



# Alton Central School

## Principal's Report to the School Board November 13, 2017

It is amazing that winter is steadily approaching and I am still in disbelief that we are nearly half-way through November! On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Alton Central hosted our Annual Veteran's Day Assembly. We had a wonderful turnout from the community. Our ACS students performed, shared writing, and created beautiful artwork to honor the brave men and women who have served in our armed forces. It was a fantastic assembly. Thank you to Sue Bailey for organizing this important event.

Kindergarten Students have completed the alphabet recognizing many letters and sounds and are now putting those sounds together to both read and spell words. They are also recognizing the sight words introduced and are finding these words around their environment and are able to read and write simple sentences and books. They are excited about their progression in their newfound skills!

Grade 1 is working hard to understand math fact families using addition and subtraction. In science they are studying the sun, moon, and the night sky. Recently, the first grade took a trip to the Planetarium. First grade students also will begin making their puppets as part of the Project Based Learning piece. They will be focusing on "Thinking with Our Eyes" as they are introduced to the new Social Thinking book. In math, they will continue to work on fact families and working hard with number bonds.

As a culmination to their clouds project, the second grade recently welcomed WMUR meteorologist Hayley Lapoint! Hayley spent the morning with our students and had a great slide presentation which showed the different types of clouds in real photographs. We captured the moment in several pictures which are featured on our website.

Currently, the third grade is making goodie bags to hand out to people in order to "fill their buckets". The purpose of "fill their buckets" is to do anything that builds another person up, makes them feel important, respected, and loved. The 4th grade is in the process of designing their super hero trading cards and comic strips for their PBL theme of POWER. The super heroes all have powers that help people such as being kind, inclusive, brave, perseverance, respect and courage. The super heroes also use their powers to fill up others buckets.

Grades 5 and 6 are preparing to teach lessons that are tied to their PBL project (related to recycling and protecting the environment. Recently, the 5/6 students collected the plastic forks and spoons used during lunch. In math class they figured (based on their own lunch results) how much trash (how many plastic forks and spoons) could result from all lunches each day, each week, each month, and beyond. The following day 5/6 students brought their own silverware to lunch. Plastic forks and spoons were still collected (as some students forgot). The same math was done in math class the next day. From their results they discovered how much of a difference they can make by simply using their own home materials to reduce trash.



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This month 5<sup>th</sup> grade general music students experienced combining dance and instruments to create original compositions in small groups. Utilizing Boomwhackers and beginning with some simple hip-hop dance moves learners created, rehearsed and performed their compositions for their classmates.

Students grades 7 and 8 in Mr. Pappaceno's class are participating in live ship-to-shore interactions with the staff of the Exploration Vessel (E/V), the Nautilus. These conversations give students the ability to interview scientists, engineers, biologists, from the Ocean Exploration Trust. The crew of the Nautilus is currently mapping and exploring underwater targets throughout the US West Coast from Canada to Mexico. Through a Q&A, students learn about the various occupations on the Nautilus and the skills required to fill these positions as researchers of deep-water habitats that have never been explored.

Guidance classes are currently working on lessons which require students to use the power of thoughts to manage stress and worry. By changing thoughts and perceptions about a stressful situation, ultimately we can reduce stress and better deal with conflict by changing the way we think. Students are learning strategies to let go of things they have no control over and focus instead on their own happiness. Classes practiced how to respond to people who are trying to hurt them with words in a way that leaves the other person unable to respond negatively.

Finally, Mr. Miller would like to you to volunteers, parents, and teachers for supporting the book fair and helping out. Most of our k-6 students purchased a book. Net sales were slightly under 4k and profit was 1800.00 in scholastic dollars

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Upcoming Events @ ACS	
11/17	Hat Day for Ski Program Scholarship
11/22-11/24	No School, Happy Thanksgiving!
12/1	PSU Tiger Program Performances
12/5	Showcase Assembly
12/7	General Music Concert K-3 @ ACS, 6:30pm
12/13	Early Release PTSA Meeting 6:00pm
12/14	Band/Chorus Concert (Gr4-8) @ PMHS, 6:30pm