



# Alton Central School

## Principal's Report to the School Board December 11, 2017

Here we are in December, trimester 2 is already under way, and the holidays are quickly approaching! Things have been busy here at ACS! We welcomed TIGER (*Theater Integrating Guidance, Education, and Responsibility*) again this year from Plymouth State University. They did a fantastic presentation for our K-6 students on dealing proactively and positively with social issues and concerns faced in schools today. On Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed Justin Spencer (Chaos and Kindness/Recycled Percussion) to ACS where he performed with fellow Recycled Percussionist Alex Stickles and also provided a motivational speech to our entire student body and staff. It was a great assembly with a positive message on kindness that also included a teacher drum-off and dance-off. I am also happy to announce that Nicole Poland and Richard Livesey were honored with our first round of staff "Apache Awards." The theme for December was "BE Kind" and they were selected by their fellow staff members.

First grade has just finished their unit on the movement in the sky for science. Half the class worked with Mr. Pappaceno one day a week and will be reporting back to the class this week on what they learned. The second group will have time with him and will work on light and sound. This is an extension to the classroom and a great way to collaborate to enrich students learning abilities. First grade has also started adding and subtracting to 20 and will be moving into geometry. As they begin trimester 2, first grade will begin informational (to do) writing. In social studies, they will be doing an economics unit using "Kid Town." This unit discusses what is in our community and the idea of wants and needs.

Second grade just finished up their weather unit and we're moving on to mapping skills. The students are really comprehending addition to 1,000 with a better grasp of place value. Number talks are going well and teachers report that it's great to see all the different ways the students are showing how they add their basic facts.

Third Grade is beginning their "travel" around the world to learn of different holiday traditions. In conjunction with their science curriculum on space, Grade 3, using Legos, is designing a "space station" on Venus to evacuate Earth as it becomes uninhabitable. In Social Studies the Fourth Grade is learning about NH Counties and the major landforms in NH. Also in Grade 4, small groups of students studied the basics of building design and constructed a paper tower that had to support a textbook.

In STEM with Mr. MacDuff, Grades 5 and 6 are completing a project making silk screened t-shirts. As part of the project, they have discussed the benefits of mass production referencing Alton's own "Tracings Graphics." Students learned how it is not feasible to make prints one at a time by hand compared to a manufacturing facility such as Tracings Graphics.

The seventh grade has been completing the unit on the first three systems of the human body (Skeletal, Muscular, and Skin). Topics have included the bones of the skeleton, joints of the body, muscles of the body, skin and how it protects, and regulates the body. One of the most interesting parts of the unit this year was the construction of working joint models where students (in groups) constructed a movable joint of the body that had to function the same as in the body. Students then had to make sure to include the muscles, bones, tendons and ligaments involved. For 7<sup>th</sup> grade writing, students finished up a cross-curricular unit on structured paragraph and essay writing with social studies just before the Thanksgiving break. Currently they are working on some free choice genre writing with a focus on the revision process and will be moving into a unit on narrative writing after the holidays.



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In grade eight, students are learning signpost reading strategies and have been practicing implementing them into their individualized reading responses with a specific focus on using text evidence to support their thinking. They are about to start their first whole class novel, “Chains,” in which they will be further practicing these signpost strategies. This unit is interdisciplinary and ties into their social studies unit on the Revolutionary War. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies, the students have recently finished a unit on the French and Indian War and are diving into an exploration of how the colonists went from being loyal British citizens in 1763 to revolutionaries in 1775. This study will culminate in the preparation of Revolutionary War songs of their own creation the week before our holiday break. Students will also be introduced to the second part of their “Power of One” project in which they will plan how they might use their own power for the benefit of others. This will be a collaboration between Social Studies and Language Arts that will combine research and persuasive writing.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Upcoming Events @ ACS	
12/13	Showcase Assembly 9:00 am ACS Gym
12/13	Early Release PTSA Meeting 6:00pm
12/14	Band/Chorus Concert (Gr4-8) @ PMHS, 6:30pm
12/22	Early Release – Happy Holidays!
12/24/17- 1/2/18	Holiday Break