



Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

January 2024

Inside this Issue

Trout in the classroom update; Transportation request information; PE classes showcase their dance skills; Fourth-grader solves math challenge.....Pg. 2

ELA students save the holidays; Grade levels share love of reading; Fifth-graders create landscape muralPg. 3

Math team has successful autumn; Projects portray Native American life...Pg. 4

Elementary Masked Reader event held; Students select gifts at Holiday Shop; Kindergarten friends make Stone Soup..... Pg. 5

Kindergarten and Pre-K registration forms..... Pg. 6

Spanish students study holiday traditions; Students and staff ring Red Kettle bell; School Tax Relief (STAR) credit...Pg. 7

Emergency closing information; Mark your calendars; Performing Arts Department to present High School Musical on Stage; Order your 2024 yearbook..... Pg. 8

A message from the Superintendent

Dear Alfred-Almond Families:

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season. We're off to a great start of 2024 and the Alfred-Almond faculty and staff are energetic and optimistic about the remainder of the school year. Your children are amazing. At all grade levels, students are enthusiastic about challenges and they embrace kindness. Please take a few minutes with them to reflect on the positives you have seen this past year. Ask them what they've learned this school year and what they'd like to improve for the year's second half. I know that our staff will spend some time reflecting on the mature, brilliant and thoughtful students we are grateful to teach and how thankful we are for your support and partnership.

Academic Excellence

Our students have been working hard and making significant progress in their studies. We are committed to providing them with a rigorous and engaging curriculum that will prepare them for success in college, careers and beyond. In addition to our core academic subjects, we offer various enrichment opportunities, such as our spring musical, eSports and multiple clubs. We also are working to expand our dual enrollment and early college credit programs.

Severe Weather Reminders

We have been fortunate to avoid school cancellations so far this year, but that doesn't mean it won't happen. (This is Western NY, after all!) Families, please make sure the school has your most current contact information. The district uses a 'call-out' phone system called Blackboard to notify families of any closings/delays. Calls are sent to phone numbers that parents/guardians have registered with the district. Information also will be posted on the district's website: <https://www.aacsapps.com> and Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AlfredAlmondCentralSchoolDistrict>.

When school is in session, parents should send students with appropriate clothing to wear outside. Students will continue to have recess outside as the weather allows.

Community Engagement

We are committed to building solid partnerships with our parents and community members. Your involvement is essential to our students' success. We encourage you to attend our school events, volunteer your time and share your feedback with us.

As we look ahead to the second half of the school year, we will continue to make great strides. We have a dedicated team of teachers and staff who are committed to providing our students with the best possible education.

In Education,

Brett A. Duszinbenke
Superintendent of Schools

Trout in the Classroom project update

Things are getting fishy in sixth grade at Alfred-Almond. Our trout hatched from their eggs from October 21-23. It has been fascinating watching them grow and develop. Currently, the trout are considered to be in the fry stage of their life cycle.



We recently secured our NYSDEC permit to release the trout in the Genesee River at the Yorks Corners DEC Fishing Access Site and we will release the fish sometime in the spring.

Release day will be a fun-filled and educational experience with stations such as:

- A stream habitat study consisting of:
 1. assessing water chemistry and the physical characteristics of the stream
 2. Collecting and identifying stream macro-invertebrates and other critters
- A discussion of conservation issues
- Trout games
- Fly fishing demonstration
- Trout release

Again, thank you to our generous donors from DonorsChoose.org and special shout-out to the Sonic Foundation for their matching donations.

Transportation request information

Any parent requesting transportation for their child to a non-public school for the 2024-25 academic year must make such request in writing *no later than April 1, 2024*. These written requests should be submitted to the Alfred-Almond District Office.

Please contact the district office with any questions or concerns.



PE classes showcase their dance skills

In October, our elementary Physical Education students took the skills and moves they had learned for the *Thriller* dance and showcased them at Halloween parade.



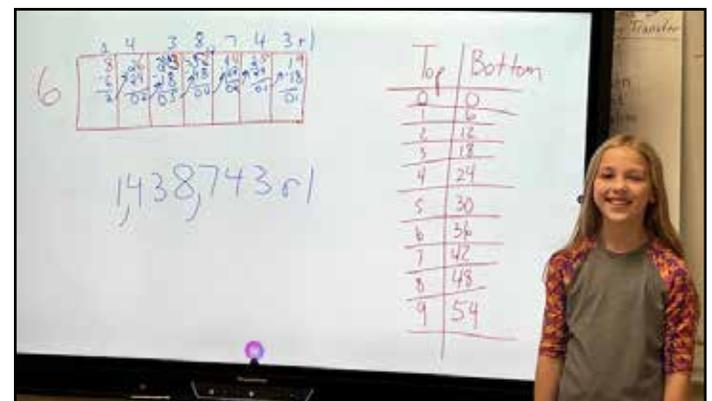
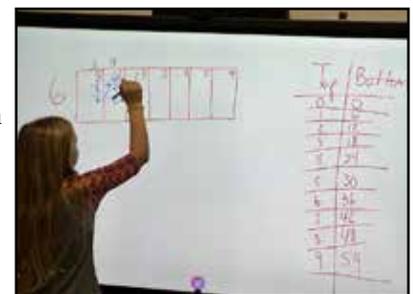
The *Thriller* flash mob was carried out by students in fourth through sixth grade. As the song began playing, participating students swarmed the shot-put area and jumped right in to dance with teachers Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Mann.

Fourth-grader solves math challenge

Mr. Weller's fourth-grade math classes have been working hard on long division. Since these fourth-grade mathletes have been doing such an amazing job, they were given extra time for a "Weller Challenge" one day.

Aubrey Baker was randomly chosen to work out the problem on the board. She took her time, worked carefully and solved the math problem correctly!

Students may choose whichever method works best for them to solve problems.



ELA students save the holidays

Sixth-graders reviewed their ELA skills as they worked in teams to “save the December holidays” in an escape room. Students had to use their knowledge of topics such as parts of speech, using context clues, comparing and contrasting and multiple choice strategies as they learned about Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and the Chinese New Year.



Grade levels share their love of reading

Our elementary Reading Eagles continue to share their love of reading across grade levels and practice their reading and active listening skills as they participate in Friday afternoon read-alouds.



Fifth-graders create landscape mural

This fall, fifth-grade students worked together to create a life-sized cornfield landscape painting. The group project incorporated the skills they had been learning including art collaboration, mural making, observational drawing, color mixing and aerial perspective.

The mural will be on display at our art show in May. Don't miss your chance to see it in person.

Well done, fifth-grade artists!



Math Team has successful autumn

During the fall, the Alfred-Almond Math Team competed in numerous contests and attended math events at various colleges.

On October 26, the Math Team enjoyed Math Day at Houghton University. The team learned about topics such as the Golden Ratio and Math at the Ballot Box. Team members were triumphant at Math Jeopardy, succeeding in categories such as We Don't Talk about Zero.



The team followed up their successful Math Day with the Nevins Math Competition at Alfred University on November 3. Congratulations to Kouki Yatani for taking second place earning a monetary award and a scholarship to Alfred University.

The following week, the team competed in a national competition, the American Mathematics Competition. On November 21, they attended Corning Community College STEM Day.



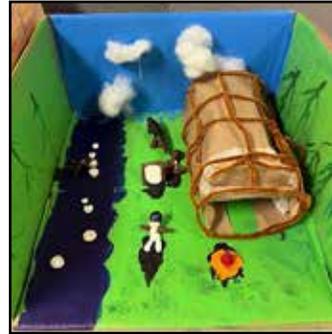
Students enjoyed sessions such as Human Calculator, Cyber Security, Environmental Engineering: Water Resources, Balloon Physics and An Introduction to Robotics and Automation. Awards for the Corning Community College Math Contest were presented at the event. Alfred-Almond's top scorers, Liam Carstens and Gabe Fioretto, led their team to a second place finish among small schools.



The Alfred-Almond Math Team welcomes all students in grades 7-12 who love creative problem solving and STEM activities to join for future events.

Projects portray Native American life

After spending time studying the Algonquians, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, as well as American Indians and their contributions to New York, fourth-graders were given the opportunity to complete a project on the Haudenosaunee or Algonquian groups. Their efforts did not disappoint. They did a great job representing various examples of life as a Native American in New York State.



Elementary Masked Reader event held

The Elementary School Improvement Team hosted the first Masked Reader event. Elementary teachers read behind a mask and used a voice changer while students watched on the screen and tried to guess who was reading.

Our masked readers were Ms. Koegel, Mr. Bogey, Mrs. Emrich, Mrs. Oriend and Mrs. Ahrens.

Thank you to Mr. Bogey, Alfred-Almond Teacher's Association and American Federation of Teachers for the books donated to the students who attended the event. We appreciate everyone who came and supported our event.



Students select gifts at Holiday Shop

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the Alfred-Almond Holiday Shop. Because of your donations, students were able to choose, wrap and share gifts with their loved ones this holiday season.

We hope to continue this fine tradition next year and for years to come.



Kindergarten friends make Stone Soup

Kindergarten students in Mrs. Cady's and Mrs. Dwyer's classes participated in making a special soup after reading the story *Stone Soup*.

In the story, the townspeople came together to create a soup for everyone to enjoy.

While creating their own "stone soup" our Kindergarten friends learned that every little bit adds up when you each contribute just a little bit.

Afterwards, the students ate in their classroom and enjoyed their soup with rolls and homemade butter.



Alfred-Almond KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

In order to identify all children who will enter Kindergarten in September 2023, we are asking those parents who have eligible children who **DO NOT CURRENTLY ATTEND THE PRE-K PROGRAM** to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 12, 2024. Your child must be 5 years of age on or before December 1, 2024. This information is necessary when we initiate Kindergarten sign-ups in the spring. We will use the information below to generate a mailing list for sending the actual registration packets. Students currently attending the Pre-K will automatically be sent a packet. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Child's Full Name _____ M/F Date of Birth _____

Mother's Name: _____
First Maiden Last

Street Address: _____
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: _____
(If different from above)

Father's Name: _____
First Middle Last

Street Address: _____
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: _____
(If different from above)

Child Resides With: _____

Alfred-Almond Elementary
6795 State Route 21
Almond, NY 14804
607-276-6525

Alfred-Almond PRE-KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

In order to identify all children who will enter Pre-Kindergarten in September 2024, we are asking those parents who have eligible children to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 12, 2024. Your child must be 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2024. This information is necessary when we initiate Pre-Kindergarten sign-ups in the spring. We will use this information below to generate a mailing list for sending the actual registration packets. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Child's Full Name _____ M/F Date of Birth _____

Mother's Name: _____
First Maiden Last

Street Address: _____
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: _____
(If different from above)

Father's Name: _____
First Middle Last

Street Address: _____
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: _____
(If different from above)

Child Resides With: _____

Alfred-Almond Elementary
6795 State Route 21
Almond, NY 14804
607-276-6525

Spanish students study holiday traditions

En la clase de Español (Spanish Class) it has been a bustling holiday season learning about many different Spanish Holiday Traditions.

Students learned about the legend of the Poinsettias, the Christmas Piñata that was used as an evangelical tool in Mexico and our favorite and quirky, to say the least, tradition of El Tio Nadal from the North of Spain.

Ask your students about the zapatos they made and who will be leaving treats for them on January 6. ¡Las celebraciones continúan! (The celebrations continue!)



Students and staff ring Red Kettle bell

On December 21, several Alfred-Almond students and faculty members did their part to help with the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign by ringing the bell at the Hornell WalMart. Participants included Dena Clark, Jenny Bensley, Maddie Levey, Gabe Fioretto, Jake Hall, Kanye Cumberbatch, Joey Taggart, Mrs. Boone, Mr. Mac and his son Liam. Thank you to all who participated!



School Tax Relief (STAR) credit

Eligible new homeowners will receive their STAR tax savings in the form of a check directly from New York State. New Basic and Enhanced STAR applicants must register with the New York State Tax Department to receive a STAR check.

New homeowners and any homeowners who have never previously registered for the credit may register anytime at www.tax.ny.gov/star or Monday-Friday between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by calling (518) 457-2036. Register by June 15 to receive a STAR check in September. If you register after June 15, you will receive your check later.

Are you eligible for STAR credit?

If you own your home, it is your primary residence and your income is \$500,000 or less, you are eligible for the Basic STAR credit.

If you are 65 or older with an income of \$93,000 or less, you may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR credit.

Before you register:

You will need the following information to register for the STAR credit:

- names and social security numbers for all owners of the property and their spouses;
- name of the school district where your primary residence is located;
- approximate date the owners purchased the property and the name of the sellers;
- most recent school tax bill, if the current owners have received one;
- address of any residential property owned in another state;
- if the property is owned in trust, the legal name of the trust;
- 2021 federal or state income tax returns for all owners; if you were not required to file a 2021 income tax return, you will be asked to provide financial information for all property owners.

STAR exemption recipients:

You do not need to register with New York State for STAR if you are a longtime homeowner with an existing STAR exemption.

If you are a senior citizen who has been receiving the Basic STAR exemption and have become eligible for the Enhanced STAR exemption, you should apply with your local tax assessor.

POSTAL PATRON

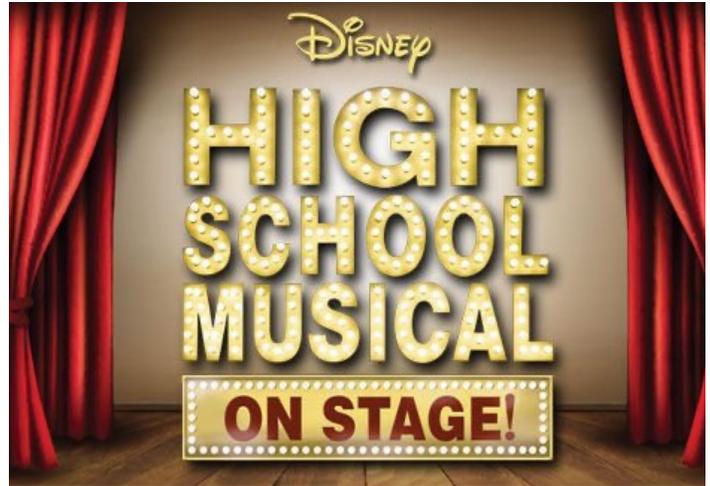
Alfred-Almond Central School
6795 Route 21
Almond, New York 14804

US Postage Paid
Alfred, New York 14802
Permit No. 20
Non-Profit Organization

Mark your calendars

January 15NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 29NO SCHOOL for students - Conference day
February 19-23..... NO SCHOOL - Winter recess
March 14 & 15Parent /Teacher Conferences
Elementary Students Dismissed at 11:50 a.m. both days
March 29 & April 1NO SCHOOL - Holiday

The Alfred Almond Performing Arts Department
proudly presents



Friday, March 8, 2024 @ 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 9, 2024 @ 7 p.m.
Sunday, March 10, 2024 @ 2 p.m.

General Admission tickets are \$7 and will be available online and at the door. Online ticketing information will be coming to the district website and our Facebook page in February 2024. You won't want to miss this show!

Order your 2024 yearbook today

The 2024 ALCEN Yearbook is now available for purchase. Again this year, all yearbooks must be ordered online. The cost is \$60. To order your yearbook, please:

- Go to www.jostens.com
- Click the link: Order Your Yearbook Today
- Search for Alfred-Almond Central High School
- It will then ask you to input your information

The staff has been hard at work on page layouts, completing the underclassmen and elementary sections of the yearbook and taking winter sports photos.

If you have any sports photos we could possibly use, please feel free to email them to Kelly Valentine at kvalentine@aacapps.com.

Thank you for supporting the Alfred-Almond Yearbook!

Snow and emergency closing information

As a reminder to parents, with winter weather, it is sometimes necessary to close or delay school because it is not safe for students to walk or ride to school.



Should a closing or delay be necessary, the district will use our automated system to notify families. Be sure to update us with any changes to your contact information so you will receive these messages.

Additional information on school closings and delays also will be available on the district website and Facebook page and by listening to the following radio or television stations:

- WHDL (PIG 95.7) BIG OLY 107.1
- WGRZ-Channel 2 WKBW - Channel 4
- WIVB - Channel 4 Spectrum News

Please do not call the school office or transportation department to ask if there is a cancellation or delay.