



# Alton Central School

## Principal's Report to the School Board February 20, 2018

Alton Central School is proud to announce Zoe-Jane Ransom (4th Grade) as the School-Level Champion for the Spelling Bee. She will participate in the statewide Spelling Bee at the Capital Center for the Arts in Concord on Saturday, February 24th. Additionally, we are happy to announce that Kate Roy and Julie LeBlanc were honored with "Apache Awards" for the month of February! The theme for this month was: "Building confidence and social emotional skills by recognizing students in a positive fashion" which is aligned with our Strategic Plan. The "Apache Awards" are chosen each month and are voted on by fellow staff members.

The first graders have been working on reading and drawing picture graphs, tally charts, and bar graphs in math. During writing block, they are creating a "how to" booklet. In reading, they are working on retelling stories using their five finger retell method. They are still chugging along with the Kid Town economics unit and also have been working on light and shadows in science. So far their investigations have shown that light does not travel through a solid object and the closer the light the bigger the shadow. Additionally, First and second graders have been using "Tuxpaint" to reinforce their knowledge of Spanish vocabulary. They have been creating monsters with multiple body parts. For example, 3 heads are labeled "tres cabezas" or 10 arms are labeled "diez brazos."

In grade 3 STEM, students just completed their sail powered cars and will explore space. They will also design and build a space complex to support life on a selected planet in our solar system. In Spanish, third graders are learning how to describe the color of clothing. They will each be designing a page in a class booklet about clothing that is not advisable to wear for different sports.

The 4th grade will be learning about running a business and economics in Social Studies. Students will pick out the flower, herb, and vegetable seeds that they want to order. They will analyze data from sales over the past years and use it to help determine the seeds that people will want to purchase. They hope to create a big demand for their products through marketing. They are also writing a jingle with Mr. Neveu, designing flyers with Mrs. Bailey and creating their seed packets. Students will study what makes a good logo and business name. In Spanish, students are learning about pirates. Students will be creating digital story books in "Spanglish" using the online tool "Storyjumper." In STEM, students just started and will be learning to measure before building solar powered cars.

5th grade will be ice fishing at Manning Lake on Feb. 22. The 5/6 PBL theme has to do with recycling and protecting our environment. The team is working on an activity while on the ice, that focuses on trash/debris left behind on the lakes during winter time and the impact it can have on the lake environment. Students in 5A have started working on their unit in PowerPoint. They are creating presentations about one of their favorite places and some will have the opportunity to present on the Smartboard. 6<sup>th</sup> grade STEM is building bridges to test under load. In ELA, students have completed scripts and will begin small group rehearsals this week. During 5/6 Virtual Reality has conducted research on Constantinople and visited modern day Istanbul which is built on top of the ruins of Constantinople which they are studying in Social Studies. Students are also researching and writing lesson plans for small group presentations of US History topics. In this they research a topic, complete a power point, choose three VR slides that relate to their power point, and present to a small group of classmates. The fifth grade is considering the drafting of the Declaration of Independence with the problem of slavery among the colonies, while the sixth grade is finishing studying the ancient Greek and Roman polytheistic religions.

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts, students have just finished their major reading unit on "Freak the Mighty" and are now moving into narrative writing with memoirs. In math, 7<sup>th</sup> grade is working on expanding algebraic expressions



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using the distributive property and factoring algebraic expressions by pulling out the greatest common factor. They just finished the math portion for their PBL project, which incorporated taking data from gym class and statistically finding the mean, median, mode, and range for the entire 7<sup>th</sup> grade, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls, and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys. They are taking that information and putting it in a graph in which they will compare to results they take during the third trimester.

Grade 8 Social Studies students will be completing their study of the American Revolution with a focus on how a combination of American ingenuity, British mistakes, and foreign assistance resulted in our independence. Students will complete both a project on the Battle of Saratoga and a unit test before moving on to study how our government was created. In science, students have completed an introduction to the periodic table and its components. This has included the elements within the periodic table, their organization, and many of their properties. They will now be moving on to ionic and covalent bonding and how bonds between atoms form. Many topics will be covered within this material including naming, balancing, and bond formation as expressed through electron dot diagrams. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts, students have been studying how Ethos, Pathos, and Logos can be used to effectively persuade people and are working on utilizing that as they draft their speeches. These will be presented to the entire 8<sup>th</sup> grade class on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> for the purposes of voting and selecting which projects will be a part of their Power of One Day later in Trimester 3.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Upcoming Events @ ACS	
2/19-23	ACS Winter Carnival
2/20	Title 1 Math Night 5:30-7:00
2/22	Grade 5 Field Trip
2/25-3/2	February Break
3/8	PTSA Popcorn Day
3/11	Daylight Savings "Spring Forward"
3/16/	End of Trimester 2