

Alexandria Central School
December 2014 Newsletter



2014-2015 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
William Farman, Vice President
Andrea Adsit
Jane Aikins
Stephen Dreizler
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

It certainly has been a busy and productive fall at Alexandria Central School. Our teachers and staff have worked hard to ensure that our students have been engaged both in and out of the classroom. Many of our teachers have had the opportunity to attend workshops and trainings related to the Common Core as we continue to strive to meet these higher standards. Many of our secondary students (91) participated in soccer with the highlight of the season being the tremendous sectional run by the varsity boys. We should all be very proud of our team, and coach Bob Bastian, for showing grit and determination as they upset #3 Bishop Ludden, and #6 Old Forge. It was the first time our team has ever been to the sectional semi-finals. Perhaps just as important, I received several overwhelmingly positive comments about the sportsmanship of our team AND our fans. Well done!!

Since I became your superintendent, I have been working closely with the Board of Education to design a Capital Project that could repair some of the problems that we are facing with the infrastructure of this building and the bus garage. Our committee used the Building Condition Survey to determine which items we needed to address immediately in order to ensure that our students have a safe and functional learning environment. As a result, the scope of this project will include all of the “unsatisfactory” items from this survey in both the school building and the bus garage. Simply put, we need to replace these things sooner rather than later as the cost could end up being much higher in the long run if we do not do it now. Our intention from the start was to propose a Capital Project that deals with immediate needs but is also fiscally responsible for our taxpayers. We are confident that we have done just that. This \$6.2 million dollar project will include the following scope of work:

Alexandria Central Main Building

- Replace 1976 vintage heating system with new hot water heating, 1976 vintage steam /condensate piping with hot water piping, and convert steam boilers to hot water boilers
- Replace windows in the 1956 and 1976 wings
- Replace elevator (c.1976)
- Replace auditorium seating, house lighting, and lighting controls
- Correct water leakage issues and reinforce structure
- Softball and baseball field improvements
- Renovate Nurse’s Office toilet room for handicapped accessibility

Bus Garage

- Replace boiler
- Replace various fans and provide unit ventilators for the agriculture classroom
- Replace hot water piping
- Replace original windows
- Upgrade mechanical controls
- Replace various flooring

Please notice the projected tax impact with a successful vote:

Tax Impact - Approximately \$0.29 per \$1,000 for 15 years

Property Value	Property without STAR	Property with STAR	Monthly Cost with STAR
\$50,000	\$14.66 (annual cost)	\$10.27 (annual cost)	\$0.85
\$75,000	\$ 21.99 (annual cost)	\$15.40 (annual cost)	\$1.28
\$100,000	\$29.32 (annual cost)	\$20.53 (annual cost)	\$1.71



Unfortunately, our state aid on any project is extremely low, especially in comparison with other schools in the state. This fact limits what we can address as we are very sensitive to the desire of our taxpayers to keep their taxes as low as possible. With that in mind, the proposed project will be up for public vote on December 16th from 12pm until 9pm in the Board Room. If you have any questions regarding this project, please do not hesitate to contact me. I wish all of you a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season.

Questions and answers pertaining to the proposed capital project:

Q. Why is the District State building aid ratio 53.9%?

A. The aid ratio is based on a number of factors, one of which is the property wealth. The waterfront properties account for significant property wealth in the District and as a result the building aid ratio is lower than many surrounding Districts. In addition, the State did away with reorganization incentive aid for merged schools, unless the District is recently merged. For prior projects the District did have a 25% increase to the building aid ratio due to the merger aid.

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Q. Will this increase my taxes?

A. The taxes for a home valued at \$100,000 with STAR are estimated to increase \$20.53. This will not impact the District until 2016-17. The District has timed this project with existing debt of the District that will be retired in the 2016-17 year. By timing this project to coincide with current projects the District is able to minimize the impact to the residents.

Q. Why are certain items included in the project and others not?

A. The District prioritized items based on the need but also looked at items that qualify for building aid. The scope of the project does not include any unaidable items, which will result in the State paying the full 53.9% portion of the project.

Q. Why is the project being done now?

A. The needs of the District are there and the timing of retiring debt. The cost of repairs and reconstruction will not decrease and there is the ability to borrow money at a very low interest rate when compared to historical interest rates.

Julie Ludwig-Landy, Secondary Principal



The first quarter of the year has passed and we have a lot to celebrate and to look forward to! Junior High Students have had several great experiences to kick off the year including a boat ride on the river, a visit to the Nature Center, and a visit from the Harlem Superstars! Ninth graders have gone to Beaver Camp to build collaborative and problem-solving skills, and attended Career Jam in Watertown where they got to explore many career options in a hands on way! Our sophomores were able to take the PSAT as part of a grant opportunity along with our juniors. Other students in the upper classes have taken the ASVAB and signed up to go on college visits and attend Higher Education day at JCC. All students had the opportunity to attend the homecoming bonfire and the Halloween dance.

Our many student athletes participated in exciting soccer, with our Boys Varsity Soccer team making it to the final four in the Section 3 playoffs! We were able to send a SPIRIT BUS to the Section 3 away games to cheer on our guys who did an AMAZING job! Congratulations to them all and to Coach Bastian. We celebrated all of our student athletes at the Sports Awards on November 4.

Upcoming events include many basketball and hockey games, as well as a Winter Ball. The stretch between Thanksgiving Break and the beginning of the holiday break in December will go quickly and students will be able to look forward to spirit week and winter pep rally!

Our overall attendance for the year is up by 2%. This is great news! It is however important to keep in mind that class attendance is just as important. We appreciate every effort you make to ensure that your students are here on time and stay throughout the day. While we understand that there are appointments that are necessary, we encourage you to try to schedule them infrequently and at varying times to lessen the impact on the same class periods.

As a reminder, please see the copy of the dress code that has been included for your review. Students must be appropriately dressed and should be able to judge their own outfits before they come to school. Additionally, there is a copy of the Spectator Code of Conduct. This helps us to ensure a positive experience at all sporting events for athletes and spectators.

Finally, this year the senior class of ACS has been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Each year students from across the country are asked to participate in the areas of English, Science, and Math. Students will earn 1.5 community service hours with a certificate, and can add this accomplishment to their resume. More information will be forthcoming.

We look forward to continuing our successful school year! As always, if you have questions or concerns please contact us in the high school office at (315)482-5113 ext. 2. You may also email me directly at jludwig@alexandriacentral.org.

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



Amy St. Croix, Elementary Principal

Alexandria Elementary has had a very positive start to the 2014-2015 school year. Our students have been able to enjoy some educational opportunities outside their traditional classroom setting.

6th grade students traveled to Camp Wabasso to collaborate and participate in team building activities, which has promoted growth in their project based learning communities, within their classrooms.

Our 4th graders had the opportunity to participate in the Ag Extravaganza, at Thompson Park. They gained exposure to real life situations, in regard to their Social Studies and ELA curriculum.

In October, our 1st graders were welcomed by the staff at River Hospital. Staff at the hospital shared how important check-ups are for our overall health. Students had the opportunity to visit the lab and look under a microscope, viewing their own blood cells. Students were able to relate real life experience to their Common Core Human Body unit, in the Listening and Learning Strand.

This past week, Alexandria Elementary had the honor of hosting our community Veterans, in a Veteran's Day Ceremony. Our 6th grade led our ceremony this year, they did an amazing job assisting in this event. All students in grades K-6 had the opportunity to choose their own way to honor our Veterans. Some grade levels provided musical entertainment, while others created personalized gifts for our honored guests. Members of the Band, Elementary Chorus, Select Choir, and Bi-County students were simply amazing sharing their musical talents.

As we move into the winter months, sickness for everyone is simply inevitable, sometimes our children are just too sick to attend school. However, attendance is an absolute essential piece of a child's success in school, regardless of their grade level. Teachers cover a great deal of curriculum, in just one school day. Please help us in providing students with every way possible to be successful by being vigilant about having your student in school, as well as on time each morning. Our school day begins at 8:13 a.m. daily.

As always, as we move into the holiday season, I want to welcome all community members to join us in the amazing musical events and festivities that Mr. Hammond and Mrs. Taylor have been working on with our students. The Holiday Concert schedule is as follows:

Thursday, December 11, 2014 Vocal Concert

6:30 pm Grades 1 & 2
7:30 pm Grades 3 & 4

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 Chorus and Band Concert

7:00 pm Grades 5 & 6



Thank you for all of your help and daily support,
Amy St. Croix



No school

Nov. 26,27,28
Dec. 24-Jan. 2
Jan. 19

Thanksgiving Break -School Resumes Dec. 1
Christmas & New Year's Break -School Resumes-Jan. 5
Martin Luther King Day

Early Dismissal: January 16 @ 11:15am Standards Day

ATTENDANCE POLICY

A student must be in attendance and have attendance noted 85% of the time that class is scheduled. The standard will be class attendance, not the reason the student is absent. After twenty class absences in a full-year course (and ten absences in a half-year course), a student along with the parent will be advised in writing by the principal that the student is in jeopardy of successfully completing the course and what make-up work is necessary.

After twenty-seven class absences (fourteen class absences in half-year courses), such students along with their parents will be notified in writing by the principal that they may not be eligible to take the final examination. Any student who is absent more than twenty-seven days from a class in which the final examination is a state-scheduled Regents test will be dropped from the official class list. The building principal, with the appropriate recommendations from the classroom teacher, will specify what will be necessary for the student to do to be eligible for admittance to the final examination.

The student and parent shall be notified by the principal whether the student will be eligible to be admitted to the final examination.

STUDENT DRESS

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. The following clothing shall be deemed inappropriate and unacceptable on school grounds, school vehicles, and at school functions:

- Sexually revealing clothing;(such as extremely brief garments, tube tops, net tops, halter tops)
- Fingertip rule for shorts, skirts and dresses, etc.
- Pants have seams
- No cleavage, no midriff skin
- Clothing and jewelry that presents a safety hazard;
- Clothing that represents or advocates the use of drugs or alcohol
- Clothing with offensive messages
- Footwear that is a safety hazard
- Underwear that is not completely covered with outer clothing
- Gang-related attire and jewelry
- Hats (in the school building)
- Any clothing or jewelry that is inappropriate for or disruptive of the educational process



Students who violate the District's dress code shall be requested to modify their appearance by replacing, covering and/or removing the offending item.

STUDENT CELLULAR PHONE USAGE POLICY

At Alexandria Central School, we recognized the value of a cellular telephone as a communication device between students and parents. However, the school day should be free from distraction for our learners. Further, phones may be used for academically dishonest practices. Current cellular telephones have the capacity to: store large amounts of data, be used in silently sending messages via “texting”, and have Internet accessibility. For these reasons, the following expectations will be in place.

- All student phones must remain off and out of sight during the entire school day.
- Student phones should NEVER be used between 8:00 AM and 2:51 PM.
- Any student needed to make a phone call must do so through the office.

Consequences for using and/or having a cellular phone visible are as follows:

1st OFFENSE:

The phone will be taken, sent to the office, and may be picked up at the end of the school day. Parents will be notified via a call home.

2nd OFFENSE:

The phone will be taken, sent to the office, and a parent/guardian will be required to pick up the phone at school. The student will be assigned one night of after-school detention.

3rd OFFENSE:

The phone will be taken, sent to the office, and a parent/guardian will be required to pick up the phone at school. The student will be assigned one day of in-school suspension.

Further incidents will result in progressively serious consequences.

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL BUSES

The following rules of conduct will apply to students on school buses:

1. Students must be ready five (5) minutes before the bus arrives.
2. Students must wear seat belts and conduct themselves in a manner that will not interfere with the safe operation of the bus, and subsequently, the safety and well-being of its passengers.
3. Students must obey the instructions of the bus driver at all times.
4. Students must exercise respect for the property of others.
5. Students will enter and leave a bus only when it is parked.
6. Students will cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus in full view of the driver when crossing the street to enter a bus, or after leaving a stopped bus.
7. Students will not extend part(s) of bodies or objects out of the school bus windows.
8. Students will remain in their seats once they have boarded the bus.
9. Students will obey all rules of conduct as outlined in the A.C.S. discipline code.

SECTION III of the NYSPHSAA SPECTATOR CODE OF BEHAVIOR/ETHICS

- Direct all energies to encouraging your team.
- Avoid actions which offend visiting teams or individual players.
- Show appreciation of good play by both teams.
- Learn the rules of the game in order to be a more intelligent spectator.
- Treat all visiting teams in a manner in which you would expect to be treated.
- Accept the judgment of coaches and officials.
- Encourage other spectators to participate in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
- Be positive.



Pam Monica
School Psychologist, CSE/CPSE Chairperson



ATTENTION PARENTS:

If your child has been identified as needing additional academic support through special education services or requires accommodations from a 504 plan, we will be reviewing that program soon and making recommendations for the next 12 months.

We are beginning our annual review meetings in November again this year, and they will continue into early spring. We hope to avoid the State assessments and end of year plans by doing this.

You will be receiving notice of your child's meeting in the mail at least one month prior to the actual date. In addition, you will receive a copy of your child's draft IEP one week prior to the scheduled meeting date. We will also call with a friendly reminder prior the meeting.

If your child has an IEP (individualized education program) or 504 accommodation plan, please make every effort to attend this annual review meeting. We schedule for an entire team of school personnel to attend and have substitutes to provide coverage also. This meeting is to review your child's levels, strengths, and any needs. We also make plans for the next full year in terms of services and any other recommendations. Your input as a parent is critical since *you* know your child best! Rescheduling means more time that teachers have to be pulled from the classroom and miss important time teaching your child, so please make every attempt to attend. If you cannot make the meeting date scheduled for your child, please contact our office as soon as possible to set up another time. If transportation is a concern for you, we can also offer to have you participate via telephone conference.

I appreciate your attention to these important meetings! Feel free to call or email me any time. My telephone number is (315) 482-9971 ext. 1600. My email address is pmonica@alexandriacentral.org.



Parents-Did You Know?
Kendra Eberle, Student Assistance Counselor

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



Mrs. Patty Wagoner ~ School Counselor UPK-8th Grade



Are you aware???

... that based on information provided by NYS Police and local Drug Enforcement agencies:

- Heroin use has greatly increased in North Country communities in the past year
- We have had local youth hospitalized and incarcerated due to drug use
- Parents have been arrested for providing alcohol to underage children
- Drug dealers are more often targeting kids in elementary school
- Drug dealers often entice younger students to “just try it”, and provide “free samples”
- In recent surveys, parents often say that they have had conversations with their children about drug use

BUT... Children more often say that their parents have NOT talked to them about drugs!!

Do you know???

- That PARENTS are the #1 reason kids resist drug use
- No matter what kids say about their parents- they are still their #1 role models (positive and negative)
- The longer kids wait to experiment with alcohol and other drugs, the less chance there is of their becoming addicted
- How important it is for parents to clearly tell kids their expectations regarding drug use
- That the ACS Support Staff has scheduled assemblies for our students in grades 4-12 during November to provide information on drug awareness, inhalants, and energy drinks
- That we are planning a Parent Night at ACS this winter for a drug specialist to present information and answer parent questions

For more information regarding Heroin, please visit the New York State Public Health Awareness Campaign on Heroin & Opioid Addiction: cobatheroin.ny.gov

**A note from the Cafeteria
Anne Remington ~ Cafeteria Manager**



With the school year well on its way, we have been doing our best to get the new regulations in place. It is a learning process for the students & staff, but if we continue to work together we will get through this.

We would like to remind parents of the charging policy. A student is allowed to charge up to \$5.00 on his/her account. When the \$5.00 limit is reached, the student will be offered an alternative meal, which will include a peanut butter sandwich, apple, vegetable and white milk until the charges are paid in full.

If you have an email address that you would like to add to your student's information on his/her lunch account, please let us know. We send out an email alert when the account balance gets low. As in the past, if parents have any restrictions or messages that they would like to put on their students account, please give the cafeteria a call or send in a note.

We do our best to provide students with healthy and nutritious meals going by the new regulations in the school lunch program and regulations. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me @ 315-482-9971 ext 2432 or email aremington@alexandriacentral.org. Thank you.

Mrs. Lynch's Kindergarten Classroom Celebrates Halloween

The students trick-or-treated around the school and followed it up with a delicious snack.

Thanks to all of the parents for contributing.....

and thank you to all of the staff and teachers that overfilled their goodie bags!



Hunter VanBrocklin, Baron Ryder,
Eva Croll and Alexis Rangnow



Makayla Wadsworth, Abigail Boyanski,
Jacob Graveline, Joseph Reilly



Brody Hilts, Michaela Adsit and Christopher Gibbs



Madison Bradley, Kamryn Beers
and Marri Merrihew



Ty Stiefel, Micah Weldon, Layla VanAken
and Emma Parker



Second Grade News

Mr. Hudon, Mrs. Cullen and Mrs. Morgan

The ACS second graders have had an informational, as well as a fun-filled start to the year! We began by learning about tall tales and legends, including Johnny Appleseed, and would like to thank our own local legend, Mr. Tom Petrie, for again donating apples and pumpkins for our children. The class enjoyed learning about fire safety and seeing the equipment right here at school. We would also like to thank the local firefighters who set aside time each year to visit us and help keep our kids safe! A majority of our grade participated in our first Purple Pride Readers party. We are hoping to have 100% participation for this next month! On October 24th, the three homerooms traveled to the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center on Wellesley Island. It was a gorgeous fall day! We all enjoyed a picnic lunch, then hiked the trails learning about our local plant and animal communities. Everyone is excited to see what is in store for us during the next two months of school!

Library News ~ Mrs. Tidd

The library continues to be a busy place! Since the first day of school this year, students and teachers have borrowed a total of 4,827 books from the library! Currently there are 650 books on loan.

Did you know?

Besides borrowing books from our school library, students and teachers also borrow books through interlibrary loan. We are able to borrow from schools and public libraries in Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Madison, Oneida and Herkimer counties!

Parents, please remind your children to keep their library books in a safe place at home. Unfortunately sometimes library books get damaged when borrowed. The majority of damage to our books happens when:

- Water bottles or other drinks leak in backpacks and books get wet
- Dogs and puppies chew on books
- Toddlers and young children scribble on or tear the pages



Book Fair!

Our Fall Scholastic Book Fair dates and times are:

Monday, November 24 11am-6pm

Tuesday, November 25 8:30am-3pm

Monday, December 1 8:30am-3pm

Tuesday, December 2 8:30am-3pm

You may also shop our ONLINE FAIR by going to this website:

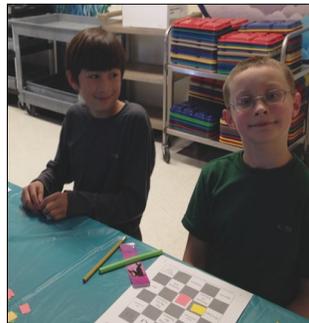
<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/alexandriacentral>

Books will be shipped to the school with no shipping charges!

*sponsored by PACE
-proceeds benefit
the school library!*

Library News ~ continued

The summer reading challenge sponsored by the school library was very successful with seventy two students participating. All students in Kindergarten through sixth grade were invited to participate and were required to read a set number of books over the summer months. Reading logs were submitted to the library upon returning to school in September. Three separate celebrations were held for different age levels. Students received recognition and prizes, played games, and were treated to an ice cream party. The reading challenge was held in conjunction with the New York State Summer Reading Program "Fizz Boom Read!".



Kindergarten

Marlo Porter
Madison Bradley
Eva Croll
Jacob Graveline
Brody Hills
Micah Weldon

First Grade

Addisyn Dunn
Aidan McAloon
Mavery Weaver
Sheh Collins
Abigail Edgar
Antonio Lucidi
Theron McCauley
Ryan Panunzio
Brody McCauley
Macenzie Tedford
Korra Trayer
William Weldon
Hannah Stine

Second Grade

Rylynn Bain
Serene Cha
Charlie Gorman
Gavan Sourwine
Sincerity Diange
Brady Hyde
Ella Porter
Brayton Bradley
Paityn Bridenbaker
River Costello
Tarryn Pitts
Kaydence Rogers
Landin Sanford
Grace Davidson

Third Grade

Trevor Moffe
Maria Panunzio
Alexandria Perkins Grimaldi
Johanna Probst
Katrina Sanford
Amaris Sibert
Payton Watson
Erik Croll
Trenton Dunn
Molly Edgar
Olivia Adsit
Jordann Aikins
Ella Graveline
Yousef Panunzio

Fourth Grade

Joshua Cha
Angelina Ciarfella
Robert Gibbs
Adrienne Hyde
Katharina Probst
Kayden Andersen
Ethan Brennan
Emma Stine

Fifth Grade

Jack Bridenbaker
Kendal Croll
Ashlee Ferency
Xandyr Brennan
Emma Graveline
Cameron Wendt
Brock Hunter
Emmalee White
Andrea Patterson

Sixth Grade

Jadon Aikins
Ty Taitt
Ellie Hyde
Addison Reed
McKenna Ingalls
Becca Davis





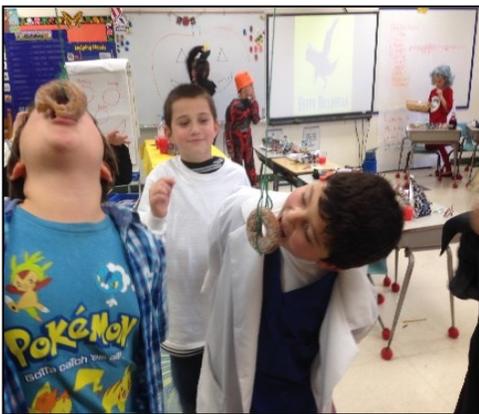
What's Happening In Third Grade?
Mrs. Putnam, Mrs. Heath and Mrs. Cranker



Third grade had an amazing 10 weeks. On top of all the learning that has been going on, we even squeezed in some fall fun. October was Fire Safety Month and thanks to our superb volunteer fire departments in Plessis, Redwood and Alexandria Bay our students learned a great deal about how to stay safe. Below are three students, one from each class, learning about fire safety gear. All three classes also enjoyed presentations about the fire trucks, ambulances and how to get out of your house safely in case of a fire.



The third grade would also like to thank Mr. Thomas Petrie for the pumpkins and apples. Each year the students enjoy picking out their very own pumpkin and fall fresh apple. Below is Mrs. Putnam's class getting their first look at the rows and rows of pumpkins to choose from.



Halloween parties were enjoyed by each class too. The day was filled with regular studies and of course ended with a party to remember. On the left is Mrs. Heath's class playing "Bob for Donuts." On the right, is Mrs. Cranker's class dressed in their Halloween best.



Students Earn Perfect Score on Regents Exams



Alexandria Central School is proud to acknowledge those students who received a grade of 100 on a New York State Regents examination during the 2013-2014 school year. Logan Horner received a 100 on the Geometry Regents, Zakariya Imdad received a 100 on the Global History and Geography Regents, and Victoria Ciarfella received a 100 on the English Comprehension Regents. Congratulations on a job well done!

Freshmen Participate in 6th Annual Class Advance



On Thursday, September 4, 2014, the Freshman class at Alexandria Central School had the opportunity to participate in the 6th annual Class Advance. This Advance took place at Beaver Camp in Lowville, NY, and included a full day of Challenge Course activities. The students were able to participate in low element activities that focused on team building skills in the morning and high element activities that were more individual in nature in the afternoon. The day wrapped up with dinner that included students cooking hot dogs over an open fire. Although these activities were fun, the main goals of the day were to encourage interaction with all the members of their groups and improve cooperation skills with their peers. Additionally, this trip was designed to help transition these students into high school, which is a big step in their lives. Students and teachers enjoyed the day.

FFA NEWS ~ Mr. Company



The Alex Bay FFA has had a very successful fall season. The Chapter has had two Adopt A Highway pickups cleaning up garbage on our stretch of Route 12 from the traffic light to the dump. In early October, the Agriculture students competed in the Jeff Lewis Land Judging contest. Earning recognition for Alex Bay were Brendon Hunter, Jeremy Johnston, and Brandon Davis. Several members assisted the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center during their Autumn Festival Day. The Chapter also had a successful can and bottle drive to help sponsor some of their activities.

Nine members travelled to the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. The chapter hosted a successful Red Cross Bloodmobile collecting 52 pints of blood. Currently, the chapter is conducting its annual fruit fundraiser. In the Ag classroom, students have enjoyed making foods from some of our own homegrown produce. Three products made were salsa, home fries, and apple cider.



Ashley Hunneyman At Our Highway Sign



Making Home Fries



Cider – Cheers !



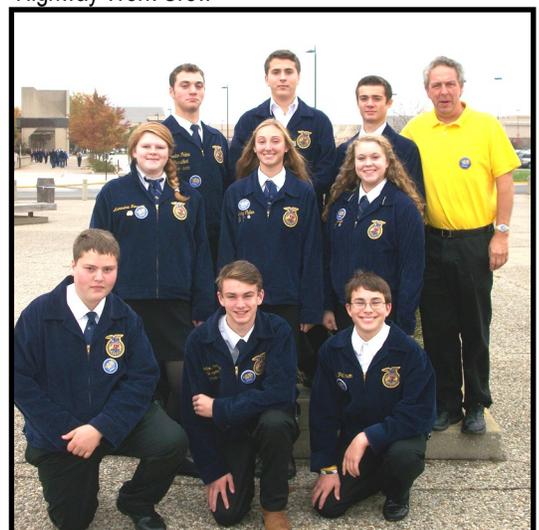
Land Judging



Highway Work Crew



Can and Bottle Drive



National FFA Convention

THE GHOST GAZETTE

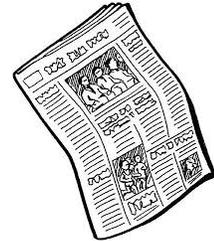
Mrs. Mangione ~Grade 7&8 English & Journalism

On November 21, 2014, the journalism class is uploading new stories to the Ghost Gazette website!

It is attached to our school homepage under the Students & Parents tab.

Some of the stories that will be included are:

- Modified athletes of the month
- "Littles"
- FFA trip to Kentucky
- Boys Varsity soccer team overview of season
- Preview into basketball seasons
- Foreign exchange students interviews
- Punkin' Chunkin'
- Ryan's Story"
- Alexandria Bay Junior Firemen program
- Club round up



NHS Sponsoring Red Kettle Drive

Mrs. Bresnahan, National Honor Society Advisor

The Alexandria Central School's National Honor Society will be sponsoring a Red Kettle Drive benefiting the Salvation Army. All proceeds from the kettle, remain within the Town of Alexandria supporting local people. In 1891, the Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee was distraught because so many poor individuals in San Francisco were going hungry. During the holiday season, he resolved to provide a free Christmas dinner for the destitute and poverty-stricken. He only had one major hurdle to overcome, funding the project.

Where would the money come from he wondered. He lay awake nights, worrying how he would feed 1,000 of the city's poorest individuals on Christmas Day. As he pondered the issue, his thoughts drifted back to his sailor days in Liverpool, England. He remembered how at Stage Landing, where the boats came in, there was a large iron kettle called "Simpson's Pot" into which passers-by tossed a coin or two to help the poor. The next day he placed a similar pot at the Oakland Ferry Landing at the foot of Market Street. Beside the pot, he placed a sign that read, "Keep the Pot Boiling." He soon had the money to see that the needy people were properly fed at Christmas.

Since that time, the idea has spread throughout not only America, but to other foreign countries. This campaign helps the organization to continue its year-round efforts at helping those who would otherwise be forgotten. This year, when you see the ACS students ringing a bell, please remember to add to the kettle, if only a few cents, as that money will help a local family in need.

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This fall has been INCREDIBLY busy in the music department! Many of our ACS students have been showcased in performances, workshops, and concerts in the North Country! September brought auditions for our two after school select vocal groups; Ensemble (grades 3 – 6) and MeloManiacs (mixed a cappella group of grades 7 – 12). Both groups were featured on the 12th Annual Sing Fling concert hosted by *Northern Blend Chorus* (directed by Mrs. Taylor) and certainly represented ACS in an AWESOME way!

We also had 4 students participate in a workshop, master class, and performance with the wonderful *Lisa Vroman*, who portrayed Christine Daae on Broadway for 10 years! She is a local celebrity, graduating from South Jeff High School in the 1970's. Kira Hollinger, Gavin Taylor, Karissa McIlrath & Mecia Peterson represented ACS and did a fine job in the performances at the Clayton Opera House!

Mrs. Taylor conducted a 150 member Elementary chorus at the *Jefferson-Lewis Bi-County Fall Festival* at Indian River School on Nov. 1st and 6 of our Elementary students were in the choir. They were Abigail Wolfe, Sophie Williams, Lizzie Costello, Allie McIlrath, Jayden Travers, and Addison Reed. These young ladies were wonderful and had a great time meeting new people and singing in a choir that was 3 times the size of ours here at ACS! Also in the concert were Gavin Taylor & Karissa McIlrath, who successfully auditioned for the bi-county *Select Vocal Ensemble* of only 35 singers. They learned a lot from a wonderful conductor, *Mr. Brian Ackles*, from Marcellus. He brought a wealth of musical knowledge to these already fine musicians!

Coming soon are our ACS winter concerts! Here are the dates and times! You can find ALL information on my page on the ACS website. Please try to make sure your children are there – we work so hard to prepare the concerts and we don't want anyone to miss it!

Thursday, DECEMBER 11th, 2014 - Grades 1 & 2 at 6:30, and Grades 3 & 4 at 7:30 (more details to be announced soon!) (Ensemble will sing at 3/4 concert)

Tuesday, DECEMBER 16th, 2014 - Elementary Chorus & Band (Grades 5 & 6) (Ensemble will sing as well)

Thursday, DECEMBER 18th, 2014 - Jr/Sr High Concert (Select Choir, Concert Choir, Wind Ensemble, & Concert Band - MeloManiacs will sing as well)

ACS Select Choir will also be performing at *Densmore Church* on Sunday, December 7th at 7pm. It is a free concert that wraps up their season at the church, and they have invited us back again this year! Select will sing music they are preparing for their concert, and we will also feature various solos and duets with students, solos by Mrs. Taylor, MeloManiacs, and some great sing-a-long carols for everyone! It'll be a great time!

Last but not least – **auditions for Shrek** are just around the corner! They are scheduled for Dec. 19th after school, with a Dec. 22nd *call back for leads*. It is open to students in grades 3 – 12, and we are spending time in school looking at music to prepare. Sessions after school will be offered to help prep for auditions, as well! See Mrs. Taylor's webpage for ALL of the details!! **Shrek will be March 12-13-14**. PLEASE make sure students are available for ALL show dates before they audition! We don't want to throw any kinks into the works!

Have a wonderful Holiday season, everyone!!



Merry
Christmas

Bi-County students for **Select Vocal Ensemble** - Karissa & Gavin (left) and **Elementary Chorus** (right) Addisson, Jayden, Allie, Abigail, Lizzie & Sophie



Mrs. Taylor and students (Kira, Mecia, Karissa & Gavin) at the **Lisa Vroman Concert** in September! (below)



MeloManiacs after the Sing Fling Concert in October. (above) They performed "Royals" (with soloist Emma Kearns) and "Somebody That I Used to Know" (with soloists Gavin Taylor, Rachelle Johnson & Zach Patterson) and did a great job!



Ensemble students (left) also performed on Sing Fling and sang "Kids!" with the ladies of Northern Blend... they stole the show!



School Counseling News
Kevin Durr
9-12 School Counselor



CLASS OF 2015

- Senior Interviews are 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 seniors have not done so already, be sure 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.
- Financial Aid is awarded 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 2016

- 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 2017

- 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:

3D MODELING & DESIGN	APPLIED BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY	AUTO BODY REPAIR	AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	CARPENTRY/MASONRY	COSMETOLOGY	CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CULINARY BAKING / COOKING	EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	ELECTRICAL WIRING TECHNOLOGY	ELECTRONIC AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY
HEAVY EQUIPMENT	HOSPITALITY SERVICES	LIFESKILLS	MEDICAL CAREERS
MOTORCYCLE, MARINE, POWER SPORTS	NEW VISION HEALTH (SR ONLY)	NURSING ASSISTANT	PLUMBING AND HEATING
VETERINARY SERVICES	VIRTUAL BUSINESS	VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS	WELDING TECHNOLOGY

(school counseling news continued)

- All Sophomores took the ASVAB on October 17, a test that gave them a breakdown of their current skills and abilities in many areas. The practice ASVAB is also an excellent career test. 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 Geometry, Global Studies, Science, and Foreign Language!

CLASS OF 2018

- I have met with this year's Freshmen to assist them to develop their "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 5th

- On December 5th, 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 notecards 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 to talk to their history teacher or myself to sign up for this event!

FINANCIAL AID PLANNING NIGHT – November 24th at 5:30PM 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, and starting a free 529 saving plan. A representative from Jefferson Community College's financial aid office will present to parents of juniors and seniors who are college-bound.

IMPORTANT DATES

- November – ASVAB results brought home by 10th graders.
- December 5th – 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.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

- All scholarships that are available are scanned and uploaded to the ACS webpage and are listed with their due date – go to Students and Parents -> College, SAT/ACT & Scholarship information.
- 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 see the next page regarding a SAT Prep Course.



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BOCES

Pursuing Excellence

Jefferson-Lewis BOCES Distance Learning Network SAT Prep Course!

This 16 week course will be taught in a blended online and live video format adopted by many colleges and universities. Students will participate in 30 online interactive lessons which they may access anytime, while receiving in class instruction utilizing Live Interactive Videoconferencing Technology. NYS certified English and Math teachers will employ the highly regarded Cambridge method of Instruction. Tuition will include all course materials as well as diagnostic SAT test scoring designed specifically to identify each student's individual strengths and weaknesses. Students may attend from any participating location listed on the registration form. Course requirements include: Access to lap top or computer with reliable Internet service at home or in school .

Live Class Dates:

Saturday December 6
Saturday December 13
Saturday January 10
Saturday January 31
Saturday February 28
Saturday March 21
Saturday April 18

Class Times & Instruction:

10:00am-1:00 Course Introduction
10:00am-2:00 Practice College Board Exam
10:00am-1:00 Exam Review & Assessment
10:00am-1:00 Content Check & Review
10:00am-1:00 Content Check & Review
10:00am-2:00 Practice College Board Exam
10:00am-1:00 Exam Review & Assessment

Instruction Includes:

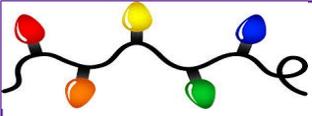
- Two College Board Diagnostic Exams
- Critical Reading Skills Review
- Individualized Student Assessment
- Math Problem Techniques
- Essay Writing Strategies
- Knowledge Measuring Quizzes
- Comprehensive Lesson Content
- Moodle Activity & Progress Tracking
- On-line Discussion Boards

Space is still available.

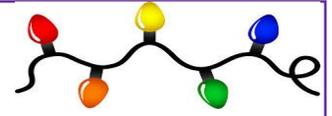
Sign up Today !

COST \$185⁰⁰





PACE Update **PACE ~ Partners in Alexandria Central Education**



PACE (Partners in Alexandria Central Education) has started the year off strong as we helped to fund lunch for the 7th and 8th grade field trip on the Uncle Sam Tour Boat and will also sponsor the 6th grade trip to the ropes course at Camp Wabasso.

Purple Pride Fridays also returned this year, and each student and faculty member who sports their purple ghost pride each Friday is entered into a drawing to win a Purple Ghost t-shirt. Congratulations to our October winners: Mavery Weaver, Vanessa Rushlow, Alana Lawrence and Donna Loy!

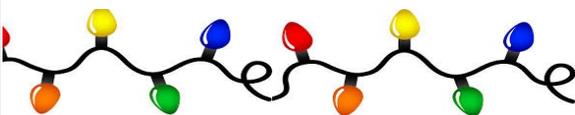
October fun also included a Candy Corn Guessing Contest for students in grades K-6th grade. Students were encouraged guess how many candy corns were in the container in the library and *Drake Heath* was the big winner.

Our annual Cherrydale sale took place in October, and all orders will be available to pick up during parent/teacher conferences November 24 and 25.

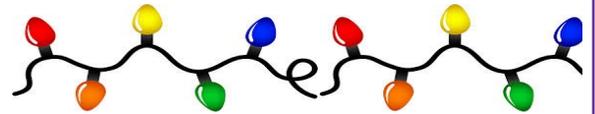
As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, our pre-K-6th grade students are coloring turkeys for a coloring contest. The winners will be awarded a \$5 certificate for the Book Fair at the end of November.

Looking ahead, PACE will once again sponsor a box top and Labels for Education contest from mid-January to mid-February. The class who collects the most box tops and labels for education will be awarded a popcorn party! Every box top and label counts and can make a difference, so put your scissors to work for our school!

PACE is now also on Facebook. Look for us under ACS PACE, and keep up-to-date on PACE meetings, fundraisers, and school events.



SCRIP Fundraiser



SCRIP, a PACE sponsored year round fundraiser, is in its second year. Many people have asked what is SCRIP and how does it work? SCRIP is simply substitute money in the form of gift cards. How it works is simple: ACS families and friends purchase gift cards at face value, and the school receives a percentage of each purchase. Cards may be purchased by using the online purchasing system at www.shopwithscrip.com where families or individuals set up a free account to select and order their gift cards and have the option to set up an electronic payment system or send a check into school. They may also be ordered by paper order form available for download on the PACE page of the school website or by contacting the coordinator using the information below, or purchased from the cards that are kept on hand. Orders are due on Mondays by noon and will be available for pick up or backpack delivery the following Monday.

SCRIP cards are available from over 700 retailers nationwide. They make great gifts for holidays, birthdays, anniversaries or "just because." They also may be used for everyday purchases, dining out, traveling, car repairs, or fueling your car. Keep gas cards in your vehicle and use them each time you refuel. Buy Target or Walmart cards and use them instead of a credit or debit card when you shop. Remodeling? ACE Hardware, Home Depot and Lowes are all SCRIP participants. Traveling for the holidays? Hotel chains, car rentals, Carnival cruises and even Disney may be paid for using SCRIP. The opportunities to use gift cards every day and make money for our students and teachers are endless. From now until December 5, each time you place an order for SCRIP you will be entered into a drawing to win a \$25 gift card of your choice. If you have any questions or would like to purchase gift cards, please contact the SCRIP coordinator Kerri Weldon at acs.scrip@gmail.com

