



# Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

## March 2024

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## A message from the Superintendent

Dear AACCS Families,

As the first blooms of spring peek through the winter’s grip, a sense of renewal and excitement fills the air. This time of year at Alfred-Almond CSD carries a special energy, reflecting not only the changing seasons but also the culmination of hard work and the anticipation of exciting opportunities ahead. In this spirit, I want to share some reflections and express my sincere appreciation for our entire school community.

### Celebrating Achievements and Growth:

This past semester has been marked by impressive achievements, both individual and collective. From academic triumphs to artistic performances and athletic victories to acts of kindness, our students have continuously demonstrated their potential and dedication. Witnessing their growth and seeing them blossom into well-rounded individuals brings immense pride. I also want to commend our dedicated staff, whose unwavering commitment fosters a nurturing and stimulating learning environment. The countless hours you devote to personalized instruction, innovative programs and extracurricular activities do not go unnoticed. Thank you for being the pillars of our educational journey.

### Looking Forward with Optimism:

As we embrace the spring season, the horizon unfolds with exciting possibilities. Upcoming events like the high school musical, band and choral performances, field trips, the art show, spring sports and graduation ceremonies promise to offer valuable learning experiences and lasting memories.

### Collaboration is Key:

The strength of our school community lies in the collaborative spirit we share. Parents, guardians, and families play a crucial role in supporting their children’s academic and personal growth. We encourage your continued engagement through events, volunteering opportunities and open communication with teachers and staff.

Together, we can ensure that Alfred-Almond continues to be a vibrant hub of learning, growth, and opportunity for all.

### A Note of Appreciation:

In closing, I express my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributes to the success of our school. From our students’ unwavering enthusiasm to our staff’s tireless dedication to the unwavering support of families, you are the heart and soul of Alfred-Almond. May this spring season bring joy, renewal, and continued success to each and every one of you.

Warmly,

**Brett A. Dusinberre**  
Brett A. Dusinberre

## A note from the Principal Barber

As we look forward to the vibrant spirit of spring, I am delighted to extend a warm hello to the Alfred-Almond community. Although the winter has seemed long and dark, the halls of our school building have been filled with excitement, learning and growth.

New student opportunities have been created this winter, including the Kindness Club and the Play Time Club. The Kindness Club has been busy spreading kindness throughout our school and community. Students have created cards for local agencies, shared their appreciation for staff and students and students and staff have “sprinkled” our hallways with kindness! The new Play Time Club will offer students in grades 3-6 a device-free opportunity to play and socialize with their peers after school. I am so grateful for our staff’s dedication to offering our students these enriching and exciting activities.

March is a month of exciting events that bring our community together. We’re gearing up for our first Read Across Alfred-Almond Week (March 11-15). We have many exciting events planned to encourage reading and embrace a lifetime of learning. March is also the time for Parent-Teacher Conferences on March 14-15, and staff will build their capacity for learning and self-care on a Superintendent Conference day on March 18.

As we head toward warmer weather, I encourage everyone to embrace the spirit of spring. Take advantage of the longer days and warmer weather to explore nature, read a book outside, learn something new and enjoy the beauty of Western New York. We will be in the path of totality for the total solar eclipse on April 8. I highly recommend you use this opportunity to learn and teach about this rare and awe-inspiring event!

I want to thank our dedicated staff, enthusiastic students and supportive parents for making our school community a special place. Your commitment to learning, collaboration and growth propels us forward and ensures that each day brings new opportunities for success. Remember to stay connected, stay engaged and participate actively in the journey of education and enrichment. I look forward to the many exciting endeavors ahead for us all.

**Casey Barber**

Casey Barber  
Elementary Principal



## New club spreading kindness

Alfred Almond Elementary School has a new club under the leadership of Mrs Orsmy. The Kindness Club promotes generosity, compassion for others and a positive school culture through student-led service and school based projects. Two students per class from Pre-K through sixth grade were selected by their teachers to participate.

The club’s weekly meetings provide a structured setting to learn and discuss the importance of compassion and the meaning of friendship. Teachers have remarked that they have observed an improvement in self esteem and positivity in their students.

So far this year, the club has made Christmas cards for the nursing home and candy grams for our wonderful support staff. In December, we had a large JOY sign hanging in the hall where students and staff wrote what brought them joy.

There are several ongoing projects to celebrate Kindness month. In the front hallway hangs a large doughnut where kindness messages are being shared. Kindness club members worked hard to create kindness bags that were given to each teacher. When students are caught being kind teachers give the students a ticket and put it in the bag. These messages are read on the morning announcements each day. Keep an eye out for the positive posters and artwork hanging in the elementary hallways. Stay tuned for more exciting news from the Alfred-Almond Kindness Club.



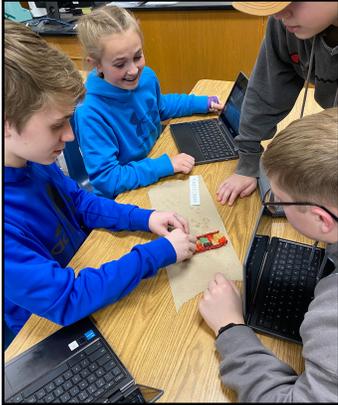
## Experimenting with magnetic attraction

Fourth-graders have been learning all about magnetism in science class. Recently, they had fun conducting an experiment using scales to find out what happens to the force of attraction between two magnets as the distance between them changes.



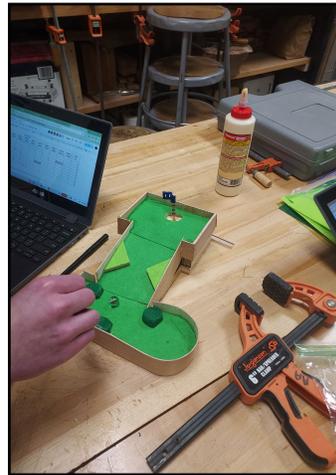
## Gummy bear DNA in Life Science class

Ms. Dineen's eighth-grade Life Science students made models of DNA out of gummy bears, Twizzlers and toothpicks. Each group created their model using a portion of the gene sequence for the protein hemoglobin, which binds to oxygen in red blood cells. Who knew DNA would taste so yummy?



## Students design mini-golf course

Mr. Levey's Design and Drawing for Production class recently completed their mini-golf course utilizing 2D, 3D and a change of direction. The students also 3D printed their flag and a custom-designed putter.



## Fifth-graders visit Challenger Center

In November, fifth-grade students had the opportunity to visit the Challenger Center in Allegany, NY. The local Challenger Center has carried on the memory and the mission of the original Challenger crew by helping children discover those possibilities through their innovative programming to promote STEAM education. Students of all backgrounds embark on a simulated mission where they work together to run hands-on experiments and solve tough problems.

Every student had a role to play in making the mission a success, building confidence in their own abilities and demonstrating the power of teamwork. In a matter of hours, these missions ignited the potential within each student, opening their eyes to new skills and ideas that can lead to success in their careers and lives and spark a passion for learning that will last a lifetime. The best part was hearing, "This is the BEST field trip ever" and seeing them congratulate each other on a job well done, as they successfully completed their mission.

## Kindergarten information

Children born on or before December 1, 2019 are eligible to enter school in September 2024. If your child is eligible to attend kindergarten in September, please contact the elementary office at 607-276-6530 or email Heidi Putnam at [hputnam@aacssapps.com](mailto:hputnam@aacssapps.com) to be added to the list to receive informational mailings.

## Universal Pre-K Information

Administration anticipates that the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program for our preschool children will continue into the 2024-25 school year. Children born on or before December 1, 2020, are eligible to apply for attendance in the program. Children who are eligible to attend kindergarten are not eligible to apply for attendance in UPK.

The application is included on page 4 in this newsletter and also will be available at the elementary office and on the district website at [www.aacsapps.com](http://www.aacsapps.com). If you would like to receive an application in the mail, please contact Heidi Putnam by calling 607-276-6530 or emailing [hputnam@aacssapps.com](mailto:hputnam@aacssapps.com).

Completed applications and a copy of your child's birth certificate, current physical and immunization records must be returned to the elementary school office no later than Wednesday, May 8.

Applications received after this date will not be considered if more than 18 applications are received. A random selection process, as required by New York State, will be performed should the district receive more applications than the 18 available openings. Families will be notified in writing whether their child did or did not receive a spot in the UPK program. Letters that will be mailed on Monday, May 13.

Questions should be directed to Elementary Principal Casey Barber at 607-276-6525.

# PreKindergarten Program Application

-----  
**Alfred-Almond School District**

**Today's Date** \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
**Student's Legal Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name

First Name

Name Called: \_\_\_\_\_

**Male**  **Female**  **Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_ **Social Security #** \_\_\_\_\_

Is Student Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin? **Yes**  **No**

**Ethnic Group/Race:** American Indian/Alaska Native  Asian  Black/African American

White  Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

**Birth Place:** \_\_\_\_\_

City

State

Country

What was the first language your child learned? \_\_\_\_\_ Language spoken most often: \_\_\_\_\_

Did your child attend preschool as a 3 year old? **Yes**  **No**  If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child need to take medication at school? **Yes**  **No**  If yes, what? \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have special medical problems/allergies/drug allergies? **Yes**  **No**  If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please indicate the following in case of an emergency.

Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Dentist: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Does your child receive any of the following services?** Special Education/IEP  504 Plan

ESL  PT  OT  Speech  Accelerated Learning  Other  Please Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**House Address:**

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **County:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address if different:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Do you: own ( ) rent ( ) or share residence with another family ( )

If you share this residence with another family, list family/owner's name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ Is this a cell phone? **Yes**  **No**



## Senior performs with All-State Chorus

On December 3, senior Kiana Yezarski performed with approximately 200 other singers in the NYSSMA



Conference All-State Mixed Chorus at a packed Eastman Theater in Rochester.

Members of the All-State Chorus rehearsed for three days and performed

seven songs, including pieces sung in German, French and Italian.

This is the highest High School Honors Choir in New York State. Kiana was selected for this prestigious honor by earning a perfect score last year at the 2023 Spring Vocal Solo Festival on a piece of music with the highest level of difficulty. She was accompanied by Mrs. Kelleher and Ms. Conklin.

Congratulations, Kiana!



## Elementary STEM club

This year, the elementary STEM club offered third- and fourth-grade students a chance to learn all about STEM and dive into some fun and challenging projects. In October, students were able to design a haunted house using only a few materials that were provided for them. In November, students read the book *Balloons Over Broadway* then designed, created and flew a balloon in their own Alfred-Almond Thanksgiving Day parade. In December, students were given craft sticks, tape, tinsel and tree ornaments to design and create their own antler ears and then held a reindeer race to see whose antlers stood up to all the reindeer games.

For our final January meeting, students listened to the story *Snowmen at Work*. They made snow from baking soda and conditioner.

Then, they were tasked with the problem of building a shovel using one piece of paper, four straws, three feet of tape and four craft sticks. The shovel had to be able to pick up as much snow as possible without breaking.

We had a great time and students were engaged and learning a lot about the engineering and design process. Fifth and six grade students will be starting a STEM club in February.



## Emergency closing information

As a reminder to parents, 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 7

WIVB - Channel 4

Spectrum News

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

## Send a postcard to our sixth-graders

Once again, our sixth-graders are participating in a postcard exchange. If you or someone you know would like to send a postcard, we would love to add it to our bulletin board display. This is an interesting and fun way for our students to learn about different parts of the United States and beyond.



Postcards can be mailed to us at:

Alfred Almond Central School District  
Sixth Grade  
6795 State Route 21  
Almond, NY 14804

## Building bridges in second grade

Led by Mrs. Olix, second-graders were tasked with building bridges. Interesting conversation took place as the two classes worked together to determine the characteristics a bridge needs to be strong and built their own bridges.



## City planning in sixth-grade math class

Sixth-grade students have completed their area and surface area projects this marking period. They have been working hard on planning and creating and completed a blueprint of their city. They found the area of each building before constructing it and found the surface area of their LEGO™ cities.



## Congratulations to our 2023-24 winter varsity sports teams on a successful season



## Order your 2024 yearbook today

The 2024 yearbook is almost complete and ready to be sent to print. Time is running out to order your copy!

This year, all yearbooks must be purchased online and the deadline to order is April 30. The cost of the books is \$60 plus tax. To purchase: visit [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com); click on Order Your Yearbook Today; search for Alfred-Almond Central High School and input your information when prompted to do so.

Please feel free to email them to Kelly Valentine at [kvalentine@aacsapps.com](mailto:kvalentine@aacsapps.com) with any questions.

Thank you for your support!

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

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## Spring 2024

### Secondary State Testing and Finals

- APRIL 10-12  
MAY 7-9  
MAY 23-JUNE 6**

**NYS 7th & 8th Grade Testing**  
4/10-12 ELA  
5/7-9 Math  
5/23-June 6: 8th Grade Science Performance and Written-During Class

**9:30-11:30AM**
- 6-16  
MAY**

**Advanced Placement Exams**  
5/6 US Government & Politics  
5/10 US History and Art Portfolios Due Date  
5/14 English Language & Composition  
5/16 Biology

**8:15 AM; 12PM**
- 3-13  
JUNE**

**Local Finals**

**DURING CLASSES**
- 4, 14,  
18, 20-25  
JUNE**

**Regents Exams**

**8:00 AM; 12PM**

**MORE INFORMATION**      Contact the School Counselors' office: 607-276-6562

## Mark your calendars

- March 14-15..... Elementary Parent/Teacher Conference  
Dismissal at 11:50 a.m.
- March 18... No School - Superintendent's Conference Day
- March 29-April 1 ..... No School - Holiday
- April 22-26.....No School - Spring Recess
- April 22 ..... Deadline for Board of Education Petitions
- May 7 ..... Voter Registration, 2:00-8:00 p.m.
- May 21 ..... Annual Vote/BOE Election, 1:00-8:00 p.m.
- May 27 ..... No School - Memorial Day
- June 19 ..... No School - Juneteenth

## Read Across Alfred-Almond

March 11th - March 15th, 2024

**List of Activities Include:**

- The opportunity to design a bookmark with a winner in each homeroom. Due to Mrs. Emrich by March 4th.
- Guest readers coming to various classrooms throughout the week.
- Reading Eagles Club will be giving out prizes throughout the week to students who are participating in their word of the day scavenger hunts.
- Elementary students will get a chance to participate in a reading challenge the first 14 days of March. Reading logs will be due on the 14th of March.

## June 2024 Regents Exam Schedule

June 4	June 14	June 18	June 20	June 21	June 24	June 25
Tuesday	Friday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Wednesday
8:15am	8:15am	8:15am	8:15am	8:15am	8:15am	8:15am
Algebra 1	ELA	US History & Government	Earth Science	Geometry	Algebra 2	Physics
	12pm	12pm	12pm			
	Living Environment	Global II & Geography	Chemistry			