



Alton Central School

Principal's Report to the School Board October 10, 2017

It has been a great first month of school here at ACS and we have had a productive month. We have finished the first round of NWEA testing and STAR for our younger grades. We have and will continue using the data from these tests to plan classroom instruction and adjust our intervention groups. Grade level teams are working diligently during SPARC (Student Progress And Responsive Correction) meetings to meet the ever changing needs of our students.

Kindergarten enjoyed their fieldtrip to Meadow Ledge Farm. The tour guide stated our group had excellent behavior which was a great compliment. Kindergarten will be using the apples to make homemade applesauce in the classroom, apple smiles, apple printing, and many other activities. First graders are beginning to study the movement in the sky. They will be going on a field trip to the Christa McAuliffe Discovery Center on Nov. 3. Second graders have been making clouds and will be learning about the water cycle. They also just planted beans are doing an experiment to see if kind words effect the way the beans grow.

The third Grade is giving out positive reward bracelets (brag bracelets) to students on a daily basis. Teachers are using this to congratulate and celebrate positive behaviors. The students are so proud of themselves once they earn a bracelet! Fourth Graders are rocketing through their multiplication facts and are very excited to get the award certificates they receive as they move up through the fact families. Additionally, they have been studying circuits and working to create several different small group projects. They were extremely excited and eager to explain and show off their creations!

Grades 5 and 6 are preparing their classes for their Project Based Learning (PBL) Trimester 1 activity. The PBL activity focuses on the environment and the importance of recycling. Subject area classes (math, ELA, science, Social Studies) focus on either local, national or global impacts (both positive and negative) of the human impact on their environment.

Grade 7 students have been "up-grading" their Goodreads. Designed to help them track their reading rates and advance their reading levels, Goodreads also allows them to share input and opinions about the literature that they love while having the opportunity to explore new genres. Students have also been introduced to Writing Workshop and are the process of writing, revision, and editing that will enhance their ability to express themselves. Seventh grade science has been working on a full analysis of the effects on a clam as related to the scientific method. Also as a part of this process, they have been delving into the technical writing process, excel spreadsheet use, graphing in excel, and writing well thought out conclusions. This process has been a full scientific investigation over multiple weeks and will transition into the study of the human body systems.

In 8th Grade, students headed to the trail to explore many disciplines and how they can be connected to nature. In Language Arts, studies of Thoreau and nature writing preceded the trip which prepared them to delve into their own connections with their environment. In Social Studies, preparations have included explorations into our local history and economy. "*Reading the Forested Landscape*" by Tom



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Wessels has provided ample pre-trail discussions and lessons, getting them ready to become investigators of the evidence that each forest provides to its history and that of the people who lived in the area years ago. Other lessons on the trail included statistical analysis, artistic impressions, and STEM exploration.

In Technology Education, grades 7/8 just finished learning what it takes to be a junior rocket scientist and will be moving on to basic construction/woodworking and will make wooden step stools. Grades 5/6 just finished Aeronautics with the building of Balsawood gliders. Fifth graders are also learning about alternative energy and will be constructing model windmills. In the automotive world, our third graders are learning about wind and friction while building sail cars and our fourth graders are learning about solar energy and are building solar cars!

The Scholastic Book Fair will take place from October 18-25th in the ERC. Students will have a chance to view and make purchases during the school day. Additionally, the book fair will be open during parent conference times to ensure parents and students have ample time to check out all the great books that are being offered to encourage student reading.

NJHS – October is a busy month! Drench Us for Dollars, a fundraiser for ALS research, is underway. The homeroom that raises the most money will celebrate by dousing all members of the NJHS and their advisor with buckets of water! This will be quickly followed by the 15th Annual Candy Drive, collecting and redistributing bags of Halloween candy to the residents who get bombarded by trick-or-treaters at the end of the month. Finally, Yankee Candle Sales will start next week and go until the beginning of November. Sales from this fundraiser support many of our other service activities including supporting a family at Christmas, purchasing fleece for Project Linus blankets, and shipping fees for the books that NJHS sends to their Navajo friends in New Mexico in the spring.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Upcoming Events @ ACS	
10/10-25	NJHS Halloween Candy Drive
10/18-25	Scholastic Book Fair
10/19	Early Release - Parent/Teacher Conferences
10/20	No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences
10/24	Picture Retakes 8:30 am
10/27	Halloween Dance
10/28	PTSA Halloween Event @ ACS
11/2	PTSA Popcorn Day
11/9	Veterans Day Assembly
11/10	No School