our fall book fair. Thank you parents for supporting our book fair! Our spring book fair will be held in May during the week of the school budget vote.

During library classes, our 4th, 5th and 6th graders are currently involved in a winter Olympics research project. The students are using multiple resources, both print and online, including magazines, newspapers, nonfiction books, online encyclopedias, and websites to locate and access information about the winter Olympics. They are learning how to research using the "Big 6" research and problem solving model. Through this process the students will work on their note-taking skills, learn about plagiarism and how to properly cite their sources, compile a bibliography, and create a final product using technology.

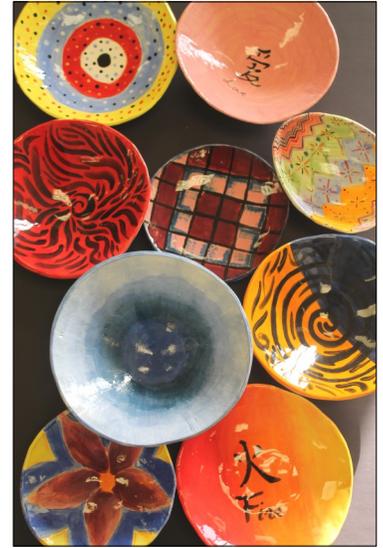
Third graders will soon beginning a research project also. Students will be using library resources to learn about different countries that are included the Third Grade Common Core Module that is currently being taught in their classrooms.

It is important that children learn the basic skills of researching in the earlier grades so that they have a foundation on which to build on these skills as they progress through junior and senior high school.

Empty Bowls Event
Mrs. Bresnahan; NHS Adviser

On Tuesday, March 4th, the National Honor Society in conjunction with the ACS Ceramics students as well as the Junior High Art students will be sponsoring an Empty Bowls Event. Empty Bowls has been designed to feed those in need. Simply, artisans create and make bowls which are then donated to the cause. Community guests are then invited to a simple meal where they select a bowl, have it filled, dine, and then keep the bowl. The bowl is a reminder of all empty bowls in the world which go unfilled each day. The proceeds from the event are then donated to a local organization working towards fighting hunger.

The ACS Empty Bowls Event will support the ACS BackPack Club. The bowls have been made by the ACS students under the direction of Mrs. Ann Donovan and Ms. Kylie Hebert. The student bowls all were made from clay and glazes that were paid for through private donations. The event will be held in the ACS cafeteria from 5-7 pm with a spaghetti supper being the featured meal under the guidance of Ms. Ann Remington and Ms. Yvonne Bartlett. A silent auction of local artists' works will also be available. A minimum donation of \$10 will be accepted and the number is limited to 300. Pre-sale tickets are available from any Honor Society member or by calling the ACS Main Office at 482-9971.



FFA News ~
Mr. Campany

The Alexandria Central FFA is currently preparing for a busy spring season. Preparations have already begun for competitions in leadership contests. These contests include: prepared speaking, extemporaneous speaking, creed speaking, employment interview, people in agriculture, parliamentary procedure, and agricultural issues. The Bay Chapter hopes to have several of its members involved with these contests. The contests are scheduled for March 1 and Alexandria Central is hosting the event. There will be FFA members from across Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties involved in this leadership activity. Winners will then move on to the Substate level. **If anyone is interested in helping with this event, either judging, timing, or monitoring, please contact Mr. Campany.** Many adults will be needed to make this activity run smoothly.

Also, our winter weekend getaway is scheduled for March 21-23. Members have begun the planning phases of our trip. More info will follow but we typically have approximately 50 members and alumni spending a fun-filled, leadership infused weekend in the Adirondacks at the FFA Leadership Camp in Croghan, NY.

On December 14, Dean Swanson, Brendon Hunter, Brandon Davis, attended and spoke at the Redwood Grange Christmas party. Also in attendance from the chapter were Dylan Matice and Alexandra Hansson. The group shared with those in attendance activities and programs that the Bay Chapter does over the course of the year.

On December 19, a casual Christmas party was held for the members. Those in attendance enjoyed, hot cocoa, snacks, and games.



Pictured left to right:
Dean Swanson,
Brandon Davis,
Norris Handschuh
(Grange president),
Brendon Hunter

2nd Marking Period News From 7th and 8th Grade English
Mrs. Mangione



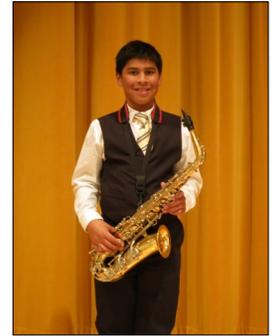
Before Christmas, your 8th graders looked into the themes of the importance of being aware of society and being themselves. We read Kurt Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron," "Hidden Messages in Water" by Dr. Masaru Emoto, articles on the frog analogy (which suggests that a frog can be boiled to death if it is done slowly enough), and we studied song lyrics. All of these pieces demonstrated the importance of "being yourself" and being aware of what is happening in society. As a culminating activity for the unit, your students created Black Out/Found poems from the actual pages of the texts we read. This was a fun, creative activity for the students. Ms. Hebert gets complete credit for this activity because she shared the idea with me and helped me plan how to do it.

The 7th graders read "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes. Your students read and wrote about an article on brain development that related to the story, and we held a classroom debate on whether Charlie (main character of "Flowers for Algernon") should have had the surgery that altered his brain. The students then read and acted out the play version of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." They practiced reading with proper emotions from the text, and they were very creative with sound effects.

Since returning from the holiday break, both 7th and 8th graders have been working on creating Public Service Announcements using iMovie on the iPads the district received through the STEM grant. Your 7th graders chose driving questions based on hope, perseverance, or the importance of thinking outside themselves. These are topics that they spent a great deal of time considering while reading their first novel of the year A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park. The 8th graders chose driving questions based on the importance of being themselves or being aware of what's happening in their society to tie into what they have most recently studied. Because of snow days, we hope to view the finished products on Jan. 30.

All students are gearing up for their independent book reading project on February 6 and 7. The project is called Book Bistro. The idea is for your students to come together to discuss their books of choice as if they were in a book club that meets in a coffee house. Students will be grouped by the genres of their chosen books and will present their books to their groups. Thanks to generous parents and guardians, students will get to enjoy snacks during the event.

Please contact me if you have concerns, questions, comments, or would like to sign up for my weekly information email.



Jefferson-Lewis Bi-County Music Festival ~ Mr. Hammond

Sixth graders Lindsey Monica and Cristofer Tidd recently represented Alexandria Central at the Jefferson-Lewis Bi-County Music Festival at South Jefferson High School. Not only did they both do a wonderful job performing, it was a great opportunity for both students to play advanced literature with the best musicians from our region. It was also exciting for them to play to a packed house. Lindsey performed on her clarinet and Cristofer performed on his saxophone.



CONGRATULATIONS to the Cast and Crew of GREASE!

We packed the house for 3 terrific shows, and wowed the audiences with our amazing singing, acting, costumes, set and props! What an amazing team we have here! Thank you to the cast for all of their hard work – you're awesome!

Thank you to our amazing crew – Mike & Mary Witt, Betse Murphy, Cindy Nelson, Star Hansson, Elaine Goerger, Tom Weldon, Sam Vaphiadis, Tricia Aitchison, Jeff & Heather McIlrath, Claudia Kirkland, Dan Hammond, Robert Harvell, Ron Sacci, The Thomas family, Ricky Taylor, and ANYONE else who helped in ANY way – we couldn't do it without you!!!

Below is the **Senior Cast of Grease** with Mrs. Taylor

Raymond Dickhaut (Vince Fontaine), Chris Carrasquillo (Sonny), Chris Vaphiadis (Kenicke),
Amanda Lingenfelter (Rizzo), Lauren Cobb (Jan) & Rebecca Hitchcock (Beauty School Dropout)



MUSIC NEWS from Mrs. Taylor



This winter has brought us some fun activities in the music department! The kids had great winter concerts, showcasing all sorts of talent and enthusiasm by students from grades 1 to 12!

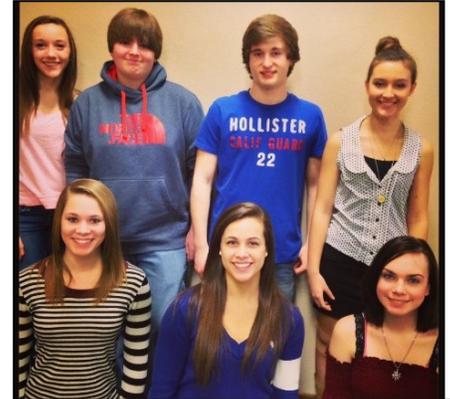
- **Select Choir** performed this Christmas for the Alex Bay Senior Citizens and performed at the Densmore Church Concert series for a PACKED house! They were fantastic!
- Select Choir also hosted their **Annual Talent Show**, featuring kids from grades 4 – 12. Top acts in the Elementary included : 1st place: Sarah Shaffer & Hayley Neuroth dancing and singing to “Roar”; 2nd place Ashley St. Croix singing “Thousand Years”; and tied for 3rd Abigail Wolfe on her violin and Hallie Bain & Cherica Smith dancing to “Brave.” In the high school division, top honors went to Coltin Sochia with his amazing dance moves! 2nd place was Rachelle Johnson playing piano and singing “Christmas Shoes.” 3rd place was Amanda Lingenfelter singing “On My Own from Les Miserables.” Other awesome acts in the show were Summer Williams singing and playing piano to “Say Something;” Gavin Taylor, Haley Heath & Karissa McIlrath singing “A Heart Full of Love” from Les Miserables, Alex Hansson playing her flute to “Think of Me” from Phantom of the Opera; Emily Thomas singing “I Won’t Let Go;” and Kira Hollinger singing an original tune, “Don’t Give Up.” Kudos to all performers on a job WELL DONE!



Back Row: Ashley, Cherica, Hallie & Abigail
Front row: Winners - Hayley & Sarah



Back row: Summer, Rachelle (2nd place), Alex
Front row: Coltin Sochia - winner



Back row: Karissa, Gavin, Coltin, Emily
Front row: Haley, Amanda (3rd place), Summer

- February 1st was the Junior High (Grades 7-8-9) Bi-County Festival at South Jefferson High School! Representing ACS were freshmen Haley Heath, Karissa McIlrath, Grace Felicia, 8th grader Karlie Fancher, and 7th graders Colby Burrows, Donovan Sweetland, Kelsey Cullen & Emily Davis! They performed a variety of pieces including “A New Age Dawning,” “Memory” from Cats, “Flying Free”, “Let There Be Peace on Earth,” and “Three Contemporary Latin Settings”. Great job, kids!

UPCOMING CONCERTS!mark your calendars, parents!!

- **Grades 1 & 2** will be performing “BUGZ,” a show that is both funny and sweet! The bugs are preparing to head to a picnic, where they will get to eat lots of great food! They are led by the Army Ants, taught manners by the Lady Bugs, led to the park in the evening by the lightning bugs, and they even find a way to help cover the scent of the stinky Stink Bug! Be prepared to dress your little ones as a bug! The concert is **Thursday, May 15th** at 6:30pm.
- **Grades 3 & 4** will be performing “Child of the World,” a show that builds character, addressing honesty, respect, courage, compassion and responsibility! Fun music, and wonderful lessons learned! Ask your child to tell you about it! The concert is also **Thursday, May 15th**, following the 1st & 2nd grade, at 7:30pm.
- **Grades 5 & 6** are performing “Pirates!” This is a really cute show that features many kids in various roles. The King of the High C’s, the Stowaway, Redbeard, Blackbeard, Bluebeard, Greenbeard, Purplebeard... you get the picture! Lots of blimey pirate talk, fun costuming, and some very touching music as well! The concert is **Thursday, May 22nd** at 7:00pm!
- **Grades 7-12** will be performing their spring concert with the theme “Let’s Go to the Movies!” You’ll hear songs from Annie, Pitch Perfect, Dirty Dancing, Shrek, Fame, Risky Business, Les Miserables, Skyfall, Top Gun, and more! This show will feature performances by Concert Choir, Select Choir, MeloManiacs, and of course, our seniors from the class of 2014! It is **Tuesday, June 3rd** at 7:00pm!



CONGRATULATIONS to CHRIS VAPHIADIS
who was nominated as a WWNY-TV7 ARTS ALL STAR!
Way to go Chris!

A.C.S. Students Participate in Food Drive

Alexandria Central School would like to thank all students, parents, teachers, and staff for their support of the recent Food Drive. During the week of December 9-13, hundreds of non-perishable food and personal hygiene items were collected to benefit the Alexandria Bay and Redwood food pantries. Junior High students helped collect, organize, pack, transport, and stock shelves with the donated items. Those students who helped are Payton Smith, Lindsey Bradley, Gage Goerger, Treyvon Walker, Alex Johnston, Kirshe Weatherford, Lucas Parrow, Hayden Hunter, Robbie Carr, Mason Gorman, Trenton Perry, Kyle Gionet, Deegan Schaffer, and Hannah Side.



National Honor Society Selection Process

Mrs. Bresnahan– Adviser



The National Honor Society chapter of Alexandria Central School is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of this prestigious national organization. Membership is open to those students who meet the required standards in four areas of evaluation: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Standards for selection are established by the national office of NHS and have been revised to meet our local chapter needs. Students are selected to be members by a 5-member Faculty Council, appointed by the principal, which bestows this honor upon qualified students on behalf of the faculty of our school each spring.

Students in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grades are eligible for membership. For the scholarship criterion, a student must have a cumulative GPA of 88% or better. Those students who meet this criterion are invited to complete a Student Activity Information Form that provides the Faculty Council with information regarding the candidate's leadership and service. A history of leadership experiences and participation in school or community service is also required.

To evaluate a candidate's character, the Faculty Council uses four forms of input. The candidate will submit a letter of recommendation from a community member along with a letter of intent. The Faculty Council will also utilize school disciplinary records and finally, members of the faculty are solicited for input regarding their professional reflections on a candidate's service activities, character, and leadership. These forms and the Student Activity Information Forms are carefully reviewed by the Faculty Council to determine membership. A majority vote of the Council is necessary for selections. Candidates are notified regarding selection or nonselection according to a predetermined schedule.

Following notification, a formal induction ceremony is held at the school to recognize all the newly selected members. Once inducted, new members are required to maintain the same level or performance, or better, in all four criteria that lead to their selection. This obligation includes regular attendance to chapter meetings held during the school year, and participation in the chapter service projects. Students or parents who have questions regarding the selection process or membership obligations can contact the chapter adviser, Mrs. Barbara Bresnahan at 482-9971.

Teen Brain Development and Alcohol

Mrs. 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.

Home and Careers ~ Mrs. Murphy

Seventh grade Home and Careers students have been busy constructing pillows.
Below are photos of their completed projects.



Emily Davis and Taitt Heath pose with their pillows.



Payton Smith, Gabi Connor, Haylee Adams



Iris Lower



Hannah Weller, Haylee Adams with an acorn bag, Madison Woods



Griffin Ferency with quilt squares, Haylee Adams, Payton Smith with a cat nip toy



Colby Herrington and Taitt Heath



Griffin Ferency made his pillow with 2 different fabrics.



Colby Burrows and Mackenzie Hyde



Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education
Mrs. Murphy



THANK YOU to everyone for your continued support of these two programs. So far this year we have earned over \$900 from Box Tops For Education! We have also been able to use our Campbell's Labels for Education to purchase nine items for classrooms throughout our school.

Please continue to send in your Box tops for Education and Labels for Education. They may be dropped off in the main office. Thank you again for your support.

Veterans Day Celebration at A.C.S.

On Friday, November 8, 2013, Alexandria Central School hosted a Veterans Day celebration to honor our veterans and show our pride as Americans. Thirty-two veterans were honored by thirty-nine Alexandria Central School students. Many of the veterans were current students, parents, grandparents, and family friends.

During the ceremony, patriotic musical performances were given by students, Boy Scout troop #65 presented our nation's colors, and each veteran was honored with a certificate of recognition and a medal. A reception was held immediately following the ceremony. In addition to our Veterans Day celebration, a Hall of Honor was created in the school that displayed the names of one hundred twenty three student-nominated veterans. Alexandria Central School would like to thank all veterans for their service to our country.



1. Amy St. Croix, Elementary Principal, Mr. Phillip Hunter nominated by grandson Ryan Hunter (1st grade), Robert Wagoner, Superintendent
2. Mrs. Jeri Lusk-Smith nominated by son Kane Smith (5th grade)
3. Todd Gorman nominated by son Charlie Gorman (1st Grade)
4. Michael Knipe Sr. nominated by son Michael Knipe Jr. (2nd Grade)



**Congratulations to Yvonne Bartlett
on your retirement as Cook Manager!**

**Thank you for your 24 years
of service at A.C.S. !**

This year's yearbook sale is now over, thank you to all that purchased a book!! The final number of copies ordered will have to be submitted to Jostens soon. If you missed the order deadline and would still like to get this year's book, please contact Ann Donovan at school and a copy will be reserved for you.

The yearbook staff has begun selling ads for this year's book. If you have a business and would like to support the yearbook by purchasing an ad, please fill out the attached form and return it to school. All ads are fully customized and full color! Ads are available in many sizes and prices for every budget and are due by the end of February. Our sponsors help keep the cost of the yearbook down for our students, without them a yearbook might cost over \$60! Thank you to all the businesses that continue to support us year after year, we truly appreciate it!
Contact Ann Donovan: adonovan@alexandriacentral.org

Ad Pricing for the 2014 Alexandria Central School Yearbook



Full Page	\$150.00
Half Page.....	\$100.00
Quarter Page.....	\$75.00
3 Lines.....	\$50.00
Business Card.....	\$30.00

- All Business ads are FULL COLOR and can be CUSTOMIZED with TEXT, GRAPHICS & PHOTOS
- Ads can be BUSINESS or PERSONAL (dedicated to a graduating senior)
- Please fill out and return:

Business name _____

Contact person _____

Phone number _____

Address _____

Ad size _____

Notes _____

Return to:
Alexandria Central School
c/o Yearbook Adviser
34 Bolton Avenue
Alexandria Bay , NY 13607
13607



SENIORS – CLASS OF 2014

Scholarship Applications - 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 2014.

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 Students and Parents -> College, SAT ACT & Scholarship Information -> Scholarship Application Downloads
- 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 college bound student. I suggest doing this as soon as possible! 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 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) by March 1 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 April 1, 2014.** 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 or in the Counseling Office. Applications are due to the association by March 1, 2014.

New York State Retired Teachers Association Scholarship

These \$500 scholarships are awarded to any 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 15, 2014.

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, 2014.

(counseling news continued)

Irish Festival Scholarships

The Irish Festival of Watertown offers scholarships to students pursuing degree programs or technical education. Deadline is March 30, 2014.

RiverEdge Scholarship

This new scholarship is available for any student pursuing post secondary education in the business or hospitality fields. Deadline is May 31, 2014.

North Country Spouses Club

This scholarship is available for any student who has a parent who is active duty or retired military and is pursuing full-time or part-time education next year. Deadline is March 31, 2014.

ORATORICAL CONTEST

Congratulations to all that participated in the contest! Nicole Pierce, Kacy Baum, Dylan Kernehan, Trenton Service, and Kira Hollinger competed at the local level and were sponsored to compete at the county level in January, where Nicole Pierce and Dylan Kernehan advanced by claiming first place and second. Both advanced to the district level and competed at South Jefferson High School on January 11, earning first and second place again. Both will now be competing at the Zone level in February.

JUNIORS – CLASS OF 2015

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 or daughter's senior year.

There are scholarships available for Juniors to apply for! Please look under College, ACT/SAT, and Scholarship Information under Students & Parents on our website for more information.

HIGHER EDUCATION PLANNING NIGHT – Thursday March 6th

I will be hosting a Higher Education Planning Night on Thursday, March 6th 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 2016

BOCES / JCC VISITATION DAY

All Sophomores will visit the Jefferson Technical Center on Wednesday, February 5th 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>

(counseling news continued)

UPCOMING EXAMS

SAT EXAM – register on www.collegeboard.com

<u>TEST DATE</u>	<u>REGISTRATION DEADLINE</u>
March 8, 2013	February 7, 2013
May 3, 2013	April 4, 2013
June 7, 2012	May 9, 2013

ACT EXAM – register on www.actstudent.org

<u>TEST DATE</u>	<u>REGISTRATION DEADLINE</u>
April 12, 2013	March 7, 2013
June 14, 2013	May 9, 2013

WORKFORCE 2020

Workforce 2020 took place on Friday, January 10th. Alexandria Central School juniors and seniors had the opportunity to do practice interviews and have a critique of their resume. The goals of Workforce 2020 are to help young people make connections, help area businesses fill their workforce needs, and help students prepare for and launch into their future careers. Area businesses are always looking for skilled employees to fill vacancies in nearly every profession. Our talented young people are graduating from high school and leaving the area, in many cases, because they don't realize the career opportunities to which they aspire are available right here in the North Country!

At this year's event, high school seniors and juniors from schools throughout the region came together with representatives from over 100 businesses to talk about the variety of career opportunities available in the North Country. In preparing for the event, students learned to prepare a resume and job application as well as learning how to present themselves in an interview. This was done in Mrs. Coon's English 11 class. At the event, business representatives conducted interviews with the students and provided them with feedback as well as valuable information about how to prepare for the career they seek. Though not the main objective, students have received job offers through the event and many have begun a valuable connection that will lead to a college internship opportunity or even guaranteed employment following their completion of post-secondary education.

Some comments from students who attended the event included: "This event was valuable to me because I was offered an internship in a field that I would like to be in," "I learned that there are a wide variety of careers throughout Jefferson and Lewis Counties that could be a good career to look into," "Workforce 2020 gave me a better understanding of the interview process and the types of questions to be prepared for when seeking a job," and "There are a lot more jobs in this area than I thought."





The College Board reports that only
43% of SAT takers in the class of 2013 met the
SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark.

Average SAT Scores in 2013:

Critical Reading 496 Writing 488 Math 514

Beat the Curve.

SAT Prep Course: This 18-hour course helps prepare you for upcoming SAT exams (specifically the March 8, 2014 and May 3, 2014 exams). Student text, *The Official SAT Study Guide: Second Edition*, from The College Board is **included in the price of tuition**. Practice tests are given to assess student strengths and weaknesses. **NOTE:** The cost of the SAT exam is not included. Students must register and pay for the exam separately (registration dates on the SAT Web site).

Instructor: Sarah Ada

Mondays/Wednesdays - February 17, 2013 - March 5, 2013, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. -or-

Mondays/Wednesdays - April 14, 2013 - April 30, 2013, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$145

For more information, or to register, call us at 315-786-2438,
or visit us online at www.sunyjefferson.edu



Parents—

Did you know that we have a "Lost and Found" box located in our Nurse's Office? If your child has lost something at school, please have them check with Mrs. Hunneyman in her office. When items are found in the school building and on buses, they are often dropped off to the "Lost and Found". There is an assortment of articles of clothing, several pairs of eyeglasses, and more.



Please visit our school website at: www.alexandriacentral.org

To view:

- our newsletters in color (go to: "Quick Links"; click on "ACS Newsletter")
- our sports schedules (go to: "Quick Links"; click on "Athletic Schedules")
- our calendar (located at the top of our home page)