



**Alexandria Central School  
Newsletter—December 2016**



2016-2017 School Year

## Alexandria Central School

34 Bolton Avenue, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

Phone: 315-482-9971

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

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

**George Merritt, Superintendent**  
**Kylie Morgia, Secondary Principal**  
**Amy St. Croix, Elementary Principal**

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

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



### *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*





## George Merritt Superintendent



Dear Alexandria Central School Students, Staff, Parents and Community Members:

I would like to take this opportunity to say I am honored and excited to be selected as Superintendent of Schools. Coming, as I do, from a family of educators and business owners, I assure you that I appreciate the unique opportunity and the enormous responsibility that goes with the job.

My guiding principle as your Superintendent is based on the belief that every child can and will attain the education and skills necessary to achieve their dreams of a meaningful and bright future. I am humbled and grateful to the Board members, staff and community for placing their faith in me, and I intend to work in partnership with all in guiding this district forward.

I have had the opportunity to play many diverse roles over my 25-year career, and those experiences have prepared me to lead our school district to meet the high expectations the community demands and our students deserve. This incredible journey has taught me to appreciate the work of educators and support staff, and to value the strength of a unified Board and community with the fiscal responsibility to balance our needs.

Our focus in Alexandria Central School remains constant. We believe all children can learn and we expect this from our students. We care about each and every student, and we aim to show it by providing our best efforts as teachers, administrators, mentors, support staff and advocates to our entire student population. Our schools must continue to be safe places where students are engaged, challenged to meet the standards necessary for college or a career, and where fun is definitely encouraged. We want students to build productive and sustaining relationships, and know that our sole purpose is to support them as they become the productive citizens we know they can be.

I am excited about what is to come and I hope that you are too. Delivering excellence is still our top priority and I look forward to achieving that goal together.

Thank you.

<b>Important Dates:</b>	
<b>December 23 - January 2</b>	<b>Christmas and New Year's Break</b>
<b>January 3</b>	<b>School Resumes</b>
<b>January 16</b>	<b>No School — Martin Luther King Day</b>
<b>January 20</b>	<b>Early Dismissal—Standards Day</b>
<b>February 20 - 24</b>	<b>Winter Break</b>

**Mrs. Kylie Morgia, Secondary Principal**

Greetings Parents and Families of Alexandria Central:

As the incoming Secondary Principal, I am thrilled to be working along side both dedicated and passionate educators of Alexandria Central. Growing up in the river community, I am very excited to be working with the children and families of Alexandria. I believe in working as a team to provide our students with a rigorous, engaging, and high quality secondary education experience. As a parent, I recognize the importance of a strong home-school connection. Parents are a child's first educator, so by working together I believe we can ensure that our students emotional, social, and academic needs are met.

Before joining Alexandria Central, I served in a variety of roles over the last ten years, primarily with the Carthage Central School District. Some of the roles include: career and skill development counselor, middle school counselor, grades 5-8 assistant principal, and principal. My academic background includes a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Educational Leadership and Administration, Master of Science in Educational Counseling, a Bachelor of Art in Psychology, and a Bachelor of Art in Sociology.

I believe that great schools are a result of great teachers, collaboration, professional development, and teamwork. As we quickly move through the year, my primary focus will be to make sure that every child is receiving high quality instruction and academic support. As a team, we will work to build relationships with families, enhance student engagement, improve academic achievement, and prepare our students to be college and career ready.

I am truly looking forward to all of the wonderful and exciting programs that our students will have the opportunity to be exposed to this year. In my short time, I have learned that we have a very passionate team who cares about doing what is best for the students at Alexandria. I could not be happier to be a part of this passion and excitement. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out via email at [kmorgia@alexandriacentral.org](mailto:kmorgia@alexandriacentral.org) or by phone at (315) 482-5113.

I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday!



Amy St. Croix  
Elementary Principal



As we conclude the first 10 weeks of this school year, we have had a very exciting 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Robert John Meehan stated, "Teaching children is an accomplishment; getting children excited about learning is an achievement."

Student engagement has been a focus for Alexandria Elementary this school year. We are working hard to create a culture of exploration instead of the right answer.

Grades 1-4 are exploring the exciting world of science through our new FOSS program. FOSS stands for Full Option Science System, and it allows students to participate in a science curriculum by creatively and actively engaging students in scientific practices.

Since 2011, New York State has mandated all school districts to implement an RTI reading program. However, the staff felt a Response To Intervention program in mathematics would greatly benefit many of our students. A group of teachers and aides collaborated to develop all components necessary to implement an RTI math program to assist students and engage them in enhancing their math skills.

We have had an opportunity to begin professional development, in regard to student based learning. Teachers are using student based learning to replace continual direct lecture with active learning and exploration. By focusing on student based learning, there is the potential to improve student learning and ultimately individual growth. Students who are engaged and seeking solutions through exploration, rather than teacher provided answers, also benefit in fostering and developing independence skills and practice.

Focusing on student engagement makes learning not only more successful, but fun for students. Promote and facilitate both excitement and independence at home by asking your child about the activities and exploration that they are experiencing with their classmates and teachers.



#### A Note From the Cafeteria

Parents & Guardians:

As the New Year is fast approaching, your cafeteria staff would like to wish everyone a very happy & healthy New Year. As a reminder, on line payments and monitoring may be done by going to [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com).

If at any time during the school year your income changes, a free/reduced lunch application can be completed. These applications can be found on our cafeteria website or one can be sent home. If your child/children qualify for free or reduced lunch, they also qualify for the same at breakfast. Earlier in the school year we asked the students to do a cafeteria survey, we received some interesting responses. We were able to fulfill some of the students' requests, while still staying within the new guidelines for the National School Lunch Program.

At any time, you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me .

Anne Remington, ACS Cafeteria Manager 315-482-9971 extension 9; or fax:315-482-9973



### Farewell from Interim Superintendent Dr. E. Slattery, Ed.D.

As we wrap up the first quarter of the 2016-17 School Year, I offer my heartfelt thanks to the students, staff, administration, School Board, and indeed the entire Alexandria Community for the warm welcome and spirit of cooperation you have extended to me since the end of August.

I am happy to share with you a review of the administrative changes to expect in the next several weeks: your new Superintendent, Mr. George Merritt, comes to us from Edwards-Knox and takes over here November 14. Mrs. Kylie Morgia, your new Secondary Principal, starts here November 21 after two years of successful service as Principal at Carthage Middle School. We thank Mr. Joseph Orobona of Clayton who came out of retirement to be our Interim Secondary Principal for the past month replacing Mrs. Ludwig-Landy who moved on to the Oswego BOCES.

These new administrators join Elementary Principal Amy St. Croix to form an instructional leadership team which is experienced, knowledgeable, and totally committed to student success. They are poised to move this District, students, and staff toward excellence in every way. Please support them and their efforts toward reaching this goal. Together, there is nothing you and they will not be able to accomplish.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve and to lead you this past twelve weeks. It has been an honor to have been a Purple Ghost!



### Farewell from Interim Secondary Principal, Joseph Orobona

The school year is well underway. Report cards for the first quarter were issued the week of November 14th. Hopefully, all our students have done well.

Good parents make for good students. Parents who monitor their students, listen carefully, encourage, and direct them to good paths, generally have very successful kids. But it takes work! Check your child's report card. If you have questions or concerns, contact your child's teacher. He or she is here to help. But look to your child, also. What good habits – studying, trying hard, managing time – do they have to work on? Then, help him/her set goals to be successful. Every child, no matter the age, needs adult help.

At Alexandria Central School, we do our best to challenge your children. There is a strong curriculum, healthy extracurricular activities, and a family atmosphere. **Together**, we make our children prosperous.

Thank you for letting me be part of the Alexandria Central family. My short stay as interim principal has been enjoyable. The students are well-behaved, engaged in their class work, and appear genuinely happy. The ACS community has much to be proud of!

## ACS SCHOOL WIDE ASSEMBLY

Welcome New Administrators;  
Thank You to Interim Administrators

On November 22, all ACS students and staff gathered in the gymnasium to welcome two new administrators, Mr. George Merritt, Superintendent and Mrs. Kylie Morgia, High School Principal, and to say goodbye and thank you to two interim administrators Dr. John Slattery, interim Superintendent, and Mr. Joseph Orobona, interim High School Principal.

The audience enjoyed performances by the ACS Select Choir and Mardi Gras Jazz Band throughout the assembly. Members of student council and staff members spoke on behalf of the incoming and outgoing administrators and presented them with gifts—including purple ACS t-shirts and lanyards.

Pictured at the right:

Front row: Kindergarteners Alyana Dupree and McKenzie Harris with Elementary Principal Mrs. Amy St. Croix  
Back row: Mrs. Kylie Morgia, Mr. George Merritt, and Mr. Orobona



Photos courtesy of TI Sun and photographer Pam McDowell



Olivia Stine and Mr. Narburgh say thank you and good bye to Mr. Orobona.



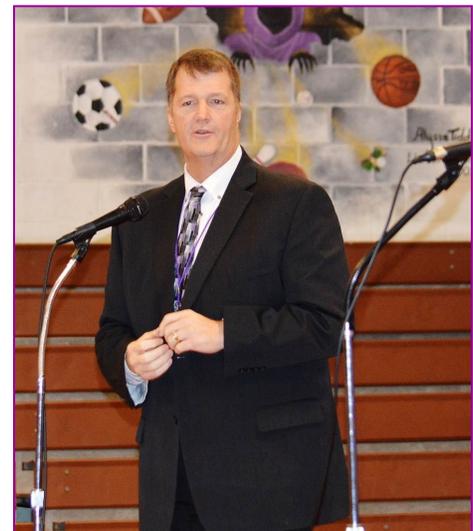
Fatima Imdad spoke on behalf of Student Council.



Mr. Hammond led the Mardi Gras Spirit Band.  
Photos courtesy of TI Sun and photographer Pam McDowell



The ACS Select Choir, led by Mrs. Taylor, performed songs from their recent Disney Musical.  
Photos courtesy of TI Sun and photographer Pam McDowell



Welcome Mr. Merritt!  
Photos courtesy of TI Sun and photographer Pam McDowell

# **BRAVO! BRAVO!** **ENCORE! ENCORE!**



Have you seen our beautifully renovated auditorium?

After having served our school community well for many, many years, our recent building project allowed for a much needed face-lift for our school auditorium. Light walls, comfortable grey seats and a grand burgundy main curtain are just the initial changes that you will notice upon entering. The new light/sound booth will allow our school concerts, musical plays and assemblies' great diversity and depth to create dramatic illusions. There are two wheelchair chair accessible areas with a partner seat available to provide more comfort for our guests.

To allow our new auditorium every chance of staying clean and in great condition, we will be enforcing a NO FOOD OR DRINK policy in the auditorium. This will include no coffee cups as we have seen cups spill and run down the length of the auditorium floor.

To allow all of our students and guests the best experience when attending any of our performances, we have been teaching students general rules for auditorium etiquette. These guidelines are to be honored by all adults as well as students to help create an appropriate atmosphere AND to allow our students who are performing the most respectful audience that we can be.

*Prior to our K-6 Student Recognition Programs in December, the elementary students enjoyed a fun skit about auditorium etiquette, starring Mrs. St. Croix and a few students. The boys demonstrated appropriate behaviors, while their principal was busy showing many ways NOT to act... the kids loved it! It was a fun way to teach and remind the students of auditorium expectations.*



## **AUDITORIUM ETIQUETTE GUIDELINES**

### **PLEASE....**

- Do not talk during any part of a performance.
- Silence all cell phones throughout the performance.
- Stay in your seats throughout the show. If you must exit the auditorium, please wait until between songs/acts, so as not to disrupt the people around you or the performers.
- If you bring children with you, we encourage you to have them seated near you so that you may supervise them.
- We love having whole families come, but if there's a baby in the bunch, please consider being seated near an aisle or toward the back of the auditorium so that you may exit if baby gets a bit too fussy.
- We no longer allow any foods or drinks in to the auditorium: Even if we sell them during intermission, we ask that you consume them prior to returning in to the auditorium.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our student music and drama programs and our assemblies!





**Kindergarteners loved receiving pumpkins from Mr. Petrie !**



**What's Happening in First Grade?  
Mrs. Ball and Mrs. Putnam**

First Graders have been working hard to improve our letter sounds and vowel pattern knowledge when attacking an unknown word. We are working on decoding, fluency, and comprehension. Getting practice at home using our CKLA Booklet has helped many students recognize and use our high frequency words and sound out our decodable words. Keep up the practice at home – it really does help!

Along with reading, we have been learning about what makes a civilization. Our Listening and Learning time has us learning about Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt. The history of the world is exciting! Math continues to teach us a variety of strategies to use when figuring out a problem. We are seeing that if we make a number into a ten, adding in another number is easy. We just hide the zero!

The First Grade teachers have attended FOSS training through the Fort Drum Rise Grant. We are excited to use inquiry based teaching with Science curriculum. The students are loving experimenting during our investigation time. Our first investigations involve Balance.

Holiday time is among us! We wish everyone a peaceful, restful holiday season full of family love!



## Transportation Department

Mr. Tidd

### **Attention Parents: Important School Bus Safety Alert**

#### **HELP US PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN AS THEY TRAVEL TO AND FROM SCHOOL.**

Certain types of children's clothing can create a hazard as your child exits the school bus. Especially dangerous are:

- Long, dangling jacket or sweatshirt drawstrings
- Long backpack straps
- Long scarves or other loose clothing

In recent years, a number of children across the U.S. have had their clothing caught as they left the bus. Such items can be caught in the bus handrail, door, or other equipment as the child exits the bus. Please take the time to check your children's clothing to make sure it is safe.

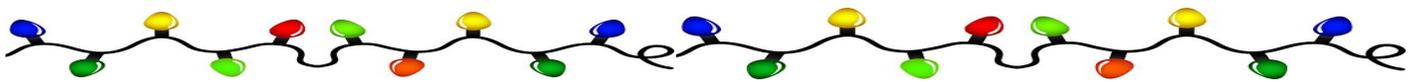
Also, please talk with your children about these safety rules:

- Stay away from the DANGER ZONES around the bus.
- Don't try to pick up something dropped near the bus – the bus driver might not see you.
- Remember that other motorists don't always stop for a stopped school bus – use extreme caution whenever getting on or off the bus.

Please don't pass a stopped school bus!

- It's against the law.
- It could result in serious fines.
- It could result in a license suspension.
- And it could result in something much, much worse.





## *A Fabulous Day in the City for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students*

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders of Alexandria Central School, along with many staff members enjoyed a fabulous day together on Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Everyone met at school at 7:00 AM and 79 students along with 11 staff members boarded the busses and headed to Syracuse for the opportunity to experience a day that most had not ever had before.... to see the Syracuse Ballet Company perform The Nutcracker Ballet.

Mrs. Katie Taylor, ACS vocal music teacher, organized this amazing trip for the students. Included in her preparations for the day, Mrs. Taylor exposed the students to the music of Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and told the story of The Nutcracker Suite. The group arrived at The Mulroy Civic Center in downtown Syracuse to join hundreds of other students from central New York to watch The Syracuse Ballet Company perform The Nutcracker Ballet.

The group arrived early which allowed time to truly take-in the beauty of the massive auditorium where the ballet would be performed. While waiting for the ballet to begin, the students were chatting and giggling with excitement. As the curtain rose, both students and staff became immediately enthralled with the music, the colorful costumes and the festive energy coming from the stage.

From the tiny ballerinas to the high energy Mouse King, to the amazing grace of The Sugar Plum Fairy, the ballet captivated our group. Many of our students sat motionless throughout the performance, some of them literally sitting on the edges of their seats. As the curtain came down, our students began to share their favorite parts of the ballet, commenting on both the powerful strength and the amazing grace of the dancers: Their excitement was contagious and so very sincere.

The day continued with lunch at The Spaghetti Warehouse where students were treated to delicious spaghetti and meatballs. The students and staff sat together at various size tables between 4 and 8 per table. Many students said they had never been to Syracuse, to a ballet, or out to dinner before, which is why this type of experience is so very important for our North Country students.

Many thanks to Mrs. Taylor for her vision of what this trip would mean to our kids and our chaperones and for doing all the work necessary to make it happen. Mrs. Taylor was able to secure funding for all of the tickets through a BOCES Coser so that the students did not have to pay for their tickets. Each family was asked to pay just \$5 towards lunch. PACE, Partners in Alexandria Education, had generously agreed to pay for the balance of each student's and chaperone's lunches. The school district provided for all transportation costs.

Although we are a tiny school far away from the many opportunities that larger or city schools are able to provide, having people among us who are willing to do the work to provide these type experiences for our children, is wonderful. Thank you to Mrs., Taylor, the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and other chaperones, for joining in the trip and allowing our ACS kids a chance to truly have "*Sugar Plum Fairies dance in their heads.*"



additional photos on the next page

*The Nutcracker Ballet trip continued.....  
To view this newsletter in color, see note at bottom of this page.*



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



Mrs. Aubertine's Advanced Placement Literature and Composition Class attended Syracuse Stage's live production of the Dickensian classic, **Great Expectations**, this fall. Pictured are Fatima Imdad, Kaitlin Irvine, Mrs. Aubertine, Olivia Stine, Karissa McIlrath, Zach Patterson, Karoline Nelson, Jordan Felicia, Jessica Davis, and Gavin Taylor. Mr. Steve Keeler took the photo and joined the group inside for the show. This trip was made possible by PACE.



Ms. Gionet assists a student after school. Upper level mathematics students and ACS graduates have long appreciated her generous gifts of time and dedication.



Miss Heise's Math Applications class took 2nd place at this year's Punkin' Chunkin' competition. We raised over 800 pounds of food for our local food pantries. Thank you to all those that donated. It was a fun day for a great cause.



Alexandria Central School is proud to acknowledge the student who received a grade of 100 on a New York State Regents examination during the 2015-2016 school year. Fatima Imdad received a 100 on the Comprehensive English Regents. Congratulations on a job well done!



**National Junior Honor Society Induction**  
Mrs. Ascough, National Junior Honor Society Advisor



The Sage Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society at Alexandria Central School inducted 24 new members and honored 13 current ninth grade members at the NJHS Induction Ceremony this fall on Monday, November 28. Samuel Felicia, freshman member of the NJHS welcomed the families, administration, faculty, and students, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by freshman member, Meghan Wardell. Mr. Merritt, school Superintendent, congratulated the students and their parents on setting and achieving high standards.

The formal induction ceremony began with freshman member, Hayley Neuroth, lighting the flame of knowledge. Four fellow freshmen, Rylie Willix, Daniel Barney, Mya Weaver, and Makayla Witt, continued by lighting the candles of scholarship, service, leadership, and character and reviewed each of the four qualities for the candidates. Mr. Merritt, school Superintendent, and Mrs. Ascough, National Junior Honor Society Advisor, presented the new candidates with the proper insignia, membership cards and certificates. Freshman member, Taydan Jeffers, administered the National Junior Honor Society Pledge for the new candidates. The current ninth grade members were also presented with honor certificates in recognition of their continued scholarship and dedication. During the 2015-2016 school year, seven students were awarded the National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Award and were recognized at the ceremony.

The National Junior Honor Society Chapter designates that any members of eighth and ninth grades will be eligible for membership. NJHS members must maintain an 88 overall average and participate in school and community activities. Each Friday, the NJHS members collect funds from the Faculty and Staff for the "Denim Day Patrol". The funds are donated to various community groups and organizations in Alexandria Bay and Jefferson County. Many individuals also volunteer to participate in other school and community efforts such as the FFA Adopt-a-Highway, SHOV fundraisers, Community Clean-Up Day, church activities and PACE fundraisers.

**New Inductees:**

Jadon Aikins	Lorraine McCauley
Hallie Bain	Alethea McClrath
Maximillian Barnholdt	Kaela Mellowship
Bailee Burgos	Joseph Papin
Elizabeth Costello	Addisson Reed
Rebecca Davis	Cherica Smith
Billy Delosh	Ty Taitt
Scott Diange	Jayden Travers
Kylie Felder	Noah Weaver
Gabrielle Hyde	Sophia Williams
McKenna Ingalls	Abigail Wolfe
Nolan Irvine	Brayden Youngs

**Current Members:**

Daniel Barney	Lindsey Monica
Wesley Burgos	Hayley Neuroth
Taylor Calhoun	Meghan Wardell
Cody Escudero	Mya Weaver
Samuel Felicia	Rylie Willix
Grace Goerger	Makayla Witt
Taydan Jeffers	

**Outstanding Achievement Award Recipients:**

Dylan O'Connor  
Mackenzie Hyde  
Taydan Jeffers  
Lindsey Monica  
Meghan Wardell  
Mya Weaver  
Makayla Witt



## National French Week and French Club Activities

written by: Becca Davis

During the first week in November, ACS students celebrated National French Week. Each day there was an after school activity. This year students have participated in tie-dying t-shirts for Blue, White, and Red day, a scavenger hunt, a Halloween party, and they enjoyed many different delicious French foods!

French Club members would like to thank Mrs. Murphy for helping with the preparation for our party and ACS students and staff for participating in activities. A special thank you to everyone who participated in selling and buying cookie dough so we can go on our trip in the spring!

Congratulations to all scavenger hunt winners:

**1st place-** Jaden Hanley, Max Barnholdt, Kendall Croll, and Ashlee Ferency

**2nd place-** Kaela Mellowship, Becca Davis, Cherica Smith, and Ellie Hyde



### 2016-2017 French Club Officers:

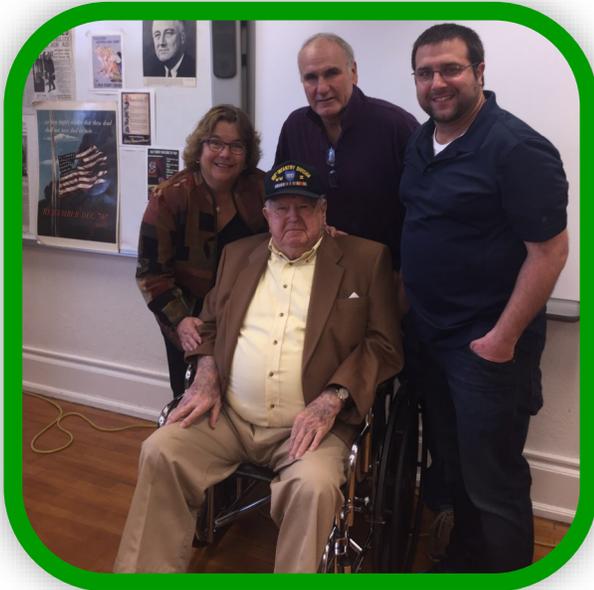
Advisors: Mrs. Turgeon and Mrs. Ascough

President: Gavin Taylor

Vice President: Alex Hansson

Treasurer: Colby Burrows

Secretary: Becca Davis



### HISTORY IN REAL LIFE

On November 16, Mrs. Reilly's 11th grade U.S. History students had the great honor to hear the stories of LTC Robert Wagoner's experiences while serving in Europe during World War II. A transcript of LTC Wagoner's comments and responses to student questions will be created and shared with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. Many thanks to the Patty (daughter-in-law), Rolf (son) and Robert (grandson) Wagoner for helping to make this remarkable experience possible.

### News From Mr. Hammond



The 2016-2017 school year is off to a fast start. ACS Concert Band and Wind Ensemble performed in their second Veterans' Day concert on November 9, a tradition we are proud of. This year's concert served dual purposes, as we not only took the opportunity to recognize local veterans, but also to initiate the new auditorium - at the time only a few days old. We appreciate the new paint, curtains, seats and lights, all of which represent a big improvement and a more professional appearance.

Dominic Tidd, Andrew Lalonde, and Abigail Wolfe represented ACS at the fall Jr. High Bi-County concert, where they played with the most accomplished musicians in their age group. Taitt Heath played with the Area All-State orchestra at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam on November 12. Taitt is the only the second musician from ACS in many years to be included in this select group, which draws its members from as far away as Plattsburgh and Pulaski.



The weeks ahead are no less full, as the 6th grade band prepares for its first concert appearance on December 15 at 7:00, with the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble as well as Concert Choir and Select Choir. We hope you will join us!

Don't forget to look for ACS soloists at another community performance at the Big M on December 17 at noon!

## Home and Careers ~ Mrs. Murphy

Students in 7th Grade Home and Careers class have created a wide variety of projects. We have made aprons, pillows, corn bags, serged blankets and tie blankets.



Jakob Lynch made a pillow for his sister!



Quinn Ayen and her unique checkboard pillow



Brendon Mason and his snake pillow



### YEARBOOK NEWS Mrs. Donovan~ Advisor

#### NEWS FOR 2017 SENIORS & PARENTS

Personal ads may be taken out in the back of the yearbook to congratulate your senior. Full page ads are \$150 and your ad must be placed by the end of January.

#### REPLAY IT!!!

Upload your photos for the 2017 yearbook! Go to [www. Replayit.com](http://www.Replayit.com) to upload your photos today, it's easy and you may see your pictures in the yearbook. Any and all photos are welcome, from Elementary to last year's prom, sporting events and student candids! We are very excited to be bringing this to our school.

#### YEARBOOK SALES

The 2017 yearbook is on sale for \$30 until Christmas break. Beginning January first the price will be \$40 **RESERVE YOUR COPY TODAY** as last year we ran out of books! Order forms will be sent home with all students to order here at school. Also, there is a link on our homepage [www.alexandriacentral.org](http://www.alexandriacentral.org) to order the book online, or got to [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com)

#### BUSINESS ADS

To help offset the cost of the yearbook for our students, business ads are available for the following prices:  
Full Page-- \$150    Half Page-- \$100    Quarter Page-- \$75    3 lines-- \$50    Business Card-- \$30  
If you have a business, please consider supporting the yearbook by placing an ad.  
Please email any questions to [adonovan@alexandriacentral.org](mailto:adonovan@alexandriacentral.org)

## Parents-Did You Know?

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

Pivot, formerly known as the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council, 788-4660

Parents. The Anti-Drug. [www.theantidrug.com](http://www.theantidrug.com)



## Freshman Participate in Challenge Course Activities

On Friday, September 9, 2016, the Freshman class at Alexandria Central School had the opportunity to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Music Dept. News!

From Mrs. Taylor



ACS Select Choir held a **Disney Spectacular Musical Revue** on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, and it was a HIT! Families with children of all ages came to enjoy our music and the **Disney Tea**, where Select Choir kids dressed as Disney characters and signed autographs for the kids! It was so much fun and the music was great, too!! The event was a fund raiser for Select Choir, as they will be going to NYC in April for a music festival, sightseeing, and a Broadway workshop and show!

Pictured clockwise from the top (to the right) are: Olivia & Madison; Select Choir singing the Disney Medley; Gavin & Emma; Christian & Lynne, Sincerity, Kendal, & Mattea; Mrs. Compeau & Grace, and Kelsey & Mason in the center.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Put these events in your calendar so you don't miss anything coming up!

**Sat., Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>** – ACS Talent Show at 7PM (open to students grades 3 – 12) (Tickets are \$6 at the door.)

**Sat., Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>** – Select Choir POPS Concert at 7PM – Come enjoy our evening of music that you'll recognize from decades of pop music! This concert benefits the choir's trip to NYC in April! (Tickets are \$6 at the door.)

**March 23-24-25** at 7PM – Our spring musical, **LES MISERABLES!** *We just cast the show and it is going to be INCREDIBLE!!!!* (Tickets are \$7 at the door and presale TBA)



## SPRING CONCERT DATES

**May 18th** - Elementary Chorus (7:00)

**May 23rd** - Grades 1 & 2 (6:30) and 3 & 4 (7:30)

**June 1st** - 7-2 Choral (7:00)

*(These events are all free!)*

**THANK YOU** to all of the ACS faculty & staff and to our parents for your help and support during winter concert season! It was much appreciated!



Coming soon to a theatre near you...

## LES MISERABLES!

Here is our amazing cast! You DO NOT want to miss it!

<b>JEAN VAL JEAN</b> – GAVIN TAYLOR	<b>JAVERT</b> – MASON GORMAN
<b>FANTINE</b> – KARISSA MCILRATH	<b>MARIUS</b> – ZACH PATTERSON
<b>COSETTE</b> – MECIA PETERSON	<b>EPONINE</b> – KELSEY CULLEN
<b>THENARDIER</b> – IAN MCILRATH	<b>MADAME THENARDIER</b> – LYNNE LUXEM
<b>BISHOP</b> – CHRISTIAN LADABOUCHE	<b>ENJOLRAS</b> – COLBY BURROWS
<b>YOUNG COSETTE</b> – JOURDYN TOURNAY	<b>GAVROCHE</b> – JOSEPH LO-PRESTI
	<b>YOUNG EPONINE</b> – KAYLA FELDER

### GR. 7-12 ENSEMBLE:

OLIVIA STINE, KAROLINE NELSON, LINDSEY BRADLEY, EMILY DAVIS, GABI CONNOR, EMMA LYNCH, DONOVIN SWEETLAND, MAKAYLA WITT, GRACE GOERGER, HAYLEE BAKER, PAYTON RIDLEY, ALETHEA MCILRATH, MAX BARNHOLDT, LOGAN MORISSON, JAYDEN TRAVERS, ADDISSON REED, ANDREA PATTERSON, EMMALEE WHITE, XANDYR BRENNAN, SIMON WIBBE

### GR. 4-5-6 ENSEMBLE:

OLIVIA ADSIT, ALEXANDRIA PERKINS-GRIMALDI, TRENTON DUNN, FELICITY ROBERTS, BRIDGET WATSON, JOEY WILLIAMS, ANGELINA CIARFELLA, ELIJAH MCILRATH, AURORA HURLEY, BRAYTON BRADLEY, RIVER COSTELLO



**School Counseling News**  
**Kevin Durr**  
**9-12 School Counselor**



**CLASS OF 2017**

- Right now is time to get working on college applications and do college visitations if you have not done so already! Students apply to schools using [www.suny.edu/student](http://www.suny.edu/student) or using the "Common Application" – [www.commonapp.org](http://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](http://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 be done now! It is recommended that you file online at [www.fafsa.org](http://www.fafsa.org). Please contact my office with any questions you may have.

**CLASS OF 2018**

- 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](http://www.collegeboard.com) or [www.actstudent.org](http://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](http://www.fastweb.com) to start researching them. There are several scholarships that students can seek nominations for starting in January. These include the St. Lawrence Augsburg, Clarkson Leadership, RPI Medalist, and more. Please see our website for more details.

**CLASS OF 2019**

- 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
MEDICAL ASSISTANT	MOTORCYCLE, MARINE, POWER SPORTS	NEW VISION HEALTH (SR ONLY)	NURSING ASSISTANT
PLUMBING AND HEATING	VETERINARY SERVICES	VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS	WELDING TECHNOLOGY

- Sophomore year is a very critical year with many students taking Regents in Geometry, Global Studies, Science, and Foreign Language!

## CLASS OF 2020

- 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.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- December – PSAT results brought home by 11<sup>th</sup> graders.
- SAT and ACT registration dates – please see our website for information.
- February 8 – BOCES / JCC Visit Day for all Sophomores

## OTHER TIDBITS

- Students interested in the health care field are required to obtain job shadowing hours prior to applying for a college program. These hours can be obtained at local hospitals, including River Hospital. Applications are available online through the Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization. Please visit [www.fdrhpo.org](http://www.fdrhpo.org) for more information and to register.
- Parents interested in viewing their children's school records online should complete a request for a parent login for Schooltool. Please go to our website and click on "Parent Portal" under District News to request access.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

- All scholarships that are available are immediately 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.

Students from Alexandria Central School, Lyme, Lafargeville, Belleville Henderson, Copenhagen, and Sackets Harbor participated in the Manufacturing Expo at SUNY Polytechnic in Utica, NY on Friday October 28. Students were given the opportunity to see technology that is produced in New York State at the Expo, followed by an admissions program and campus tour.



Brendon Hunter demonstrated measuring electrical current.



*Thank you!*  
*PACE would like to thank everyone who supported our Cherrydale Fundraiser and the Scholastic Book Fair!*

# ACS Purple Pride Friday !

Students and staff are encouraged to wear school colors on Fridays. Pictured below are several staff members wearing purple during a teacher appreciation lunch sponsored by PACE. Thank you PACE!



*Mrs. Cranker and Mrs. Monica*

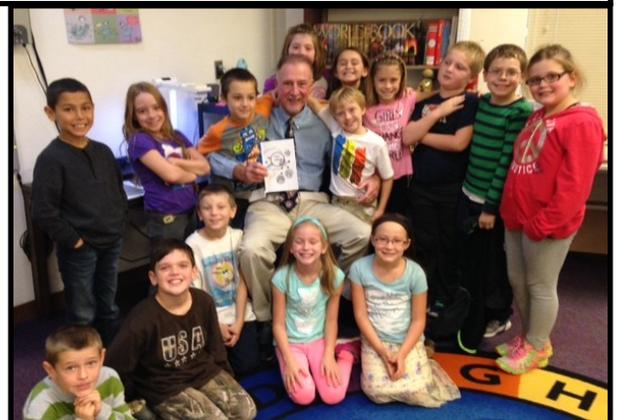


*Mrs. Parrow, Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Graveline*



*Front row: Mrs. Graveline, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. VanCour, Mrs. Parrow  
Middle row; Mrs. McIlrath, Mrs. Wagoner, Mrs. Turgeon, Mrs. Tidd, Mr. Filiatrault  
Back row: Mr. Hudon, Mrs. Wersinger, Mr. Merritt, Mrs. Monica, Mr. Hammond, Mrs. Edgar*

Mr. Orobona, former interim high school principal, is also a children's book author and illustrator! Mrs. Tidd, ACS librarian invited Mr. Orobona to share some of his stories with elementary students. Picture below is Mr. Orobona with Mrs. Kahrs 4th grade class and Mrs. Cranker's 3rd graders. The children and Mrs. Tidd enjoyed listening to him read aloud and share the process of becoming a published author and illustrator. Mr. Orobona also donated autographed copies of his books to the school library.



## Hearts For Youth



The name "Hearts for Youth" has been associated with youth programming for over 16 years. Originally called, Students Hooked on Values (S.H.O.V.), the program started out in the mid 90's as a way to get kids "off the streets" and into safe and healthy activities. A collaboration between Alexandria Central School, local municipalities, churches, businesses and community members formed what was known as "Hearts for Youth."



Over the years, Hearts for Youth would operate under direction of the municipalities; The Town of Alexandria and Village of Alexandria Bay. An office located at Alexandria Central School would be the "hub" of the organization.

The first Executive Director, Kim Kernehan would get the programs up and running. Under Ms. Kernehan's leadership, new grant opportunities would be established, new partnerships were formed and the program took off. Kim's involvement with Hearts for Youth lasted for more than a decade. For her last years with the organization, she would continue her involvement as board president up until 2014.

In Fall of 2012, Executive Director Josh Larson was trained by Kim Kernehan and hired part-time to continue to operate as leader and Executive Director of the Town of Alexandria's Hearts for Youth program. Later in February of 2015, Mr. Larson was hired full-time by the Town of Alexandria to enhance and further the programs needs and funding. To this end it was a success. Additional grant funding was awarded to the Town of Alexandria from the NYS legislative office of Addie Russell in the amount of \$5,000 that would cover the cost of repairs and maintenance to our local playgrounds and municipal baseball fields. Funding from Jefferson County Youth Bureau was secured over 4 years in amounts totaling over \$50,000 to cover operational costs, administration and other grant sources were awarded as well for programming needs. In fall of 2015 a collaboration between the Town of Alexandria's youth program and Keewaydin State Park would lower the budget expenses for the swim program by thousands of dollars.

In August of 2014, community members and volunteers of the Hearts for Youth program formed a separate 501(c)3, non-profit organization called "Hearts for Youth Inc." This separate non-profit organization would act as a "Friends of Hearts for Youth" and further seek grant opportunities and funding sources that stretched beyond what the municipal youth program could do. In the summer of 2015, Hearts for Youth Inc. began fundraising and writing grants. The mission was a success, since the formation, Hearts for Youth Inc. has raised over \$200,000 in funding and assets. HFY Inc. has reserved funding for the planning and building of a community center here in Alexandria Bay as well as programming that the non-profit will offer.

In the spring of this year (2016), the Town of Alexandria decided to discontinue the 30 plus programs and events that their youth program "Hearts for Youth" were running. They dropped the label/name "Hearts for Youth" and re-named the program to "The Town of Alexandria Youth Program." Executive Director Josh Larson would successfully guide the transition from the former program "Hearts for Youth" and transform it into the new program "Town of Alexandria Youth Program." The program would decrease the Town's budget costs and return it to the original staple programs.

As of today, the Town of Alexandria Youth Program will operate recreational programs such as baseball/softball, t-ball, soccer, basketball, tennis and possibly trips to Water Safari. You can find more information about these programs at [www.townofalexandria.org](http://www.townofalexandria.org).

After the transition was complete for the Town of Alexandria Youth Program, Executive Director Josh Larson resigned from the Town of Alexandria Youth Program to continue to operate the dropped programs and events as Executive Director for Hearts for Youth Inc.

After the transition, the new "Hearts for Youth Inc." began organizing the non-profit to set up future programming and operations to youth in the community. HFY Inc. believes that the programs that it will run are critical to the development of our youth. HFY Inc. will continue the Youth Board, career development, life-skills, volunteering events, community day-trips and even a few recreational programs such as golf and kayaking. A more detailed list can be found at [www.heartsforyouth.org](http://www.heartsforyouth.org)

HFY Inc. has also formed new and lasting relationships with the Macsherry Library, Thousand Islands land Trust and Thousand Islands Young Leaders Organization. A new board of directors to the organization has been appointed and new faces are present at HFY Inc. programs and functions. HFY Inc. is looking to the community for help with volunteering for these program and would like to hear from the community in all matters regarding youth programming.

HFY Inc. feels that it is important to continue programs that are offered to teenagers as well as younger children. HFY Inc. believes now is not the time for less programming, but more. With drug use on the rise, teenage pregnancies in Alexandria Bay 1 to every 50 kids and with over 50 percent of our year-round population in poverty, the need for these programs is greater than ever.

You can learn more about what Hearts for Youth Inc. has to offer and events planned for the 2016-2017 year by visiting [www.heartsforyouth.org](http://www.heartsforyouth.org), stop by the Hearts for Youth Inc. office at Alexandria Central School or call HFY at 315-482-9971 ext.2130. Email HFY Inc. at [hfy@alexandriacentral.org](mailto:hfy@alexandriacentral.org) and follow HFY Inc. on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

