



Alton Central School

Principal's Report to the School Board

January 8, 2018

Happy New Year! The ski program started this month and we have 167 students participating this year in grades 3 through 8. In P.E with Mrs. Urena students have been working on team building skills and learning basketball skills. "Drums Alive" will return to the gyms of ACS. "Drums Alive" is a fun and creative use of rhythm through drumming that encourages physical fitness. It is a sensory motor drumming program that helps students physically, emotionally, socially and mentally.

In first grade students are currently working on shapes and connecting them with all of the shapes around them. They have learned about theme and have connected different character traits to books. In the second grade, students are studying maps and working on mapping skills. They just finished making their own books that identify where they are from (planet Earth) and narrowing it down to ACS on School Street! Second grade also just completed a Chapter 2 Addition to 1000 with Regrouping Test. Approximately 90% of the kids had an 85 or above and five students got a 100%. They were really proud of themselves. They have now moved on to Chapter 3 this week – Subtraction to 1000.

Fourth graders are finishing up their study of NH Regions and "I'm a survivor" which is a study of plant and animal structures that help with survival. This coincides with their visit from "Animal Encounters" on Friday, January 5th. Students learned about animal adaptations and got to see many different species of wildlife. Grades 5 and 6 will be completing the annual National Geographic Geography Bees in order to generate a school-wide winner to send to the statewide competition in Concord.

In seventh grade during the month of December, students have been working on a logical locker design project. They were presented with the challenge of designing a locker to meet the organizational and functional needs of a middle school student at ACS. This project is part of a study on economics. Students were required to draw true to life models of their locker, determine and shop for materials within a \$50 budget (keeping in mind their wants vs. their needs), they recorded their purchases on an expenditure sheet, and then created two forms of advertisement (radio commercials and posters) to sell their lockers to a consumer. Moving into the New Year students will continue their study of economics. They will explore more budget based decisions, think about cash vs. credit, and explore their own future goals and how finances will play a role. Students will also analyze the poorest countries in the world in order to determine what are the causes of poverty across the world.

7th grade ELA just finished up reading "Freak the Mighty" and then did a compare/contrast session with the movie version. 8th grade Language Arts is about to start their unit on the novel "Chains" as well as their interdisciplinary unit on the Power of One project with Social Studies which will involve persuasive speech writing. Students will be hard at work trying to convince their classmates that their causes are the worthiest of support in the 8th grade as they plan an end-of-the year culminating event for their PBL.

In eighth grade, Khali Sweeney, the founder of the Downtown Boxing Gym Youth Program and one of the top ten CNN Hero of the Year finalists, flew in from Detroit to speak to our students about perseverance and creating lives of purpose. It was a memorable experience for all, providing inspiration and motivation with which to approach the research portion of their project. Students are researching charities, causes, and organizations to form the basis



Alton Central School

for the persuasive speeches that they will prepare in Language Arts class. These will eventually lead into plans for community service projects that the students will put into action later in the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. MacArthur, Jr.
Principal, Alton Central School

Upcoming Events @ ACS	
1/10	PTSA Meeting 6:00pm
1/11	Ski Day #2 Gunstock Mountain
1/15	No School – MLK Day
1/18	Ski Day #3 Gunstock Mountain
1/23	Early Release
1/25	Ski Day #4 Gunstock Mountain