



**Alexandria Central School
Newsletter — December 2017**



**2017-2018 School Year
"Purple Pages" Newsletter — December 2017**

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.

**Terry Fralick, Interim Superintendent
Kylie Morgia, Secondary Principal
Amy St. Croix, Elementary Principal**

**Board of Education:
Jane Aikins, President
Suzanne Hunter, Vice President
Andrea Adsit
Betty Compeau
Christine Lingenfelter
Stephen Dreizler
James VanCour**

**Stephen Miskell, School Business Manager
Renee Gill, Secretary to Superintendent/District Clerk
Rod Tidd, Head Mechanic
Anne Remington, Cook Manager
Darin Trickey, Head Custodian**



Alma Mater

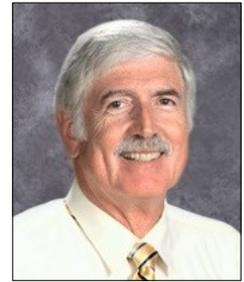


*Let's join in song to the school that we love
She stands in her glory all others above
She hopes for the victory
With courage she'll fight
Let's hold a torch for the Purple and White*



Terry Fralick ~ Interim Superintendent

My Special Homecoming



It is very appropriate that I have this opportunity during the holiday season to thank all of the members of the community and of course, the Board of Education, staff, students and their families for supporting me while I have been Interim Superintendent. As you may recall, I served as the ACS High School Principal from the Summer of 1990 to the Summer of 1996.

I have wonderful memories from those years, and now the time which I have shared with everyone since August 17, 2017 has provided me another chapter for my "Book of Treasured ACS Memories".

I hope that during the past four and a half months, you have found as much enjoyment and inspiration as I have. The halls of the Purple Ghosts are filled with caring professional educators and awesome support staff. As a result, each day I have been rewarded with the privilege of working on behalf of an outstanding group of Pre-K to 12th grade students. This has been a great experience which I very much appreciate. It's been a wonderful homecoming for me.

Thank you Alexandria Central School District, and most of all, thank you Mr. McLennan for believing in me.

Terry N. Fralick

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

To view:

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



Important Dates:

- December 14th - Community Dinner 5:00 - 6:30 pm
- December 14th - 5th through 8th grade Holiday Concert - 7pm
- December 19th - Board of Education Meeting - 7 pm
- December 22nd - Standards Day, Students will be dismissed at 11:15 a.m.
- December 25th - January 1st - Holiday Recess
- January 2nd - School Resumes
- January 15th - No school: Martin Luther King Day
- February 19th - 23rd - Winter Break





A Season of Giving and Thanks

Kylie Morgia ~ High School Principal

Merry Christmas

As November quickly passes and we begin our second ten weeks of school, I can proudly say I am thankful for the students and staff at Alexandria Central. As I think about the first few months of school, I begin to reflect on the excitement and opportunities. The year started off with the faculty participating in various team building challenges. Together we had a lot of laughs and great memories were made. When the door opened for the 2017-2018 school year, our students participated in a grade level competition. The senior class ended up taking home the victory during the opening day festivities, winning themselves a pizza party. Also, during the first week, our ninth grade students began their journey through high school with a trip to Beaver Camp. The students and staff participated in various team building activities, where they had the opportunity to communicate and collaborate with their classmates and teachers.

The students at ACS continue to impress with their hard work, dedication, and talents. Whether they are involved in sports, student council, first Lego league, band, chorus, honor society, French club, or the musical, the students work hard and are dedicated to improving the culture of Alexandria. The students and staff organized a successful fall pep rally where the junior class took the win over dodge ball, beating out the faculty team. We saw some great success at bi-county and the talent in "The Little Mermaid" was remarkable. Here at ACS, everyone plays an important role and together we are achieving greatness.

Instructionally, our staff has had the opportunity to participate in various training and professional development opportunities. At the secondary level, members of the staff participated in a "makerspace" day where they were able to learn how to bring technology, engineering, math, and science and innovation into every classroom. Alexandria has also adopted iReady, a valid and reliable growth measure that pinpoints students needs down to the sub-skill as well as provides ongoing progress monitoring to show whether students are meeting end of the year targets for both ELA and Math. This fall teachers have been trained to give the adaptive diagnostic measure for both ELA and Math in 7th and 8th grade. Students will continue to practice their skills through the online iReady curriculum. As a district we are very excited about the information and support that iReady will provide to our staff and our students.

As the year continues, I am thankful for the hard work and dedication that I witness each and every day from our students and staff. Across the board, our students are involved in multiple extracurricular activities, but also hold academics on a high stature. Our staff does a remarkable job teaching students to be well-rounded and college and career ready. As a team, we are excited to continue to reach greatness, embrace academic rigor, and build purple pride.

Best Wishes and Happy Holidays,
Kylie Morgia
Secondary Principal

Student of the Month
(pictured with Mr. Fralick)

October 2017
Ian McIlrath & Olivia Adsit

November 2017
Aiden Denner, Katharina
Probst



"The function of Education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education." - Martin Luther King Jr.

Amy St. Croix ~ Elementary Principal

As we complete the first quarter and move into some of the most fun and exciting months of the school year, we begin to think about the amazing holiday concerts, the blessings in our community during this time, and the wish by students and teachers that if they wear their pj's backwards, we might just get a snow day. However, I also think it's a great time to reflect on those first 10 weeks of the school year and all that was accomplished.

Teachers and students alike continue to enjoy the FOSS Science program for our 2nd year of implementation. New staff are receiving professional development to bring this hands-on, interactive science experience into their classrooms for students. As teachers who have already received training continue to work hard to implement the FOSS program in its entirety, as we begin to focus on the Next Generation Standards.

As I'm certain each of you have noticed, your students are no longer bringing home the NYS math module problem sets for homework. All grade levels K-6 have had the opportunity to implement the enVision math program. enVision math is standards based, differentiated, and engaging for students. We are also thrilled that it supports the differentiated math centers many of our classrooms have implemented this school year. We are truly excited to watch the growth in students as we move throughout the school year using enVision math.

We are thrilled to announce we have joined many of our neighboring and local school districts who have implemented the research based, diagnostic for reading and mathematics, iReady. It pinpoints each student's individualized need down to the sub skill levels and offers ongoing progress monitoring. This allows our teachers to track and monitor student growth, in order to make sure students are on track to achieve end-of-year targets.



Each member of our staff has been working very hard to make certain we are meeting the individualized needs of each student; however, it's the day-to-day interactions, compassion, and smiles from them that make it all worth the work. It's the toothless grins that greet you with "Good morning", it's the excitement in their eyes when they've been offered a new experience, or simply the day-to-day support and compassion that transpires into our school that makes all that we do exciting.



Truly Yours In Education,
Amy St. Croix
Elementary Principal



A Note From the Board of Education

The Alexandria Board of Education would like to thank Patricia Aitcheson and Will Farman for their years of service, dedication, and hard work on the board. We now welcome our newly elected members Betty Compeau and Jim Vancour.



We are looking forward to some exciting changes to ACS as Christopher Clapper takes on the role of District Superintendent beginning December 27th. Christopher comes to us from Southern Cayuga Central School where he has served as the elementary principal. We are confident he will be an asset to both our school and community with his innovative ideas and leadership skills.

A warm welcome also to Renee Gill, our new District Clerk.

A special thank you to **Terry Fralick** who has done an outstanding job serving as our interim superintendent since August. His professionalism and kindness throughout this time of transition has been so evident and appreciated. May he now enjoy a long well deserved retirement!

Strategic Planning at ACS Submitted by Stephen Miskell, Business Manager



The Board of Education has begun the process of establishing a long range (five year) plan for Alexandria Central School. For public school districts, strategic planning is a step-by-step process for a School Board and planning team to consider where we are, where we want to be, and how we want to get there. At the Board of Education meeting on October 24, the Board authorized an on-line survey to seek input from the District's constituency groups (faculty and staff, students, parents, community members, etc.).

The results of the survey were presented at the November 28 BOE meeting, and included feedback about how our school community views our District's strengths and weaknesses, as well as potential goals and strategies to contribute to a culture of continuous improvement here at Alexandria Central School. The School Board will soon identify a Mission Statement for ACS; a brief description of our District's purpose, and who we are as a school community. The Board will also develop Vision Statements for ACS; a series of more specific statements that describe what it looks like when we are fulfilling our mission.

From there, the Board and the Strategic Planning Team will establish specific short-range goals, to be accomplished during the school year, along with long-range goals, that will be accomplished over the course of the next five years. Potential goal areas that emerged from the strategic planning survey included teaching and learning (student achievement and academic rigor), communication, technology, fiscal stability, facilities, turnover of professional staff, and establishing ACS as the hub of our community.

BOCES District Superintendent Steve Todd noted recently that our timing could not be better with the strategic planning process now underway, as we prepare to transition from the leadership of Mr. Fralick, to that of our new Superintendent, Mr. Clapper. Once the Strategic Plan is complete, it will not gather dust in a binder on a shelf in someone's office. Instead, it will be designed to be a dynamic, living document that is followed closely and updated as needed, and will be a focal point for planning by the School Board and administrative team throughout the school year and for many years to come.

The budget that district residents vote on each May will be built and maintained to support the District's Mission, Vision, and Goals, so as to ensure the our resources are utilized wisely, and always in support of the children we serve.



Dignity For All Students Act (DASA)

Providing a safe school environment, in regards to the mental and physical health of our students and our staff is the most important goal that we have at Alexandria Central. Communication between students, families and staff is paramount to meeting this goal.

Dignity For All Students Act

The Alexandria Central School Board of Education, administration, and all staff are committed to providing a safe school environment. At Alexandria Central School, students will receive and district personnel will deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other district personnel, parents and visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

What is DASA?

The "Dignity for All Students Act" is a New York State law effective July 1, 2012. It is designed to provide a learning environment free of discrimination and harassment. Bullying behaviors may be a larger problem of discrimination and harassment. DASA works to help prevent discrimination and harassment through civility, citizenship and character education.

What Behaviors Are Reportable?

Bullying: A form of harassment that consists of persistent inappropriate behavior that is done indirectly, remotely, or face-to-face.

Cyber-Bullying: A form of bullying that is done through electronic communication (i.e. the Internet, cell phones, Facebook, etc.)

Discrimination: The denial of rights because of a person's group, class or category to which a person belongs.

Harassment: The creation of a hostile environment by conduct or verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that interferes with a student's educational performance.

The Dignity Act states that **NO student shall be subjected to harassment or discrimination by employees or students on school property or at a school function; nor shall any student be subjected to discrimination based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity or expression), or sex by school employees or students on school property or at a school function. (2017)**

Patricia Wagoner is Alexandria Central School's Dignity For All Students Coordinator. She may be contacted at pwagoner@alexandriacentral.org or at (315)-482-9971 ex.t 1590.

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





Perfect Regents Scores!

Alexandria Central School is proud to acknowledge the students who received a grade of 100 on a New York State Regents examination during the 2016-2017 school year. Marissa Ely received a 100 on the Global History and Geography Examination and Alexandria Hansson received a 100 on the Common Core English Examination. Receiving a score of 100 on the French III Comprehensive Examination were Colby Burrows, Marissa Ely, and Dylan O'Connor. Congratulations on a job well done!

Left to right: Alexandria Hansson, Marissa Ely, Dylan O'Connor, and Colby Burrows



Freshman Class Attends Beaver Camp

On Thursday, September 7, 2017, the Freshman class at Alexandria Central School had the opportunity to participate in the 9th 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.



ACS Band Celebrates Excellence

Submitted by ~ Mr. Hammond

ACS music students were recently recognized for their efforts and achievement, with seven musicians being chosen for local and state-wide honor band participation. On November 4, Cristofer Tidd and Abigail Wolfe performed in concert with the Jefferson-Lewis Music Teachers Association Bi-County jazz band, one of the most selective performing groups in the Jefferson-Lewis County school music community, with only about 20 students selected for the performance. On the same date, Dominic Tidd and Jack Bridenbaker represented ACS among junior high school students selected for the bi-county concert band.

Cristofer Tidd, Taitt Heath, Sam Felicia and Dylan O'Connor were selected for participation in this year's Area All-State Band, performing on November 18 alongside students from schools from Plattsburgh to Pulaski. Within the New York State School Music Association structure, Area All-State is the most selective regional ensemble.

And finally, I am thrilled to announce that Dominic Tidd was selected to perform with the 2018 New York State Band Directors Association Junior High Honor Band. Dominic is the first student from ACS ever selected for this state-wide honor. On Saturday, March 3 in Liverpool, Dominic will perform along with approximately one hundred students selected from all over New York State, under the direction of Dr. Milt Allen.



Sam Felicia, Cristofer Tidd, and Dylan O'Connor performed in Area All-State Band





NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION



The Sage Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society at Alexandria Central School inducted 15 new members and honored 24 current ninth grade members at the NJHS Induction Ceremony this fall 2017. McKenna Ingalls, freshman member of the NJHS welcomed the families, administration, faculty, and students, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by freshman member, Joseph Papin. Mrs. Kylie Morgia, Secondary Principal, congratulated the students and their parents on setting and achieving high standards.

The formal induction ceremony began with freshman member, Nolan Irvine, lighting the flame of knowledge. Four freshmen, Rebecca Davis, Jadon Aikins, Abigail Wolfe, and Hallie Bain, continued by lighting the candles of scholarship, service, leadership, and character and reviewed each of the four qualities for the candidates. Mrs. Kylie Morgia, Secondary Principal, and Mrs. Hayley Ascough, National Junior Honor Society Advisor, presented the new candidates with the proper insignia, membership cards and certificates. Freshmen member, Maximillian Barnholdt, 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.

Ten 9th and 10th grade members were also recognized as winners of the NJHS Outstanding Achievement Award. These students applied for this honor and scholarship and were then recommended by their NJHS Advisor and the Secondary Principal during the 2016-2017 school year. Award recipients included Taylor Calhoun, Samuel Felicia, Grace Goerger, Meghan Wardell, Jadon Aikins, Elizabeth Costello, Rebecca Davis, Joseph Papin, Jayden Travers, and Abigail Wolfe.

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.



Need some school spirit? Need a last minute Christmas gift? The class of 2020 invites you to our school pride apparel sale. Sweat-shirts, long sleeves, short sleeves, jackets and hats; we have it all! You

can personalize your apparel with many things including name, jersey number, even your favorite sport or activity! It's easy go to the website <https://www.agpestores.com/doublejs/groups.php> . Select Alex Bay Ghosts put in the access code "ghosts" and it will take you to the page.



Jefferson County 4-H program wants your input!



For youth and adults ages 13 and up.

This survey takes approximately 10 minutes.

We are reaching out to the community to learn how to strengthen and meet the needs of the youth we serve.



To take our survey visit this link: <http://bit.ly/2xcl7Ux>

Take the survey and enter to win a \$100 Visa gift card or a 4-H basket of goodies.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Jefferson County

After School Lego – Robotics Leagues

This year ACS has formed its very first team to compete in the Lego-Robotics League. First Lego League engages students with real-world engineering by challenging them to build Lego based robots to complete tasks. Mr. Gary Kocher and Mrs. Alycia O'Connor are coaching both the First Lego League (Middle School) and the First Tech League (High School). The First Lego League has nine students involved: Kayla Felder, Tayler Sourwine, Kayden Anderson, Hunter Muhlbauer, Dan Peguerra, Ethan Brennan, Xander Brennan, Ronaldo Prophete, and Quinlyn Reed. Mr. Asa Reed and Mrs. Keeley Prophete are volunteering as team mentors.

Along with thirty-three other schools, the ACS First Lego League team will be competing at Clarkson University, on Saturday December 2nd. This year's challenge involves hydro dynamics (how we find, transport, use, or dispose of water). In preparation, the students visited the Alex Bay Village water treatment plant where Greg Millett walked them through how the system works. On November 14, a guest speaker will be giving a presentation about *Save the River* and their water monitoring projects.

For this challenge, the teams will need to program the robot to perform anywhere from 5 to 18 different functions. In addition, they must understand and display core values, by developing and performing a skit about solving a real world problem related to the water system. The team voted on a name and came up with: *Purple LEGhOst*. They also had t-shirts made, with a team logo designed by one of the students.

The First Tech Challenge (FTC) High School team will be attending their first competition on Friday December 1st, also at Clarkson University. The FTC team will have to program a robot to perform three different functions, such as: balancing on a platform, moving and stacking foam blocks into a fenced in area, or dropping a plastic survivor figure out over a perimeter wall. The team voted and came up with the name: *Phantom Tech!* Good luck to both our teams.



STEM - Maker Space Program



This is the first year that ACS has started a STEM-Maker Space Program. Mr. Gary Kocher has been teaching the 7th Grade STEM and now will be teaching the 8th Grade, 5th Grade and then 6th Graders every ten weeks. There are also three High School STEM Classes. All of these classes have been working on 3D Printing, 3D Pens, learning how to program robots like Ozobot, Ollie, Sphero, Dot & Dash, and Robot Kits. The students have also been working with Cublets, Makey-Makey, Little Bits, Snap Circuits, Squishy Circuits, Vacuum Forming, and model Rocketry. The Middle School students are working in four groups in change from one group to the next once every seven days. At the end of the seventh day the students have a STEM Challenge Day where they have to work in groups and solve a problem within 20 minutes. The students have been enjoying working with new projects this year.



The Very Busy Pre-K! ~ Mrs. Bearup/Mrs. Cole



The Pre-K has been very busy learning the routine of being in school all day! We have been busy making friends, learning to share, listening to stories, learning *All* about our *Bodies*, *The Five Senses*, and *Families*, learning the letters in our names, colors, numbers, counting, and playing. Yes.... playing! Children love to play, and for young children play is their work. Play encourages creativity, language, vocabulary, problem solving, taking turns, cooperation, and respect for others. We celebrated Fall, picked pumpkins, learning about Fire Safety, and had fun on our Halloween Parade. Recess outside is our favorite time of day... and we always look forward to nap time. Oh how busy we are in Pre-K!

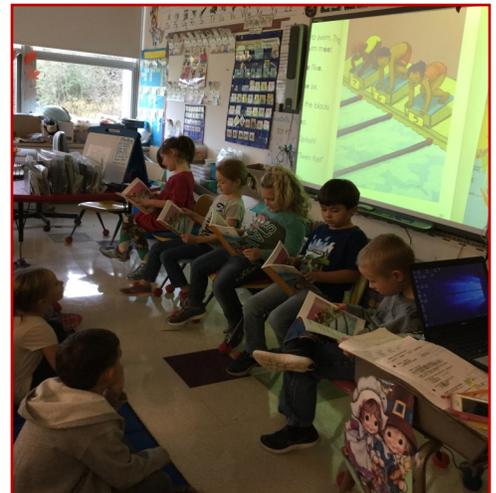


Kindergarten Scientists ~ Mrs. Sinkbeil and Ms. Lynch

In Kindergarten this year we have begun a new Science program, call FOSS. FOSS stands for Full Option Science Systems. Students are learning how to "Think like scientists". They are enjoying making observations, discussing their findings, and recording with drawings in their science journals. In the photos our students are observing similarities and differences between goldfish and guppies.



First graders are learning to write their ideas about Fire Safety and read what they have written to their classmates.



Mrs. Ball's 1st graders are learning to become fluent readers!

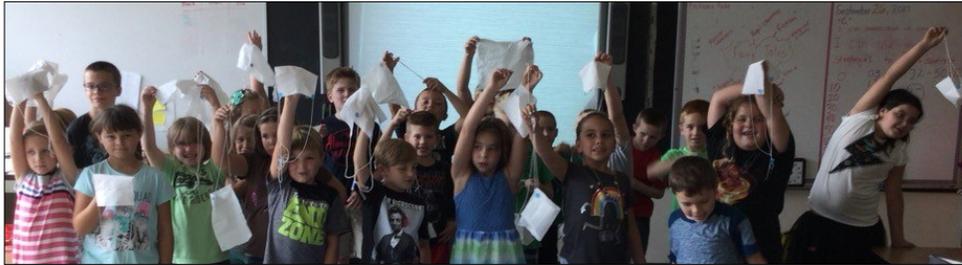


Mrs. Ball's class had a wonderful time at their Halloween celebration!



**2nd Grade ~
FOSS Science wind experiments**

Mrs. Putnam and Mr. Hudon did some team teaching this quarter with the whole second grade. The students made kites, parachutes and air powered rockets during the unit. The students really enjoyed the hands on experiments as they learned about air and wind. Students even had the opportunity to fly Mr. Hudon's giant parasail kite.



Library News ~ Summer Readers

Our annual summer reading challenge was very successful with over 50 students participating! Last June, students who were entering Kindergarten through sixth grade in the fall were invited to participate which required reading a set number of books over the summer months. Reading logs were submitted to the library upon returning to school in September. Celebrations were held in the library for different age levels. Participants received a free book, a certificate, small prizes and were treated to an ice cream party. Participants were:

Kindergarten: Elliette Boyer, Ava Martin, Sawyer Hazelton

1st Grade: Grant Porter, Ella Williams, Preston Scott, Mary Weldon

2nd Grade: Ava Aguayo, Carter McAloon, Avery Hazelton, David Williams, Rayne McAloon, Jasper Brennan, CeCellia and GiAnna Lucidi

3rd Grade: Meera Aguayo, Micah Weldon, Eva Croll, Jacob Graveline, Marlo Porter, Kaitlyn White, Sawyer Patraw, Brody Hilts

4th Grade: Brody McCauley, Mavery Weaver, William Weldon, Joey Sanders Taylor Muhlbaier, Bianca Scott, Theron McCauley, Max Paranzino, Akiro Prophette, Aidan McAloon, Addisyn Dunn, Sheh Collins, Antonio Lucidi

5th Grade: Paityn Bridenbaker, Tarryn Pitts, Ella Porter, Brady Hyde, Sincerity Diange, Janell Sutton, Cecil Velez, Grace Davidson

6th Grade: Brynlee Starritt, Ella Graveline, Erik Croll, Molly Edgar, Jordan Aikins, Drew Hunneyman, Caitlin Rushlow, Amaris Siebert, Alexandria Perkins-Grimaldi



Brady Hyde won the candy corn guessing contest!



2nd grade summer readers



5th & 6th grade summer readers



3rd grade summer readers

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

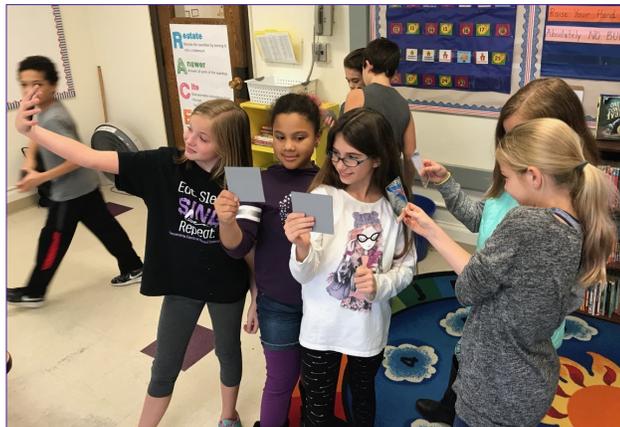


4th Grade Happenings ~ Mrs. Kahrs, Mrs. Martin, and Mrs. VanCour

Fourth grade has started off on a positive note. We have been studying about New York State's geography, resources, and regions. This has led to fun projects and new writing skills. We have also had the opportunity to attend the Ag Extravaganza at Thomson Park, where the students learned about New York State agriculture. All of these experiences have enhanced our learning and enjoyment of school. We hope to have more of these opportunities throughout the school year.



The students in Mrs. Martin's 4th grade class have been studying light and how we see objects because of light. Here they are investigating how a mirror works and what you can use a mirror for. The students are really enjoying the new Science FOSS curriculum.

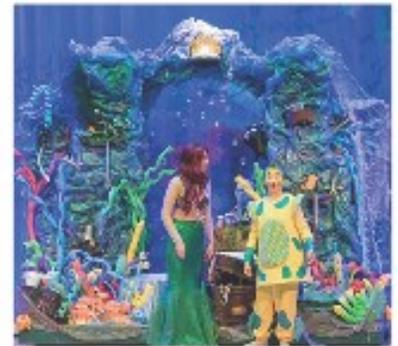


Fifth grade students traveled to SUNY Potsdam on a beautiful Fall day to watch a production of Alice in Wonderland. Students enjoyed a unique rendition of the classic tale which included live actors, puppetry and technological enhancements. We also spent about an hour touring the campus and answering questions regarding attending college.



Fall production of Little Mermaid at ACS is a HIT!!

"Little Mermaid" was a smash hit at ACS with 4 wonderful shows and audiences that left in awe! Congrats to the amazing cast on all their hard work and efforts! It truly paid off! On behalf of the music department, a huge thank you goes out to our crew- Mike & Mary Witt, and Jim Stine, who once again outdid themselves with their extraordinary creativity on sets! Ann Marie Hyde added some wonderful touches to our set and props this year too! Thank you Jeff McIlrath, Dan Hammond, Jodi Cullen, Heather McIlrath, Hope Ann LoPresti, Andrea Adsit, Amy Perkins, Caralee Handschuh, Loretta Siebert, Vicki Connor, Kerry Bearup, Melina Kilpatrick, Loni Hollinger, Amanda Burrows, Tracey Duclon, Erin Connor, Candy Sweetland, Kira Hollinger, Holly Davis, Heather Gill & the Haddocks for help with costumes, props, tickets, the Tea, the cast party, hair and makeup, & the cast dinner!! Also thank you to Kylie Morgia, Alycia O'Connor, and Cathryn Dymond for decorating the front entry!! To ALL who helped in any way (chaperones, ticket scanners, programs, concessions, etc) it truly takes a village - you are amazing! We appreciate you!! Here are some pics from the show, courtesy of Marta Beach! :)





School Counseling News
Kevin Durr
9-12 School Counselor



CLASS OF 2018

- 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 or 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 be done now! It is recommended that you file online at www.fafsa.org. Please contact my office with any questions you may have.

CLASS OF 2019

- 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. There are several scholarships that students can seek nominations for starting in February. These include the St. Lawrence Augsburg, Clarkson Leadership, RPI Medalist, and more. Please see my webpage for more details.

CLASS OF 2020

- 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	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	MEDICAL ASSISTANT	MEDICAL CAREERS	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 2021

- 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 of expectations.

(continued on next page)

School Counseling News continued...

AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL CONTEST – December 1st

On December 1st, 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 talk to their history teacher or myself to sign up for this event!

IMPORTANT DATES

- December 1st – 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 (February) – BOCES / JCC Visit Day for all Sophomores



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.



There was a College Visit to SUNY ESF that took place on October 25 through the Fort Drum RISE grant. Students from Alexandria, Belleville Henderson, and LaFargeville participated. In the photo, students listen to an admissions presentation.



NATIONAL

SUICIDE

PREVENTION

LIFELINE

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Journalism Class Interviews New Teachers!

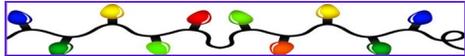


An Interview With Mrs. Cole

by Kaela Mellowship

Mrs. Cole is a new pre-k teacher here at ACS. She has been teaching for 6 years and decided to be a teacher because kids are more fun to work with than adults. She said, "Your day is never the same." Mrs. Mary-Katherine Cole finds the pre-k age group most fun to teach. She says they're excited to learn. Singing and dancing are some of her favorite activities to do with her students, and she knows it's been a good day when she sees smiles on their little faces.

But, Mrs. Cole isn't just a teacher, she is a wife, mother and the proud owner of a rescue dog named Ziggy. Outside of the classroom she enjoys watching football, playing with her son, Lincoln, walking the dog, and reading. When she was in school she was in Select Choir and even attended ACS. Mrs. Mary-Katherine Cole is also very excited to be teaching at her Alma Mater. When asked who her inspiration was, she replied with her mother, who taught her well and who she looks up to very much. We look forward to getting to know her here at ACS.



Welcome Mr. Goodwin

Mr. Andrew Goodwin teaches 3rd Grade here at Alexandria Central School this year. He grew up in Wattertown but taught in Virginia for several years. This job at ACS has led him back home to his roots. As a college student, Mr. Goodwin spent his summers working for the Watertown City Summer Rec. Program. Here he found that he loved working with kids, inspiring him to become a teacher. In his free time, Mr. Goodwin likes to watch all different kinds of movies and play hockey.



Mr. Goodwin says that his favorite part about teaching 3rd Grade is Social Studies. His students love that he gives them "Quiet Time." Kamryn Beers told me that she loves quiet time, "We get to read, do drawings, and finish any work that we have." Madison Bradley, another of Mr. Goodwin's students, says she also loves the Morning Meeting. "Yeah," Madison says, "Mr. Goodwin is pretty fun."



Mrs. Gray Joins ACS

Mrs. "Cricket" Gray is the newest edition to the Science Department at Alexandria Central High School. Originally from Michigan, Mrs. Gray and her family settled in LaFargeville around five years ago to be near Fort Drum. Her husband is now retired from the military. She has four children all of whom live at home. Two children are out of school and two attend the LaFargeville schools.

Mrs. Gray has wanted to be a teacher since her first day of Kindergarten. She has been inspired by many science teachers along the way. Her favorite thing to teach is Chemistry and she loves teaching and learning about bacteria and viruses. Mrs. Gray loves learning and is continuing to take classes. She is currently finishing up the last year of her Master's Degree in Education at SUNY Potsdam.

About her "nickname," Cricket isn't a nickname at all, but Mrs. Gray's middle name. She has been called Cricket all her life. When asked about free time, Mrs. Gray replied, "What's that?" With four children, studying for her Master's Degree/commuting to Potsdam, and teaching, her schedule is plenty full. We welcome Mrs. Gray to ACS.

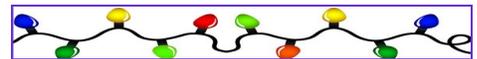
My Interview with Mr. Hough

by Sophia Williams

I got the chance to interview one of the newest members of the ACS staff. Mr. Joshua Hough, the high school math teacher, is originally from Waddington, NY up North and most recently taught at Sherburne Earlville Central school. He has taught 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th grade before. The biggest challenge Mr. Hough has had during his years of teaching is for kids to try and understand some of the difficult curriculum he is teaching. Mr. Hough has taught 4 grades throughout his teaching career, 7th, 8th, and 9th, and 6th grade! In his spare time, he loves sports and likes to spend time with his 17 month old little boy.



Mr. Hough teaches 4 different classes throughout the day. His favorite class to teach is Algebra 1. When asked if he always wanted be a math teacher, Mr. Hough explained that he originally went to school to be a physical therapist but, switched his major. Mr. Hough said that he enjoys it here because it's a much smaller environment and he likes the students here.



Who is Ms. Dymond?

by Stephanie Martin



Ms. Cathryn Dymond is new to our Alexandria Central School family. This is Ms. Dymond's first year teaching here. She went to college at Cornell University here in New York State where she majored in Animal science and Agriculture science, and minored in Biological sciences and then transfer to SUNY Oswego to finish getting her degree. Ms. Dymond likes to make learning fun in any way she can. She believes that for someone to learn something it's better to teach with

real world experiences over lecturing.

Ms. Dymond is teaching a few different science courses here at ACS and loves all of her classes. The reason she became a teacher was because she wanted to change kids' lives. She originally didn't want to be a teacher, but fell in love with it while getting her degree. Her favorite part of teaching is when she see's a student have an "ah-ha" moment and make connections between things.

Ms. Dymond was in an FFA chapter when she was in college. She was in the Tri- Valley Chapter, she said, "It was the best experience of my life." She also wishes more kids would consider joining FFA. Ms. Dymond picked ACS because she met some of the students and just loved how polite, kind, and happy they were. In that moment she knew we were different. Ms. Dymond has one goal and that is to see all of the students at ACS do well in all of their classes and to be successful in life. She wants them to be good citizens.



Ms. Madson Joins ACS

by Addisson Reed

Marissa Madson is in her first year of teaching. She has done a summer school program for LaFargeville school, but this is her first real full year teaching. Ms. Madson loves teaching first grade. She said, "I love watching them grow and molding them into little humans." I asked Ms. Madson what made her want to be a teacher and she said, "The Buddy System in high school and seeing how they grow and kids this age have an amazing energy, enjoying life by being at school." Ms. Madson wants all her students to know, "I love each and every one and they are the best part of my day." Ms. Madson likes to spend time with friends and family and make crafts. In the summer she helps with the plays at the Clayton Opera House.



This school year Ms. Madson plans on making learning fun and playing games and singing songs and dancing in order to learn in a fun way. Ms. Madson's student Ava Parker says, "I like how she gives us extra recess sometimes." Ava also likes how they play good noodles where you copy someone dancing. Another student, Trenton Heath, is most excited for homework this year and likes how they get to play with friends. He also likes how they get inside and outside playtime. Trenton's favorite thing that Ms. Madson teaches him is math. Your students love you Ms. Madson!

Interview of Mr. Augliano

by Noah Weaver

I had the chance to interview Mr. Michael Augliano, the new 11th-12th grade History teacher. When asked about when he started teaching, Mr. Augliano replied that he began the



Fall of 2003. That sounds like the perfect que for a dramatic flashback am I right? He has taught at Thousand Islands, Ogdensburg, and Lisbon. He said he enjoys teaching history and he particularly likes teaching Juniors and Seniors. Mr. Augliano became a teacher because he likes helping and working with people. He has also wanted to be coach. As a fun fact his parents were also teachers. When asked what he would do if he was the last person on earth, he said he would go look for others. For a silly question I asked, "What would you do for a Klondike bar?" Mr. Augliano said, "I'd open my fridge." When asked if he has enjoyed it here at ACS, he gave a confident yes!



Welcome Mr. Marshall

by Brendon Collette

Mr. Todd Marshall is the new Alexandria Central School Family and Consumer Science teacher and most students are still learning about him. He says his two hobbies are cooking food and baking various goods such as cakes and pies. He's been teaching for four years. He also taught at Lyme Central School. Mr. Marshall didn't want to be a teacher at first. His original career choice was the hospitality industry, owning a restaurant and cooking. He did that for a while, but now he is glad to be teaching the things he loves.



Here are a few more fun facts about Mr. Marshall. When asked about what his favorite song genre he said, "I like a variety of music from heavy metal to classical." When asked what his favorite movie genre was, he said, "I guess I like action-drama." We are very happy to have Mr. Marshall as a part of our ACS family.

Hearts for Youth Inc. News ~ by Caitlin Ely

Hearts for Youth Inc. has had an extremely busy October and November. In October, we participated in our biannual Jack T. Sweet Memorial Highway Clean Up on Rte.12. We traveled to Fright Nights at the Fair in Syracuse, NY where students explored five different haunted houses with their friends. We also held events like Jr. Movie Matinee, youth board, the Halloween Boat Cruise fundraiser and the 4th – 6th grade Halloween Dance, where we had over 100 students!

On November 20th, we hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner at the Reformed Church for 7-12th grade students and their families. Students had the opportunity to paint, cook and have some active gym time. On November 21st, a Jr. Movie Matinee was held at the Macsherry Library and we showed the movie "Nut Job 2" for students in Pre K – 6.

We have recently adopted an after school program at the Macsherry Library for students in elementary school. Students can work in stations, on homework, arts and crafts, or Lego building. There is no need to sign up; just show up and sign in. We are also partnered with Macsherry Library to provide story time for children one to four years old every Monday and Tuesday at 11am when school is in session.

On December 1 at 7pm, HFY will serve hot chocolate during the annual Christmas Tree lighting downtown. On Wednesday December 6, HFY will take the regular scheduled youth board group, along with anyone else who like to join, to the Alex Bay Ice Rink for Open Skate from 3:00-4:00pm. Permission slips will be available outside the HFY office. On December 8, HFY youth board will assist the American Legion with wrapping gifts at Santa's Workshop. We are also in the process of planning an Italian Dinner and Movie Night for grades 7-12.

We hold Youth Board Meetings every Wednesday in the High School Cafeteria from 3:00 to 3:30pm. All students in grades 7-12 are welcome to join at any time! We are always looking for new adventures and activities. To find out more information about us follow us on Facebook, check out our website, call us at 315-482-9971 ext. 2130 or text us at 315-783-3248.

Last but not least, Hearts for Youth Inc. wishes to extend a warm welcome to our new Executive Director, Denise Haddock!



Highway cleanup: Bottom left: Rachele Johnson, Dylan Mattice, Lynne Luxem. Top left: Caitlin Ely, Alex Hansson, Serenity Neuroth, Phoenix Belcher and Vanessa Rushlow

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 (315) 482-9971 x 3350
- Pivot, formerly known as the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council, (315) 788-4660
- Parents. The Anti-Drug. www.theantidrug.com



E-cigarettes and Vaping ~ What You Need To Know

What is it?

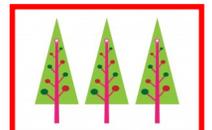
- It's a battery-operated device designed to deliver nicotine with flavorings and other chemicals to users in vapor instead of smoke.
- They can look like a traditional cigarette or an everyday item such as a pen or a USB flash drive that can even be charged by plugging it into a laptop computer.

So what?

- E-cigarettes are often promoted as a safer alternative to traditional cigarettes, but little is known about the health risks associated with them.
- Testing of some E-cigarette products have found the vapor to contain some known carcinogens.
- E-cigarette cartridges can be filled with other substances besides nicotine, including drugs like marijuana or marijuana oil. The vapor exhaled does not smell different for these substances, unlike traditional smoking methods.

How does this affect youth?

- E-cigarettes are increasingly popular with youth, including those of middle school age.
- They are easily available to youth through the internet.
- Some cartridges have different flavors, such as chocolate, mint, or fruit flavors, which are very appealing to youth.
- According to the Surgeon General, some studies show that non-smoking youth who use E-cigarettes are more likely to try conventional cigarettes in the future than non-smoking youth who do not use E-cigarettes.



For more information, please contact:

Kendra Eberle, Student Assistance Counselor (315) 482-9971 x3350; Pivot (315) 788-4660; <https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov>



Veterans Day Celebration at ACS



On November 9, Alexandria Central students and staff honored veterans and active military personnel with a morning Veterans Day celebration. Fourth grade students greeted guests at the door. Several high school students seated guests, served refreshments and participated in the program. Marissa Ely and Mollie Hazelton were the emcees for the program, Madison Hazelton read an original poem, and both Colby Harrington and Erin Haddock presented certificates. Interim superintendent Terry Fralick, welcomed the guests. Shawn Jensen, Post 904 Commander American Legion opened the program and the Boy Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance. During the program, patriotic songs were sung by the Select Choir and all of the elementary students in grades preschool through fourth grade shared a variety of songs, poems, and gifts. Sam Felicia closed the program by performing "Taps".



Veterans Day Poem
by Madison Hazelton

I do not know your name,
The struggle or battle.
I do not know the sacrifice,
Or the way your soul was rattled.
I cannot speak of your hardships,
Those who lived or died.
I cannot fathom the relationships,
Built on days believed and cried.
I do know that both men and women,
Here, missing, and gone
Have done what many couldn't,
Answer the call from dusk to dawn.
Veterans, this day is dedicated to you,
As a national thank you.
Though for your families and friends
Every day is a gift that never ends.

