



Newsletter & Budget Information

May 2023, Page 1

Inside This Issue

Budget Information..... p. 1
 Budget Q & A p. 2
 Propositions p. 3
 Budget Charts p. 4-5
 Budget Notice p. 6
 BOE Candidates..... p. 7-9

Vote Date Details

What will I be voting on?

Budget: \$15,902,241

Bonding of Transportation Vehicles,
Capital Reserve Fund, Macsherry
Library Funding, BOE Candidates

When and where is the vote?

Tuesday, May 16, 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Alexandria Central School
Room 260

Who is eligible to vote?

American citizens at least 18 years of
age who have lived in the district at
least 30 days prior to the vote.

Do I need to pre-register to vote?

No, pre-registration is not required.

How do I vote by absentee ballot?

Obtain an application on the district
website or by calling 315-482-9971. The
application must be returned by May 9
if the absentee ballot will be sent by
mail. Or the application must be
returned by May 15 if the voter will pick
it up at ACS. Absentee ballots must be
returned no later than 5:00 pm on May
16, 2023.

Alexandria Central School District Residents will vote on a \$15,902,241 budget proposal for the 2023-2024 school year on Tuesday, May 16 from 9 am to 8 pm in Room 260. It will be clearly marked where to enter the building. Voters will also select three candidates on the ACS Board of Education and consider three additional propositions: a proposition for bonding student transportation vehicles as part of the District routine fleet replacement, establishing a capital reserve fund, and Macsherry Library funding.

This year is the second and final year that New York State has committed to fully funding some schools in the state through foundation aid. By fully funding foundation aid specifically, school districts that have experienced changes in their property values, incomes, or student needs saw large state aid windfalls. By NYSED calculations, however, the Alexandria CSD saw an increase in property values, which overshadowed local incomes and changes in student need. Therefore, foundation aid for ACS increased at the lowest allowable level. Overall, ACS received an increase of \$113,000 in foundation aid, which equates to a 0.7% increase to our overall budget.

The ACS Board of Education, recognizing the difficult current economic climate, has worked diligently analyzing expenditures and anticipated revenues in an effort to maintain programs while minimizing the tax impact. An ongoing cost saving venture involves shared services with Hammond CSD. In the prior year, the two districts entered into two agreements. For 2023-24, an additional cost sharing agreement has been included as a revenue source for ACS, generating over \$80,000 in additional revenue.

Cost increases for the 2023-24 fiscal year are attributed to contractual salary and health care increases, retiree costs, and inflationary pressure. The district has consistently been mindful of the impact budget increases have on taxpayers. With this in mind, the district has proposed a tax levy increase of 1.99%. Next year, this would be an estimated \$27 increase in the school tax bill for a property assessed at \$100,000.

2023-2024 Capital Outlay

Each year ACS budgets for a capital outlay project. These projects are state-allowable, state-aided projects that can be no more than \$100,000 in scope. Each project must undergo a rigorous NYSED approval process and include transparent public bidding. The district has focused on projects complementing our larger gym project in the past few years. In 2021-2022, the district focused on replacing the bathroom in the boy's locker room. In the 2022-2023 school year, the district began the process of replacing bathrooms in the girl's locker room. In the 2023-2024 academic year, the district will build into the regular school budget a capital outlay project that continues to modernize the girl's locker room. Additional work will include shower replacement, plumbing upgrades, lighting fixtures, and ceiling replacement.





Budget Q & A

May 2023, Page 2

What is a “tax levy limit” and is ACS below its limit?

The tax levy is the highest allowable tax levy a school district can propose for which only the approval of a simple majority of voters (50% plus one) is required. The limit is calculated using a multi-step formula that takes into account any allowable exclusions (such as pension costs and capital expenditures). Any proposed tax levy above this limit requires budget approval by a super majority of voters (60%). The ACS Board of Education has proposed a budget that includes a tax levy BELOW its limit. For the 2023-24 fiscal year, the ACS tax cap limit was 4.45%.

How is the tax levy different from a tax rate?

The tax levy is the amount of money the district raises from local taxpayers while the tax rate is the amount of tax residents pay per \$1,000 of property value. In 2023-24 the school tax levy would increase by 1.99%. The impact on school tax bills is projected to be an approximate \$27 next year for a property assessed at \$100,000.

With the tax levy limit, does the public still vote on a school budget?

Yes, residents will still vote on a proposed school budget on May 16.

What happens if the budget is defeated?

If the proposed budget is defeated in May, the ACS Board of Education can put another budget, revised or not, up for a vote in June or immediately adopt a contingency budget. If the budget is defeated twice, ACS would have to adopt a contingency budget, with a zero percent tax levy increase, which could mean an additional \$393,950 in reductions to programs and services.

Under contingency, there would be \$393,950 worth of reductions in programs and capital components.

If the proposed budget is defeated by voters, the ACS Board of Education, as in the past, will have the option of putting the same or a revised budget up for a revote, or adopting a contingency budget. If voters reject the budget twice, the district must adopt a contingent budget.

More significantly, under the law, if ACS adopts a contingency budget, the district would have to keep the 2023-24 tax levy the same as or less than the 2022-23 tax levy; in effect, a 0 percent tax levy increase. In other words, the district would have to levy the same amount of taxes as in 2022-23 -or less -without any adjustments for contractual obligations or other costs, whether or not they are mandated.

Adopting a contingency budget would prohibit ACS from spending any money in certain areas, including community use of school facilities (unless all costs are reimbursed to the district); new equipment purchases; non-essential maintenance; capital expenditures (except in emergencies); salary increases for non-instructional, non-unionized employees; and certain field trips and student supplies. Contingency rules also cap the growth of the administrative component of the budget.





Propositions

May 2023, Page 3

1: 2023-24 School Budget

Proposed Budget:\$ 15,902,241
Budget Change: 5.80%
Tax Levy Increase:\$162,500 +1.99%

#2: Bonding Three Student Transportation Vehicles

Voters will consider a proposition for the purchase of three student transportation vehicles.

If Proposition #2 is approved, the district will borrow up to \$300,000 to purchase two 66-passenger buses and a school vehicle. This purchase is eligible for approximately \$157,500 in state aid, which is about half of the purchase price. This cost is included in the debt service calculation for the 2023/2024 school year, so it does not increase the proposed budget.

These purchases are part of an ongoing effort to maintain a bus fleet under seven years old with less than 100,000 miles each. This helps maintain safety while providing coverage under a six-year warranty and preserving the resale value.

New York State has passed legislation mandating that all schools and state facilities begin switching vehicles, including buses, to electric vehicles. This requirement is state law with no discretion in interpretation. In an effort to minimize the cost to taxpayers, the district applied for and was awarded an EPA grant of 3.6 million dollars to help transition the district to an all-electric fleet over the next 7 years. These funds will be used to offset the cost of each bus purchased as well as all electric charging infrastructure to support the fleet. We have worked closely with Blue-Bird bus manufacturers and NYS Bus Sales to ensure new buses are safe, reliable, and have a sufficient range for all of our bus runs. The cost to purchase the same number of gasoline buses, rather than electric buses, is roughly twice the cost!

#3: Capital Reserve Fund

Proposition #3, if approved, would allow the district to save money in anticipation of a future capital project. A capital reserve may be established only with voter approval.

It is the district's intention to establish a reserve account to replace the roof over the elementary building and to replace two aging buried fuel tanks which will be beyond their useful life within the next five years. Any potential project, however, must be voter approved before funds can be used from this account.

By voting yes to this proposition, voters are authorizing the district to save up to two million dollars over the next ten years. Any dollar saved within this account will be spent with the intention to offset the cost of any capital project so that taxpayer burden is minimized. Any unspent funds in this account after ten years will be refunded to the general fund.

By voting yes, the district can;

- Establish a savings account for the roof and buried tank project
- Fund the account up to two million dollars over ten years
- Use saved dollars to offset taxpayer burden

#4 - Macsherry Library Funding

The trustees of the Macsherry Library are seeking a \$15,000 budget increase. The annual library tax levy would increase from \$40,000 to \$55,000 per year for support and maintenance of the library's operations. The school district has a legal obligation to put this proposition before the voters when an increase is requested. It is separate and apart from the budget proposition. If not approved by the voters, the amount raised would remain at the current annual level of \$40,000.

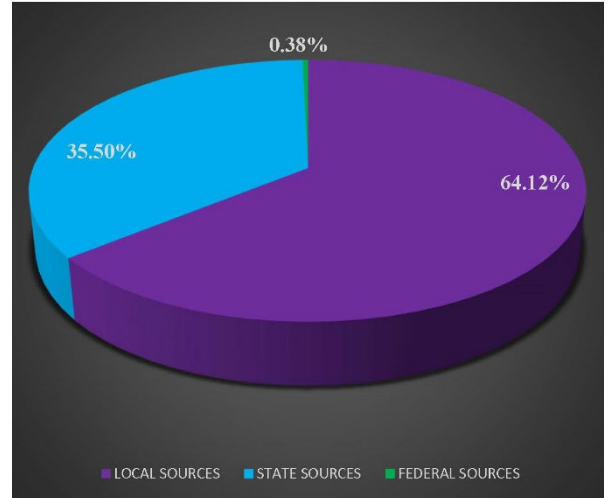




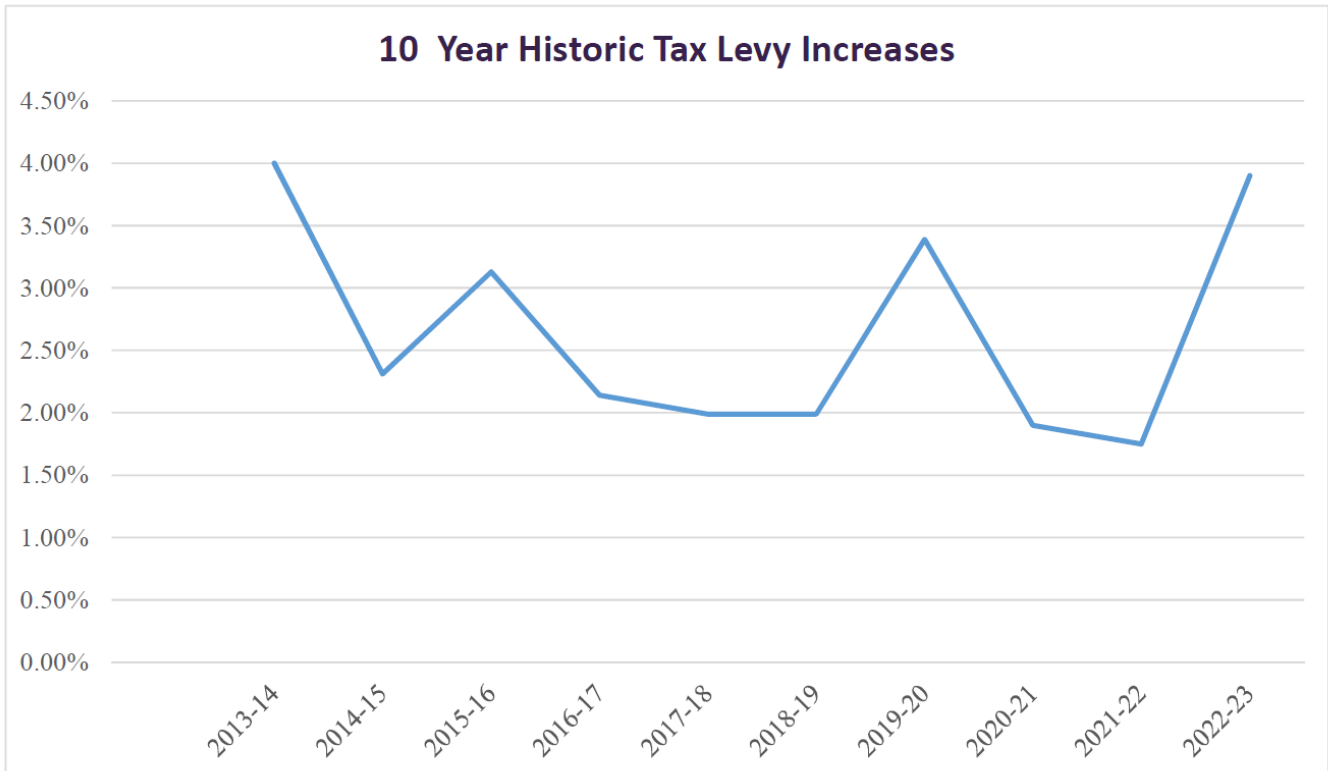
Budget Charts

Where does the money come from?

	Approved 2022/23	Proposed	Percent Change
State Aid	\$ 5,178,031	\$ 5,645,668	9.03%
Federal Aid	\$ 60,800	\$ 60,800	0.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 1,459,959	8.15%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 176,000	\$ 307,475	74.70%
Property Tax	\$ 8,165,839	\$ 8,328,339	1.99%
Reserve Funds	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	0.00%
Total Revenue	\$ 15,030,670	\$ 15,902,241	



10 Year Historic Tax Levy Increases



INSTRUCTION: 42% of proposed budget

	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
Teaching, Regular School	\$ 3,070,612	\$ 3,223,710
Special Education	\$ 1,360,621	\$ 1,578,569
Occupational Education	\$ 412,732	\$ 403,558
Staff Development	\$ 136,213	\$ 140,320
Teaching, Administration	\$ 298,466	\$ 310,807
Library	\$ 99,396	\$ 102,498
Technology	\$ 260,197	\$ 277,936
Guidance	\$ 171,956	\$ 181,320
Health Services	\$ 76,455	\$ 71,573
Psychological Services	\$ 78,000	\$ 79,600
Co-Curricular Activities	\$ 63,200	\$ 64,043
Athletics	\$ 181,016	\$ 179,172
Total	\$ 6,208,864	\$ 6,613,106
Percent Change		6.51%

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: 25% of proposed budget

	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
Employees' Retirement	\$ 281,010	\$ 232,537
Teachers' Retirement	\$ 490,591	\$ 483,791
Social Security	\$ 482,229	\$ 497,818
Workers' Compensation	\$ 71,426	\$ 60,104
Unemployment	\$ 11,200	\$ 11,200
Health Insurance	\$ 2,459,383	\$ 2,605,635
Other Benefits	\$ 118,264	\$ 132,727
Total	\$ 3,914,103	\$ 4,023,812
Percent Change		2.80%

OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE: 9% of proposed budget

	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
Custodial Services	\$ 670,340	\$ 668,392
Maintenance	\$ 650,082	\$ 764,334
Total	\$ 1,320,422	\$ 1,432,726
Percent Change		8.51%

Where does the \$15,902,241 go?

TRANSPORTATION: 7% of proposed budget

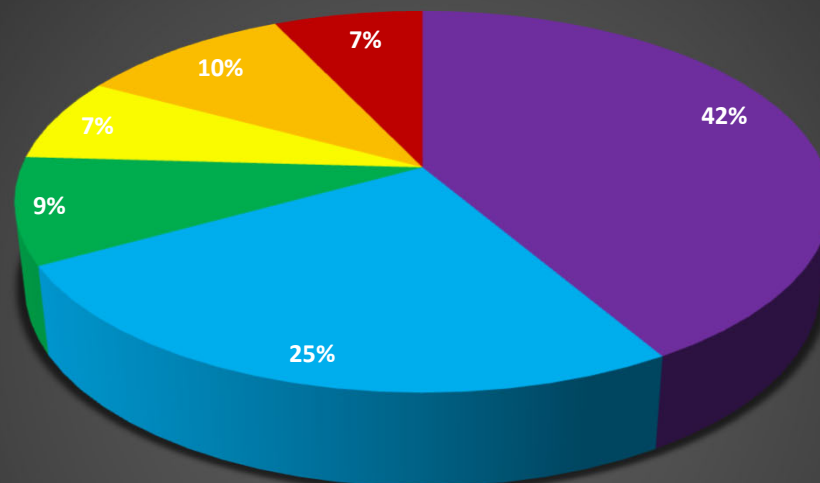
	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
Transportation	\$ 1,130,453	\$ 986,014
Garage	\$ 160,250	\$ 139,750
Total	\$ 1,290,703	\$ 1,125,764
Percent Change		-12.78%

DEBT SERVICE: 10% of proposed budget

	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
Construction	\$ 784,838	\$ 1,028,987
Buses	\$ 171,574	\$ 239,977
Energy Perf. Contract	\$ 20,006	\$ -
Interfund Transfer	\$ 215,000	\$ 320,000
Total	\$ 1,191,418	\$ 1,588,964
Percent Change		33.37%

DISTRICT SUPPORT: 7% of proposed budget

	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
Board of Education	\$ 26,221	\$ 31,897
Central Administration	\$ 225,760	\$ 236,216
Business Administration	\$ 194,749	\$ 203,447
Auditing	\$ 20,000	\$ 22,600
Tax Collection	\$ 8,900	\$ 10,100
Legal / Fiscal Services	\$ 69,112	\$ 47,330
School Security	\$ 51,600	\$ 51,600
Central Services	\$ 326,651	\$ 317,799
Insurance / Special Items	\$ 77,200	\$ 85,200
BoCES Administration / Capital	\$ 116,659	\$ 111,680
Total	\$ 1,116,852	\$ 1,117,869
Percent Change		0.09%



■ INSTRUCTION
 ■ EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
 ■ OPERATIONS/ MAINTENANCE
■ TRANSPORTATION
 ■ DEBT SERVICE / TRANSFERS
 ■ DISTRICT SUPPORT

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 15,030,670	\$ 15,902,241	\$ 15,508,291										
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$ 871,571	\$ 477,621										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.80 %	3.18 %										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.00 %											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 8,165,839	\$ 8,328,339											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0											
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0											
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0											
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 8,165,839	\$ 8,328,339	\$ 8,165,839										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 495,178	\$ 672,393											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 7,674,935	\$ 7,856,558											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 7,670,661	\$ 7,655,946											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 4,274	\$ 200,612											
Administrative Component	\$ 1,613,495	\$ 1,606,466	\$ (7,029)										
Program Component	\$ 10,736,349	\$ 11,215,853	\$ 479,504										
Capital Component	\$ 2,680,826	\$ 3,079,922	\$ 399,096										
A contingency budget would require a \$393,950 reduction in expenditures. This figure includes purchases of equipment, carpeting, furniture, and a capital outlay project.													
** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bus Bond Proposition</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 300,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Library Proposition \$40,000 to \$55,000</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 55,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Establish Capital Reserve</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2,000,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Description	Amount	Bus Bond Proposition	\$ 300,000	Library Proposition \$40,000 to \$55,000	\$ 55,000	Establish Capital Reserve	\$ 2,000,000		\$	
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Establish Capital Reserve	\$ 2,000,000												
	\$												

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 327

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Alexandria Central School District, Jefferson County, New York, will be held at Alexandria Central School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 9:00am and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the Alexandria Central School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



Alexandria Central School

Home of the Purple Ghosts



Board Of Education Candidates

May 2023, Page 7

ABOUT THE BOE

On Tuesday, May 16, voters will vote for candidates for 3 open seats on the Alexandria Central School District Board of Education. Candidates are: Andrea Adsit, Emily Chase, Betty Compeau (current incumbent), Christine Lingenfelter (current incumbent), and Christopher Symenow

The school board is made up of seven non-paid citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of three years each. Together they establish district policies, develop an annual budget proposal, approve or disapprove the superintendent's recommendations on personnel matters and contracts, and act as a communication link between residents and the superintendent.



CHRISTOPHER SYMENOW

Occupation: Physician Assistant

Family: Wife, Kate. Son, Grady, Daughters, Elliana & Annika

Community Service: Coaching youth and modified lacrosse, as well as youth hockey.

Why serve on the Board of Education? I want to ensure that all students have a path and opportunity to a bright future whether it be through education or the trade industry. Also, I feel that all students and faculty should have a voice on an even playing field.

What are the top issues facing our schools? First and foremost is creating an environment that allows students and faculty to learn and grow. Other important issues include students' safety, extracurricular sports and activities, as well as student and faculty retention.

What would you like people to know about you? I have a strong commitment to this community having lived here for 19 years and having 3 children currently attending ACS. I have worked in the ER at River Hospital for 17 years, and also recently took on the role as health officer for the Town of Alexandria.

CHRISTINE LINGENFELTER

Occupation: NYDOCCS Correction Officer

Family: Single mother of 2 daughters, Hallie & Rylynn Bain. I have a great co-parenting relationship with the girls' father.

Community Service: Girl Scout Leader, President of the ACS Booster Club, Current School Board Member, Volunteer ACS Soccer Coach, Volunteer when needed at the American Legion.

Why serve on the Board of Education? I want to make sure our students are getting the best education that will allow them to be productive adults in their communities.

What are the top issues facing our schools? Teacher retention, increased participation in extracurricular activities, equal rights for all students, drug and alcohol use in schools, safety and security for students and staff.

What would you like people to know about you? I am a lifelong resident of Alexandria Bay and a graduate of Alexandria Central. While at ACS as a Purple Ghost, I was an active athlete. As a parent I noticed a few areas of need in the school district. I decided to try and enhance one of those needs. Being a Purple Ghost for life, I decided to help the athletic department. I spearheaded the formation of the ACS Booster Club. I want to thank the community for all the support they have given the ACS Booster Club.



Alexandria Central School
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EMILY CHASE

Occupation: Physical Therapy Manager, River Hospital

Family: Husband, Matt Chase; Children: Lillian (10), Matthew (6)

Community Service: I am a PAYIT (Public and Youth Improvement Team) board member. PAYIT is a non-profit 501(c)(3), involved in community projects such as providing holiday meals to senior citizens, replacing the playground at Scenic View Park, providing scholarships to graduating seniors at ACS, and partnering with Betterment to resurface the tennis courts. I am a founding committee member for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Fest and Christmas tree lighting community events. I serve on the Alexandria Bay Figure Skating Club board. I was also a coach for the Town of Alexandria K-1 soccer and basketball teams.

Why serve on the Board of Education? I love our school and community. I'm so impressed with many of the recent changes and want to be part of the team to make positive changes that benefit our students. I want to ensure that our student population has the best opportunities and support.

What are the top issues facing our schools? One of the top issues facing our school is to recruit and retain talented teachers, coaches, and all other faculty. We need to provide the best education and support to a varied student population. Our gym project is the perfect time to grow and support our athletic programs from the ground up, working with the Town of Alexandria. We also need to continue to optimize our growth and improvements to the school by taking advantage of grants and staying within a budget to keep our financial foundation strong.

What would you like people to know about you? I have chaired several committees in my career. I work well with a team, enjoy learning new things, and am hard working. I believe mental health, general wellness, and physical activity are so important for students. I enjoy spending time with my family, cooking, gardening, reading, and being outside.



ANDREA ADSIT

Occupation: I am a floating pharmacist with Kinney Drugs, Inc. This summer will mark my 21st year as a pharmacist.

Family: I am married to Dave, who is also a pharmacist and is the President of Health Direct Pharmacy Services, Inc., a division of KPH Healthcare Services. Dave and I have 2 daughters that attend Alexandria Central: Olivia (11th grade) and Michaela (8th grade). Dave and I both come from a family of educators, as all of our parents were teachers, and we value the importance of a great education.

Community Service: I am an active member of The Catholic Community of Alexandria, volunteer with the ACS Booster Club, and help with various school activities such as the ACS school musicals.

Why serve on the Board of Education? As a mother of 2 daughters who attend ACS, I feel involvement is very important. I feel that in order for our society to be the best it can be we need to ensure our future members of society are afforded all opportunities that they can receive. This all begins and happens within the walls of school as well as at home. I want to

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be a part of a team to ensure ALL students are afforded these opportunities. I had the opportunity to serve on the BOE for 9 years previously and was able to see the progress made and would love to be a part of bringing the school even further. Our kids are our future and they deserve the best.

What are the top issues facing our schools? I believe that social media and its influences on our children and society, societal norms, and ensuring equality for all children are some of the top issues facing our school. I believe a solid foundation, a great education, and creating opportunities for all children are the instrumental building blocks for their future success.

What would you like people to know about you? I love being a part of a tight, close knit community and value that our children are not just a number as often the case in big schools. I am impressed with the relationships amongst the faculty and students, as well as how the faculty and staff treat the students as family and push them to succeed in all they do. I love the fact that ACS is able to provide many opportunities and programs to our students. We may be a small district, but the options given to our students from BOCES, EDGE, and SUPA classes, to various sports programs, have not stopped us from competing with larger districts.

BETTY COMPEAU

Family: Bill Compeau, Matthew Compeau (deceased), Kate Jimenez, and 7 grandchildren.

Community Service: I have served on the Alexandria Central School Board for 6 years and I am a very active member of the United Methodist Church in Alexandria Bay. I am still teaching the Iditarod Unit to 5th graders at Alexandria Central.

Why serve on the Board of Education? I taught at Alexandria Central for 40 years and retired in 2014. I have a great love for the district, students, staff, and community. Our board was in a period of turmoil when I joined it in 2017 and I feel we have been able to make many very positive changes in the past 6 years both environmentally and fiscally. I'm on the Nutrition committee and am so proud of our farm fresh school meals and our staff that prepares them. I am also on the Buildings and Grounds committee that has been on the ground floor of the new gymnasium project. I am so excited to see the finished product which will not only be wonderful for our students, but for the whole community. The school has always been my second home and I want to continue on the school board so I can be a part of all the positive growth our school is making. Our children are our future!

What are the top issues facing our schools? Budgeting in this time of inflation is one of the biggest issues. Student and staff safety in our changing world is also a concern. Student bullying and lack of respect for others and themselves is a major issue in all of the public schools today. I know that our administration and counseling staff are working on this issue daily. I also want to work to keep free school breakfast and lunch for all students.

What would you like the people to know about you? I was born and raised in West Winfield, a small town in Central New York. I was in the first graduating class at Mount Markham Central School. I always wanted to be a teacher and graduated with my elementary degree from the University of Maine. I was hired for my first and only teaching position at Alexandria Central the year I graduated from college. I never wanted to be anywhere else. I love the outdoors and spending time with my children and grandchildren. I spend my summers camping in local parks with my grandchildren, golfing, and kayaking.



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From the Desk of Mrs. Morgia

May 2023, Page 10

Hello and happy spring to Alexandria Central School families and community. I am delighted that we are moving into warmer weather with a longer frequency of daylight and sunny skies. The brighter days of spring always bring larger smiles and happiness to fill the hallways of ACS. This time of year is both refreshing and exciting for our students and staff. Our students have more opportunities to get outside to enjoy nature through our new nature trail, recess times, physical education classes, and sporting events. Students also appear to be more active and excited for the hands-on learning experiences that take place outside the classroom. Our staff enjoys this time of year because it's a time when we begin to see how much our students have grown over the course of the academic school year.

Alexandria Elementary was excited to begin the 2022 - 2023 school year with some normalcy. Our goals were to drive instructional plans, curriculum, scheduling, enrichment, and programming. Through new programs, enrichment, and afterschool programs, we hope that our students grow, make healthy choices, nourish their minds, develop a growth mindset, and become contributing citizens in their school community. With our 2022 - 2023 goals in mind, Alexandria Elementary has really packed a lot of instruction, activities, and programming into the 2022 - 2023 school year.



As we entered our school year last fall, our students enjoyed learning how to make homemade apple cider with Mr. Company and Mrs. Haddock. Students also enjoyed learning how to cook fall comfort foods with Ms. Crystal, Ms. Ashley, and Mrs. Haddock. Just some of the creations included apple cake, apple sauce, homemade pizza, homemade chicken and broccoli alfredo, Halloween edible critters, rice krispie treat animals, and much more. Our students also spent time this fall recognizing those individuals in our community who make our school a better place. Students in Universal Pre - Kindergarten through 6th grade invited community members that support, guide, and dedicate their time to keeping our school community safe into a "thankful" celebration. Members of the community enjoyed some sweet treats with students in different grades and classes. Our students were able to spend quality time learning about each community member, their professions, and their service. Our students honored each member in some way to show our appreciation and gratitude for all of their hard work and support. During November, our students invited family members that served our country into school for a Veteran's Day celebration. Students, family members, and veterans enjoyed a home-cooked breakfast, some music, and entertainment to show our appreciation for their dedication and service to our country. During November, we also learned about the meaning of gratitude and being thankful. During the entire month, our students showed gratitude for those who have had a positive impact on their lives. We recognized various individuals in our school community that go above and beyond to support students and our school community.

As December quickly came, our students participated in a program called "Christmas Around the World." Students in Universal Pre-Kindergarten through 6th grade all learned about an assigned country. They learned about the geography of the country, the heritage, culture, and Christmas traditions. The students conducted research, created interactive presentations, and became knowledgeable about their designated country. Then each grade level was assigned a partner grade level to share information about their respective countries. The students created items, made interactive slideshows, shared traditions, made food samples, and shared exciting takeaways with their peers. The students and staff really enjoyed this hands-on learning activity and we hope it continues to grow each year. During December, the elementary school is full of holiday spirit and excitement. This year, we kicked off the month with our in-person holiday concerts. The students lit up the auditorium with their talent, dance moves, and festive holiday attire. December can be considered one of the best months of the school year. The magic and ability to believe brings joy, happiness, and excitement. It is truly a magical time for our elementary school.

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Alexandria Central School

Home of the Purple Ghosts



From the Desk of Mrs. Morgia

May 2023, Page 11

After we returned from the holidays, students continued to participate in various afterschool programs. Students were able to skate at the arena, participate in board games and craft club, enroll in a jewelry making class, participate in homemade tumbler class, and slime - making class. As February approached, we celebrated our 100th day of school with a brownie sundae bar. Before February break, third through sixth grade students took a field trip to Dry Hill to go tubing for the day. A lot of fun, laughs, and team building was had by all. After February break, we geared up for our "Read Across America" program. This program truly took off this school year. It was led by Mrs. Haddock, School Librarian, and Mrs. Ayen, our Library Assistant. These two ladies worked several days to build a love for reading among our students - and that is just what they did. Through a friendly competition, our hallways filled with pictures of students reading at home, book reports completed by students after the school hours, thousands of minutes recorded by students reading, and a library full of students reading books cover to cover. It was heartwarming to see those students building their confidence in learning to read and those students finding a new love for reading. During our "Read Across America" program, many staff members, retired staff, community members, and high school students spent each Friday during the month of March reading to an assigned classroom.

One benefit of being a Universal Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade building is that our elementary students are able to work with and learn from our secondary students. In many elementary classrooms, a high school student is assigned as a "student helper." Our elementary students really enjoy this program. The younger students look up to their older classmates as role models. The secondary students also became a part of their classroom family. They not only spend time in the classroom during their designated "student helper" period, but they often attend special events, concerts, afterschool programs, and much more. Our elementary students also will attend their "student helpers" extracurricular contests and activities. It is wonderful to see our students interacting in a positive, helpful, and nurturing way. As we start to prepare for the end of the school year and graduation, the elementary building will begin to prepare for the "Adopt A Senior" program. This program was introduced during COVID and has really become a permanent part of our end of the year student recognition. Each elementary classroom adopts one or two seniors. At the beginning of the school year, our elementary classes interview their assigned senior(s). They get to know their seniors by inviting them into their classrooms to help, participate in recess, attend special area classes, participate in morning meetings, or spend some time each lunch with their class. This provides an opportunity for students to get to know each senior and build a bond with them throughout the school year. At the end of the year, each class honors their senior during the "senior walk."

As the 2022 - 2023 school year quickly comes to an end, we have many things to complete before we prepare for the 2023 - 2024 school year. This month we are gearing up to take the NYS English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments as well as our end of the school year benchmarks. Our work with Science of Reading, explicit - direct instruction, small teacher to student ratios, and individualized interventions have made us prepared to complete these assessments with success. Over the next few months we will continue to provide strong Tier I, II, and III instruction and explicit interventions to build academic growth. Students will be assessed in June, which will provide us important information on our instruction, curriculum, programs, and systems. It will also help us identify areas of improvement and strengths. Lastly, our grade level teams will be able to meet to identify students who still need additional instructional support to close the gaps and learning loss encountered through COVID.

We are excited for June as it is a time to celebrate our successes. Our students look forward to educational field trips, graduation ceremonies, and much more. For the first time, the elementary students will end their 2022 - 2023 school year with a building wide "5k Walk Into Summer." Our goal is to build programs for academic success and personal growth. The elementary building has had a great year and we look forward to all of the great things still to come over the next few months. We hope everyone is enjoying their spring and looking forward to summer months on the river.

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From the Desk of Mr. Fountain

May 2023, Page 12

Hello, Alexandria Central School community! Spring has arrived, and with it comes a time of renewal, growth, and opportunity. It is with great excitement that together we welcome warmer weather and longer days to spend time with our families.

I want to express my gratitude for the unwavering commitment and dedication of our students, teachers, and families throughout the first 30 weeks of our school year. We are mindful of the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students and continue to encourage resiliency and persistence in our student body each day they are in our care.

We have been full-steam ahead throughout this year in seeking creative and impactful ways to offer our students as many academic and extracurricular opportunities as possible. Students have embraced these opportunities and make us proud daily with their involvement. Earlier this year, we inducted a new class into our National Junior Honor Society and I am truly thrilled to have the opportunity to watch this group of students lead the student body here at Alexandria in the years ahead. It has been a pleasure recognizing students 7-12th grade with our Student of the Month Awards. Our student recipients received praise and recognition for their academic excellence, engagement in class, and (or) their exemplary character. This year we have made a concerted effort to connect and engage our UPK-12 grade students through classroom assistantship opportunities that many secondary students have grown to love as much as our elementary students. These connections are incredibly refreshing to see permeate into our hallways, sporting events, and community.

Throughout this school year, students have embraced opportunities to tour the Bohlen Technical Center as they consider careers and technical education. We have observed tremendous success from those enrolled in such programs this school year. We are confident that they will be prepared for employment or higher education within their varied fields of study.

Students have had the opportunity through our guidance department to participate in various aptitude and career interest tests. Students have toured both state and private colleges alike throughout this year and we anticipate a great number of our students pursuing post-secondary education this fall. We continue to bolster our course offerings, electives, and college classes through SUNY Jefferson, SUNY Canton, and Syracuse University. We appreciate and encourage your involvement in the planning of your child's future in partnership with our guidance department.



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From the Desk of Mr. Fountain

May 2023, Page 13

Students received Internet Safety and Cyber Security training from GREG Systems, learned about resiliency with Dr. Brooks Gibbs, and heard the empowering message of Noelle Lambert. Lambert's message focused on being comfortable with being uncomfortable, applying yourself 100% in everything you do, realizing that everyone deals with insecurities, and how to enlist your peers, coaches/faculty, and administration to support you. The final presentation of the year will be from Richard Johns titled, "Act with Respect Always!"

Students in the Syracuse University Project Advance Class were able to complete a fetal pig dissection over the course of a multiple-period "in-house" field trip. Nearly 30 students participated in the FFA Winter camp at Camp Oswegatchie. The High School Musical boosted three full nights of fun and entertainment for the community and vocalist Olivia Adsit earned the prestigious honor of being selected to perform with the "All-Eastern" ensemble at the Eastman School of Music. Our students will again be attending musical performances at the Clayton Opera House. Athletically, the Varsity Girls Basketball team made an incredible run into the Frontier League playoffs and sectionals winning 10 of their last 13 games. Additionally, the Islanders' hockey team finished the season with several back-to-back wins that put them in contention for a championship as well.

We continue to seek engaging and educational programming for our students from outside agencies and within our own local community. Students have had the opportunity to meet with many local businesses throughout this spring to help educate them about the number of work opportunities that exist here in the Thousand Islands throughout the summer months!

We have a great deal to be proud of here within the secondary school at Alexandria Central. The list of academic, social, and extracurricular activities our students have been involved with is quite long and one we'll continue to build on together. Faculty, staff, and the administrative team thank you for your continued partnership and support at home.

As we move forward into the rest of the school year, I encourage everyone to stay engaged, stay positive, and stay committed to the success of our students. The time and attention you share with your children are so valuable in helping them unwind from a full day at school. I encourage all of you to take some time each night to unplug, get some fresh air together, take a walk, ride a bike, plant some flowers - whatever brings you happiness.

Thank you Alexandria Central School community for a wonderful year already. I am excited about the upcoming end-of-the-year celebrations of achievement that are in store for all students from UPK through twelfth grade!

All my best,

Robert Fountain
Secondary Principal

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Secondary Students of the Month

May 2023, Page 14

On behalf of the nominating teachers, Mr. Fountain would like to congratulate our "Secondary Students of the Month". This distinguished teacher-nominated award recognizes our nominees' strong moral character, positive behavior, and/or academic achievement. We are all very proud of your accomplishment and wish you the best in your academic endeavors here at Alexandria Central and beyond. Congratulations to all of you!



7th Grade:
Zoey Heacock



8th Grade:
Lanie Phelps



9th Grade:
Jerica Parrow



10th Grade:
River Costello



11th Grade:
Ciara Dawley



12th Grade:
Brody Frost



7th Grade:
Bradly Robbins



8th Grade:
Baron Ryder



9th Grade:
Altair Guzman



10th Grade:
Mason Savage



11th Grade:
Ian Donovan



12th Grade:
Madi Davidson



10th Grade:
Ryleigh Bessette,
9th Grade:
Abigail Edgar
12th Grade:
Ethan Brennan
12th Grade:
Emma Stine
9th Grade:
Hayden Burns





District Accolades

SPELLING BEE

On February 8th students from fifth to eighth grade competed for a chance to win the 2023 Alexandria Central School Spelling Bee.

Carter Salamacha placed first and had the opportunity to compete in the regional spelling bee.

Congratulations to all who participated!

AP EXAM & ACADEMIC ALL STAR

Senior Kayden Anderson earned the highest possible score of a 5 on the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Examination on May 4, 2022. The College Board oversees the examinations. This year's exam will take place on May 3, 2023.

Kayden was also named a WWNY's Academic All Star.

ARTS ALL-STAR

Olivia Adsit, a junior at Alexandria Central, was named a WWNY Arts All Star!

She was also accepted into the All-State mixed chorus, and attended the All-State conference and performed at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester in December. She is the first of Mrs. Taylor's students in over 25 years to achieve this honor!





Green Ghost Machine

Health and educational outcomes in low-income areas across America are staggeringly low. Bronx educator, Stephen Ritz, is on a mission to change all that. He has developed an incredibly successful indoor gardening curriculum that allows children to grow vegetables in the classroom, help them eat better, to be more engaged with school, and gives them pathways for jobs.

The Green Bronx Machine and Curriculum helps to build healthy, equitable, and resilient communities through inspired education, local food systems, and 21st-century workforce development.

During the 2022 - 2023 school year, Alexandria Central purchased twelve grow racks. Our students started this new program learning how to assemble the grow racks, customize their towers to meet their individual needs and interests, and harvest healthy foods. With the guidance of staff and secondary students, our elementary classrooms learned about aeroponics, plant anatomy, genetically modified foods, measurements of roots and growth, plant infographics, commercial gardening, nutritional fact comparisons, conventional vs. organic systems, safe foods, and the cycle of seed to table. With this knowledge, our students and staff were able to harvest tomatoes, basil, pumpkins, beans, lettuce, escarole, and spinach, as well as other vegetables and herbs. All garden tower harvests have been shared among kids in the classroom, with the cafeteria staff, and with our larger school community. In addition to our students enjoying these greens and vegetables, our school cafeteria has been able to use the harvested vegetables to craft a variety of healthy foods to serve to our students and staff. The students have shown a great deal of excitement in eating the foods in their school lunches that they have produced.





A Note from the Cafeteria

We hope you and your families are having an amazing school year so far! Big things are happening in our school cafeteria. We hope your children are enjoying their lunches. Our sub line is open every Monday through Wednesday for high school with everything you can imagine on it. Elementary has a different choice of sub meat each week, and our salad bar is stocked with great choices Monday through Friday. As you know, we make everything homemade from scratch so your babies can have a nice nutritious meal. So far our most popular lunches are waffles with strawberries and homemade whipped cream, pizza, and our homemade chicken nuggets. On Wednesdays, we had a cooking class with 4th-6th graders. On Friday we cooked and prepared Grub Hub Meals. These are full size homemade meals that went home to families who signed up. Anywhere from 50-100 families signed up for Grub Hub Meals. Our cafeteria is happy to say we have high school students coming in everyday volunteering to help us. We love every minute of it! They make subs, cut pizzas, prepare Grub Hub meals, and helping with dishes.

We hope you have a great day. If you need anything or have questions, please feel free to email awatkins@acsghosts.org or cdiange@acsghosts.org. We would love to hear from you.

Ashley Watkins
ACS Cafeteria





National Junior Honor Society Induction

The Sage Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society at Alexandria Central School inducted the newest 8th and 9th grade members on Monday, March 20th, 2023 at 6pm in the ACS Auditorium. Callie Dishon, freshman member of the NJHS, welcomed the families, administration, faculty, and students, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by freshman member, Theron McCauley. Mr. Robert Fountain, Secondary Principal, congratulated the students and their guardians on setting and achieving high standards.

The formal induction ceremony began with freshman member Nina Peguerra lighting the flame of knowledge. Four fellow freshmen, Madilyn Jimenez, Abigail Edgar, William Weldon, and Mavery Weaver, continued by lighting the candles of scholarship, service, leadership, and character and reviewed each of the four qualities for the candidates. Mr. Robert Fountain, Secondary Principal and Mrs. Hayley Ascough, National Junior Honor Society Advisor, presented the new candidates with the proper insignia, membership cards and certificates. Freshman member Lanie Phelps 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.

A special thanks goes out to Mr. Darin Trickey and his custodial staff for all their help in setting up for the event and Mrs. Crystal Diange, Mrs. Ashley Watkins, and their cafeteria staff for their delicious cookies and refreshments for students, family, and friends following the induction. Thank you to our ACS students for helping to set up for this special event. A special thank you to freshman member, Callie Dishon, for emceeding this event with great poise and confidence.



Current Members:

- Callie Dishon
- Abigail Edgar
- Madilyn Jimenez
- Aidan McAloon
- Brody McCauley
- Theron McCauley
- Michael McClora
- Nina Peguarra
- Lanie Phelps
- Mavery Weaver
- William Weldon

New Members:

- Michaela Adsit
- Kamryn Beers
- Madison Bradley
- Eva Croll
- Kathryn Papin
- Jerica Parrow
- Baron Ryder
- Ty Stiefel
- Micah Weldon
- Kaitlyn White
- Zoe Zimmer



EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER

- Open House (Aug 31st)
- Schedule changes
- SUNY Canton College Admissions Counselor visit (23rd)
- Senior Meetings (all)

OCTOBER

- Higher Ed Day: 11th & 12th grade attended JCC to visit a variety of college admissions counselors (3rd)
- Financial Aid night with JCC (11th)
- PSAT: 11th graders practiced for the SAT (12)
- Hang up and Drive Assembly (13th)
- Manufacturing Day: 9th grade got to visit several manufacturing plants to explore careers (14th)
- Keuka College Admissions Counselor Visit (18th)
- ASVAB administration, testing required for military track students (20th)
- SUNY Oswego Admissions Counselor Visit (26th)

NOVEMBER

- SUNY Potsdam Admissions Counselor visit (1st)
- Elmira College Admissions Counselor visit (2nd)
- North Country Community College Counselor Visit (3rd)
- SUNY Oswego College Visit: 11th & 12th grade got to tour and learn about SUNY Oswego (7th)
- Veterans Day Celebration
- Financial Aid Night help (10th)
- BOCES Programs & Information Presentation for 10th (11th)
- Workforce Connections: 11th grade got to do mock interviews with companies, and businesses, as practice for the future (16th)
- Internet Safety Assembly (17th)
- Elementary Thankful Community Event



EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

DECEMBER

- Marine's tabling in the cafeteria (1st)
- Oratorical Contest (2nd)
- ASVAB results & explanation (21st)

JANUARY

- 10th-grade BOCES visit: Students got to visit their top two programs (11th)
- Army & National Gard tabling in the cafeteria (17th)

FEBRUARY

- Junior Scholarship applications, 11th graders got to apply for tremendous scholarships for several private colleges (7th-28th)
- Adopt-A-Senior program start: Elementary classrooms adopt seniors. Seniors visit classrooms to do activities until the end of the year. (2nd)

MARCH

- Read Across America UPK - 6th
- Secondary awards ceremony (3rd)
- SUNY Canton & St. Lawrence University visit: 10th & 11th grade got to tour and learn about the universities. (9th)
- Organ donation presentations during Advisories (21st)
- SUNY Potsdam & Clarkson University visit: 10th & 11th grade got to tour and learn about the universities (22nd)
- Brooks Gibbs Assembly on Resiliency and Bullying (23rd)
- Pre-ACT for 10th grade (30th)

COUNSELORS

- Katie Durand UPK - 6, kdurand@acsghosts.org
- Michelle Mourino 7 - 12, mmournio@acsghosts.org
- Kevin Durr UPK - 12, kdurr@acsghosts.org



EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

APRIL

- Student Employment presentations during advisories (4th)
- MASH Camp presentations during advisories (18th)
- Noelle Lambert Assembly on resiliency (19th)
- Student Employment presentations during advisories (19th)
- Junior Meetings
- Army & National Guard tabling in Cafeteria (20th)
- BOCES Acceptances
- MAD City Money: 8th grade financial literacy simulation (24th)
- SAT School Day for 11th grade (25th)
- Student Employment presentations during advisories (26th)

MAY

- Sophomore Meetings
- ACT for 11th grade (2nd)
- Richard Johns Assembly, Act with Respect (3rd)
- AP English Exam (3rd)
- Fort Drum Career day 9-12th interested in the military or opportunities on fort drum (16th)
- Career Jam 8th grade, exploring careers (25th)
- Freshman Meetings
- BOCES Student Presentations (TBD)
- BOCES Orientations (TBD)
- 7th-grade acceleration invitations offered (TBD)

JUNE

- 7th - 11th award ceremonies (TBD)
- UPK & Kindergarten Graduation (TBD)
- 6th grade orientation (TBD)
- 6th grade Graduation (TBD)
- 12th-grade award ceremony (TBD)
- Graduation (TBD)





National Honor Society

May 2023, Page 19

During the 2021-2022 school year, the Alexandria Central Bayou Chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed new members Olivia Adsit, Brady Carpenter, Erik Croll, Ciara Dawley, Molly Edgar, Atlas Hyde, Elijah McIlrath, and Wade Stone. Current members of the National Honor Society were celebrated for their continued commitment to their academic and civic duties within their communities.

Class of 2023: Kayden Anderson, Breanna Booth, Ethan Brennan, Angelina Ciarfella, Kayla Felder, Atlas Hyde, Colin Hynes, Megan Monica, Felicity Roberts, Emma Stine, Kierstyn Travers, Cassandra VanBrocklin, Bridget Watson, and Gabrielle Williams.

Congratulations to our Class of 2022 National Honor Society students as they continue on their journey: Xandyr Brennan, Jack Bridenbaker, Kendal Croll, Alex Fansler, Ashlee Ferency, Emma Graveline, Brock Hunter, Michael Langridge, Jakob Lynch, Andrea Patterson, Madison Savage, Emily Sutton, and Emmalee White.

Mr. Fountain, secondary principal, and Mrs. Ascough, National Honor Society Advisor, look forward to inducting our newest members this Spring and continue to celebrate our Class of 2023 and Class of 2024 members.





Christmas Gift Shop

May 2023, Page 20

In December, Alexandria Central and the Alexandria Bay American Legion Post 904 had the opportunity to partner together for the “Children’s Gift Shop” mission. Due to sickness in the community, hosting the annual event at the American Legion became impossible. Alexandria Central advisors, Hayley Ascough and Jodi Cullen worked with American Legion representatives to bring the Christmas tradition to life for students at our school.



Elementary students were paired up with high school students to “shop” for parents, grandparents, and siblings. Once all choices were made, the students were taken to the “workshop” to have their gifts wrapped, tagged, and packaged for the trip home. Students big and small delighted in the Christmas Spirit at ACS. In

the end, a substantial donation was made to the ACS Backpack Fund, which has a huge impact on our families. We look forward to this partnership for years to come!





Read Across America

To celebrate Read Across America and March Madness, the library sponsored a reading challenge between classes. To build excitement and to demonstrate the importance of reading, different groups were asked to read to classrooms. The senior class very graciously took part in this event. Each senior was paired with a class and read and participated in elementary classroom activities. Many community members also took part in this event.





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Varsity Girls Basketball

May 2023, Page 23

The 2022-23 Girls Varsity Basketball season is one that the coaches, players, and community are proud of! Although it was a slow start, the team overcame obstacles created by the gym reconstruction project, and came through with a very strong ending.

When they weren't on the road for a game, this team had practices from 7-9 pm at Hammond Central's gym. They also used LaFargeville's gym and Guardino Elementary. A schedule of games on the road made for a week full of late nights for everyone involved. This is how the ball rolled from mid-November through late February.

The team of just 9 girls consisted of 3 seniors, 2 juniors, and 4 sophomores. The regular season ended on February 6 with an overall record of 9 wins and 7 losses. Besides finishing with 8 wins out of the last 10 games, the highlight up until that point was a win again Copenhagen, a team that the Purple Ghosts hadn't beaten in 5 years. It was a Saturday game for a team of exhausted players. It was also Copenhagen's Senior Recognition Event on their home court. The Lady Ghosts worked hard from the first second and quickly found themselves in situation where they had frustrated their opponent. They kept up the pressure and finished with a 52-49 win over a team that was the 2021-22 State Champions!

That win propelled the Lady Ghosts into a 3rd place finish amongst Frontier League D Division schools. They played their first-round playoff game against the 2nd place Belleville Henderson Lady Panthers and came up with a win. This took them to the JCC gym for the Championship game against the 1st place Copenhagen team that they had just beaten a week before. The Purple Ghosts were down by 4 with one minute and 47 seconds left in the game. Unfortunately, they didn't pull off the win, but they finished with their heads held high!

A highlight of this event at JCC, in front of a large crowd was the announcement that Tom Murphy had been voted the Frontier League D Division Coach of the Year! His love of the game and passion for helping his team succeed was clearly noticed by the other coaches in the League. Congratulations to Coach Murphy on a job well done!





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Sectional play started that next week. The Girls were seeded 6th amongst Section 3 teams. Their placement in the Sectional bracket put them up against the Lyme Lady Lakers, a team that they were familiar with from the Frontier League. During the regular season, the Ghosts had one win and one loss against them. The community came out strong to support the Lady Ghosts on their 'home' court at Hammond Central. A 36-28 victory sent them into the 2nd round of sectionals, a game that would turn out to be against Copenhagen. This would be the 4th matchup between these teams this season. Unfortunately, this game is where the season ended for the Lady Ghosts.

With an overall record of 11-9 for a team of players who spent more time on a bus than anyone would want to in a lifetime, this is something that everyone will remember for a long time! Best wishes to our Senior athletes, Bridget Watson, Madi Davidson, and Emma Stine! This was not a traditional senior year for them, but certainly one that they should be proud of! Coaches Murphy, Hazelton, and Edgar would like to thank the school and the community for their support of the girls throughout the season, and they look forward to what the 2023-24 season will bring in a brand new gymnasium!



First Row: Paityn Bridenbaker, Ciara Dawley, Rylynn Bain, Sincerity Diange

Back Row: Coach Hazelton, Emma Stine, Sierra Fasshauer, Bridget Watson, Madi Davidson, Molly Edgar, Coach Murphy

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Library Updates

May 2023, Page 25

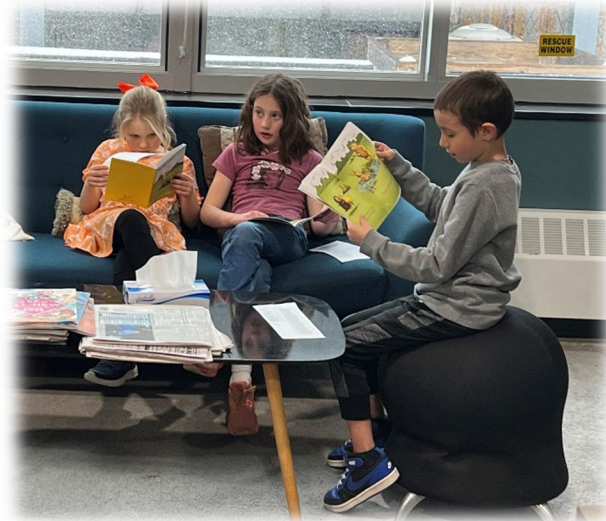
The library continues to be a place of creative, active learning. Being a PreK- 12 library, our space is shared by all. Students have learned to share the space and work together. Many times elementary students will be found reading to high school students. Students enjoy playing board games, collaborating on a homework project or just relaxing and reading a good book. Makerspace continues to be a popular spot for all ages. In this space students use their imagination to create. The Bay Cafe is open to eligible 9-12 grade students. The cafe offers a variety of snacks and drinks for students to enjoy while they are visiting the library. The library has two student volunteers, Atlas Hyde and Natalie Duswalt. They both work hard to help with the library organization, stocking the Bay Cafe and setting up for classes. The library is also used before and after school for meetings and Ghost Academy.





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High School Musical

May 2023, Page 27

Our spring production of "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL" was a huge hit, with three amazing showings and a full house each night! The 50+ members of the cast and crew had a blast putting it all together, and we are so grateful to all who attended, as well as those who helped with set, costumes, hair, makeup, cast party, tickets and programs, lights, sound, and more! Thank you to all who helped in any way! Congrats to our 10 seniors on your final performance: Kierstyn Travers (Sharpay Evans), Atlas Hyde (Ryan Evans), Bridget Watson (Taylor McKessie), Angelina Ciarfella (Kelsi Nielsen), Kye Sweetland (Ripper), Emma Stine (Jane), Garrett Ashley (Jason), Colton Hall (Jock), Hinata Kusunoki (Brainiac), and Ethan Brennan (stage manager)! Also, "WAY TO GO" to Olivia Adsit as Gabriella Montez, and Payton Watson as Troy Bolton! They did an amazing job as our leading duo! Congrats to all the other cast members! It was great to have ACS staff and alumni (Mr. Gorman, Mr. Copeland, Miss Vinette, Mrs. VanCour, Miss Duclon, Miss Jeffers, Mrs. Frost, and Mr. Kearns!) on the stage and singing and acting along with the kids! This year marked Mrs. Taylor's silver anniversary as Musical Director! From Cinderella in 1989 to High School Musical in 2023, she has had an absolute blast directing & producing 2 1/2 decades of amazing musicals on the ACS stage!!



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Alexandria Bay FFA and Ag Program

May 2023, Page 29

The Alexandria Bay FFA Chapter currently has 125 members! It has been a great year with many fun filled activities. On July 15th, 2022 some of our FFA members went to the Jefferson County Fair and competed. Highlights include: Trinity Duprey: 1st place Horticulture, 1st place dairy challenge, 7th place dairy cattle judging. Abby Edgar: 1st place tree ID. Molly Edgar: 2nd place tree ID. Kayla Felder: 6th place tree ID. Evan Sanford: 2nd place dairy challenge. The week of July 24th we had 15 campers attend Camp Oswegatchie Summer camp. It was a fun filled week that created many unforgettable memories. August 29th, 2022 we had 5 members: Trinity Duprey, William Weldon, Maddy Jimenez, Zoe Zimmer, and Mavery Weaver, attend the NY State Fair and competed in agricultural competitions including meat evaluation and dairy products.

October 23th-October 29th, 2022 we had 11 members - Mavery Weaver, Callie Dishon, Abby Edgar, Ciara Dawley, Molly Edgar, Kayla Felder, Emma Stine, Trinity Duprey, William Weldon, Payton Watson, and Elijah McIlrath attend a week-long trip to the FFA National Convention. Members traveled by bus with students from Indian River, Belleville Henderson, and Byron-Bergen.

Our first stop was at the Chicago High School of Agriculture Science. It is a high school focused on agriculture, located in Urban Chicago, with around 800 students. The tour was given by high school students who all applied to attend this school. Students choose from a variety of agricultural tracts to study while attending, including: plant science, animal science, agricultural mechanics, and agricultural business. Stop two for the day was Prairie View Angus, where we saw one of the premier black angus breeders in the US. Students learned about embryo transfer and how a family used this technology to create a vibrant and well renowned business. Our final stop for the day was Ulrich Suffolks. Students learned about the sheep industry and what it takes to be successful.

On Day 3, our first stop was CAT Equipment in Peoria, Illinois. We started our tour in a movie theater that seats about 60 people in the back of the 797F mining truck. The students got a chance to try their hand at operating excavators and bulldozers on simulators that were set up exactly like the real thing. There were interactive displays and equipment that students could try out and sit in. Our second stop for the day was Illinois State University, home of the Red Birds! Students got to see the school livestock facility that is almost entirely student run. We were given tours of sheep, hog and beef cattle barns before visiting the main campus. The school has 21,000 undergrads with majors that include animal science, plant science, and pre-veterinary science. On day 3, our first tour was at Crossroads Genetics Boar Stud farm. This farm houses 65 boars for breeding purposes. The boars ranged from 400-600 pounds each. Breeds that we saw included spots, duroc, and other crossbreeds. The owners of the farm do their best to keep up on industry trends to allow them to provide their customers with the best genetics possible. Second tour of the day was at Fair Oaks Farms. Students had the opportunity to tour one of the largest farms in the USA. They got the chance to learn a little more about pigs. Students then got to tour the area where they learned about many aspects of the agricultural industry.

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Day 4 and 5 we attended the 95th annual National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis. It was incredible! We were sitting in the Lucas Oil Stadium with 67,000 other people all in the same blue corduroy jackets. After the opening session, the students were able to walk around and explore career and educational opportunities from more than 450 industry-leading exhibitors at the Expo and participate in hundreds of education workshops and tours. Day 5, before going back to the National Convention, we stopped at the National FFA Center where we got to see the first FFA jacket and other items in the museum there. Day 6 we said goodbye to Nationals and headed back home from Indianapolis. It was an incredible trip that was filled with so many memories and will be forever cherished.

November 30th, 2022 Molly Edgar and Kayla Felder, along with FFA members of other chapters, presented to the Watertown Rotary Club about our FFA program and the value of the education the students are receiving. December 4th, 2022 Chapter President Kayla Felder went to the annual grange meeting and talked with members of the Redwood Grange about our chapter, the activities we do, and what we are involved in. December 10th, 2022, 12 members walked in the Theresa Christmas Parade to help support our chapter. It was a chilly event but the members had fun decorating and eating walking tacos. January 21st, 2023, 6 members, with the help of Todd Marshall, served breakfast from 6-10 at the fire hall for the annual Alex Bay Fishing Derby. All proceeds went to our chapter. We made just shy of \$600 dollars, which will help send our members to FFA camp this summer. February 11th, 2023, 15 members traveled to JCC for District 6 public speaking contests. Members participating were: David Williams, Kendall Walton, Cameron Dishon, and Allison McCormick in Jr People in Ag. Callie Dishon, Mavery Weaver, Mellisa Collett, William Weldon, Zoe Zimmer, Korra Trayer, and Addisyn Dunn in Conduct of Chapter Meeting. Ciara Dawley in Employment Skills. Molly Edgar and Kayla Felder in Extemporaneous Public Speaking. Emma Stine in Contest Assistant. The conduct team came in 2nd place and Molly and Kayla came in 5th and 6th place respectively in their contests. They will all be moving on to the Sub-State competition! Following up in March at State Convention, 6 members including Ciara Dawley, Wade Stone, Elijah McIlrath, Molly Edgar, Trinity Duprey, and Emma Stine will all be receiving their empire degrees. This is the highest degree an FFA member can receive at the state level.

Along with these special events our chapter has monthly meetings. Each month we plan entertaining activities, such as carving pumpkins in October; having a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving in November where we ate popcorn, toast, and jellybeans; cookie making in December for Gordon Court for Christmas; enjoying a Christmas party down in the Ag room watching *Home Alone* and eating sweet treats; making candy bouquets for themselves or a loved one in February; and March FFA members heading up to Camp Oswegatchie to attend a weekend trip to FFA Winter Camp. We've had fun this year but the fun isn't over yet!

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Occupational Math

Mr. Roslonowski's Occupational Math class took a trip to Community Bank to open their first bank accounts! Students learned about the importance of opening a bank account, how to read their checking account agreements and statements, and how to calculate the compound interest they can earn over time.

A big thanks to Nicole Langridge at Community Bank for working with our students!



PI Day

On March 14, ACS students celebrated Pi Day with a Pi Memorization Contest and Pie-Eating Contest. Fun was had by most!!





Elementary Science News

May 2023, Page 33

The Elementary Science Department has been busy teaching new science concepts this year and creating experiments with our students in grades 3 through 6. The ability to provide hands-on applications in our science department is very beneficial to the student's success. Mr. Gorman teaches the 3rd and 5th-grade classes, and Mr. Hudon teaches the 4th and 6th-grade classes. Students can use 3D printers, grow vegetables in a hydroponics system, design DNA using connect sticks, make sedimentary rock samples, and many other hands-on applications throughout the year.



Fourth grade students learn about sedimentary rocks and fossils.



Fifth grade students learn about the properties of snow as they work through their Iditarod unit.

AG Foundations

In AG Foundations class, students have had the opportunity to learn many skills related to agriculture, both past and present. Early farming tools were compared to modern farming tools. Students were able to work on restoring an antique desk, sanding, prepping, and staining this piece back to its original glory.





College Visits



SUNY OSWEGO



SUNY CANTON / ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY



SUNY POTSDAM / CLARKSON UNIVERSITY





Freshman Experience

May 2023, Page 35

The Freshman class this year took an excursion to Camp Oswegatchie in Croghan, NY in September for the purpose of developing skills such as teamwork, cooperation, communication, and responsible leadership. Students enjoyed the day bonding as a class and developing relationships with staff members.

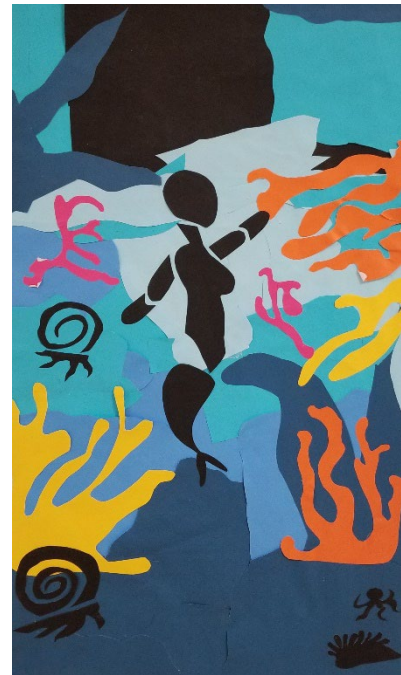




Art News

May 2023, Page 36

Ms. Donovan's high school studio art classes recently created collages based on the work of French artist Henri Matisse. Students watched a documentary about his life and work, paying particular attention to his late works. Students then collaborated on an original artwork that reflected Matisse's use of scissors and paper rather than paint as a media. This project also served as a culminating activity for their recent study of the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design.





Pre-K News

The Pre-K is a nurturing, joyful, busy place where learning is infused with play! We are almost through the alphabet, counting, rhyming, and writing our names. We celebrated Christmas Around the World, went on a hayride, participated in Yoga, skated at the ice rink, and showed Kindness in our Community! Themes we have studied this year...All About Me, Our Five Senses, Families/Community, Animals, and now we are heading in to Plants/Habitats.



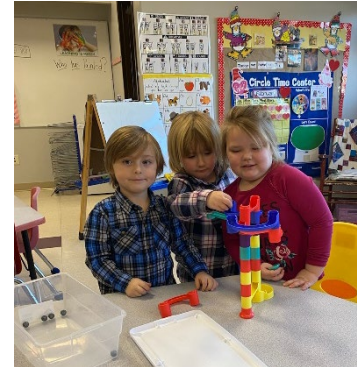
Brooklyn, Bristyn, Paislee and Azure having outdoor fun!



Jasper learning to skate.



Chesley at the cash register and Adeline pretending to be the customer.



Benny, Emeline, and Skylar problem solving with the Marble Run.



Pre-K enjoying a hayride.



A spooky science experiment.



Pre-K visiting Gordon Court at Christmas time.



Pre-K Yoga





Kindergarten News

May 2023, Page 38

Kindergarten collaborated with River Hospital to learn about heart healthy snacks and shared a craft to brighten the day of local patients at the hospital.



Universal Educations News

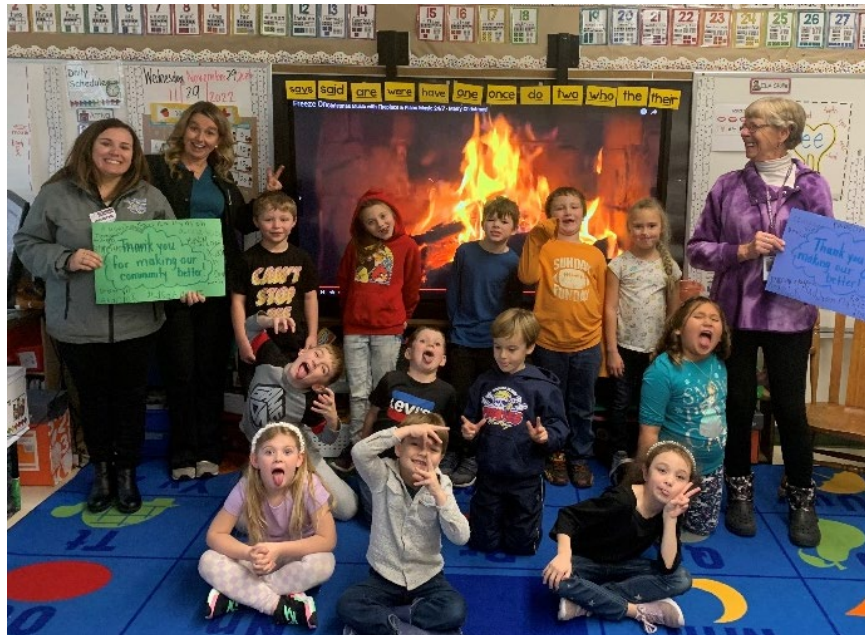
Mrs. Livingston’s Universal Education class has been enjoying winter.





1st Grade News

First grade students are looking forward to spring 2023!!! We had a fabulous fall tasting the different kinds of apples, getting into the spirit of Halloween, and talking about what we are thankful for. Our wonderful winter started off with celebrating Christmas around the world, and continued with 100 Days and Valentine’s Day. We have enjoyed the surplus of snow and we look forward to many more science experiments. We are super stoked for spring and the sunshine!





2nd Grade News

It's a great time to be in second grade! We're working hard on double and triple digit addition and subtraction, building our reading and writing skills, and exploring our world during our knowledge block. Best of all, we're making lots of great memories in and out of the classroom. This fall, we celebrated fire safety with our local fire departments, welcomed community members into our rooms to thank them for giving to our school, and picked pumpkins from the ACS pumpkin patch. During the holidays, we learned about the country of the Philippines as part of our Christmas around the world celebration, went ice skating, and took a hayride around the village. As we head into spring, we're looking forward to making more great memories as we work hard to prepare for third grade!



2nd grade enjoying stories and ice cream with the FFA.



Mrs. Putnam's class celebrating Valentine's Day.



2nd grade at the Christmas concert.



Miss Mitchell's class showing love for Valentine's Day

Mrs. Weldon's class celebrating Christmas Around the World.





Third Grade living their best lives!



Investigations, sampling, and contributing fresh lettuce to the ACS cafeteria



Tubing at Dry Hill & ice skating at the rink



Getting crafty in the creation station

Visits from our community members: Ralph Haddock, Shawn Thomas, River Santa, and Lisa Slate





4th Grade News

Fourth grade has had an amazing year so far! We have learned about problem solving and the importance of teamwork. We have grown and harvested fresh fruit and vegetables in our aeroponic tower gardens. Through our daily morning meetings, we have built relationships and created a safe space to talk about thoughts and feelings. And, during daily silent sustained reading, we have enjoyed a wide variety of books. We have also had many opportunities to let loose and have fun, from dressing up as pirates, to tubing at Dry Hill!



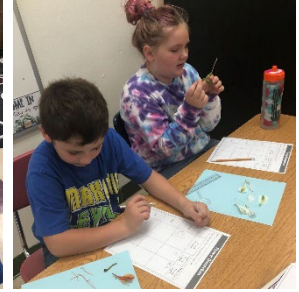
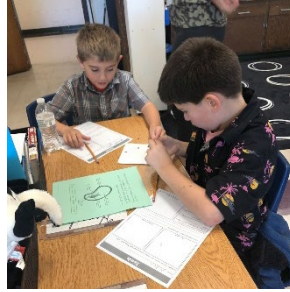


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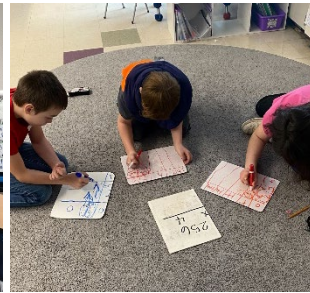
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"The more you *read* the more *things* you know.



The more that you *learn*



the more *places* you'll go." - Dr. Seuss



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Good times in Grade 5!!





Iditarod Arctic Day 2023

Students in fifth grade completed an Iditarod unit, which ended in the culminating activity of an Arctic Day race!!





Here's what's happening!!!

The Booster Club has enjoyed seeing sports back in full swing! We were able to have concessions for the soccer and basketball seasons! We look forward to continuing the concession stand for the spring softball/baseball season. This year we have decided to amp up the school spirit by purchasing t-shirts for the Varsity soccer and the bowling teams, paying for personalization on warm-up jerseys for the JV and V basketball teams, and are in the planning stages for the spring sports' teams. For hockey, we paid for training camps with the Watertown Wolves and a pizza party. We continue to purchase banners for the seniors in each sport to be displayed around the school and on senior nights.

Here's how you can help!!!

- **TI Half Marathon:** The booster club is the benefactor of the TI Half Marathon. The marathon is set to take place June 10th and 11th this year. We need volunteers to help pass out water, guide runners on the route, cheer runners along, and more. This is a great opportunity for students to earn community service hours! Please visit the following website: (<https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/WellesleyIsland/ThousandIslandsHalfMarathon5K>) or contact Barb Edgar (315-778-3144) for more information.
- **Membership:** Become a member now and your membership will carry on through the 2022-2023 school year. Please complete the application on the next page and mail it in along with payment to the address listed on the application.
- **Volunteers:** The Boosters' community is at its best when we have volunteers to help run the many activities throughout the school year. Check out our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ACSSportsBooster/>) for volunteer opportunities or email acssportsboosterclub@gmail.com if you are interested in helping us out. Students and/or parents are welcome to volunteer. Student volunteer hours will go towards their community service graduation requirement. We will be rewarding volunteers each season with a random drawing as a thank you! Board members are excluded from the drawing.

ACS Sports Booster Club Scholarship!

We are excited to offer a \$500.00 scholarship to one senior athlete this academic year! Please email the ACS Sports Booster Club (acssportsboosterclub@gmail.com) or Michelle Mourino (mmourino@acsghosts.org) for more information or the application for the scholarship!



ACS Sports Booster Club

The club's mission is to "unite the local community in supporting the Alexandria Central School athletics department, while recognizing the importance that athletics play in student development and morale." We are an organization of parents, educators, and community members that believe sports can positively impact an athlete's learning and provide students with skills that can lead to success as an adult as well.

ACS athletes have long benefited from a strong commitment from the district, and the Booster Club's goals are to be a partner in this. We want to help fund new equipment and uniforms, upgrade facilities, assist with any expenses that may arise from costs associated with Division or State level participation, etc.

Become a member of the ACS Booster Club as a loved one of an athlete, or simply as an active community member who is dedicated to our school. As a member, you are eligible to vote on open board seats at the annual membership meeting and on business that comes in front of the club at regular meetings throughout the year.

Thank you for considering becoming a member and we can't wait to see you at a meeting or fundraising events!

Membership Levels (choose one):

Individual: \$10/year or \$100/Lifetime

Business: \$100/year

Members must be 18 years or older.

Membership year runs July 1st to June 30th. Dues for membership will be accepted until January 1st. Dues received after that date would be membership for the next year.

Keep the top portion, and return the bottom portion with your payment to: ACS Sports Booster Club PO Box 523 Alexandria Bay, NY 13607.

Name: _____

Date: _____ Membership Level: _____ Year _____ Lifetime _____ Business

Email: _____ Phone: _____

What ACS sports teams are you supporting? (list all) _____

What would you like to do to help? (check all that apply) _____ Concessions _____ Board Member

_____ Committee Member _____ Other: _____

Club Use Only:

Payment Type: _____ Payment Accepted By: _____

ACS ATHLETICS



**A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR BOOSTER CLUB
FROM ALL OF OUR PLAYERS & COACHES!!**



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School Budget Vote 23-24

Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 from 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Alexandria Central School, Room 260

