



Alton Central School

Principal's Report to the School Board

April 9, 2018

It has been a super busy over the past few weeks here at ACS! Alton Central School celebrated the conclusion of Trimester 2 with a Showcase of Excellence assembly on March 16, 2018. All grade levels were represented at the assembly. Pre-K students sang all about colors using sign language, Spanish and English! Our kindergarten students sang about sight words and did the "Macarena" to math. Second students presented facts from a recent field trip to Prescott Farms. There were several slide shows highlighting Performance Based Learning projects, National Junior Honor Society Events, the "Potential Energy" elective, and our RISE basketball team. Grades 4-8 chorus also performed a song that they are preparing for an upcoming concert. At the conclusion, the Potential Energy students were awarded with certificates.

One additional highlight came from two of our students currently in the "Computers Inside Out" elective class here at ACS under the direction of Dr. Naim Syed. Hayden Mellon demonstrated "Skyscraper Mystery" which is a video game he from created from scratch using coding through the Unity platform. Also, Spencer Hogan developed the intense background music for the videogame. Students and staff were absolutely mesmerized by their creations. They were truly impressive!

In PreK, Mrs. Rees and Kelly MacPherson have begun their evening Pyramid Model Parenting Series: Positive Solutions for Parents. They have reported that seven families are participating in this six-week series on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:30. It has been a reported that so far it has been a powerful experience for all for both parents and facilitators.

Kindergarten has been focusing on the changing seasons and talking about spring! Last week they were lucky to have a parent, Mrs. Wood, come into Mrs. Knott's classroom to teach about how maple syrup is made. Students were able to taste both maple sap and the finished product maple syrup. They were also able to have a taste test between real maple syrup and the "store bought" kind and then graphed their results. Mrs. Wood also brought in some of the tools used to collect sap from the trees so students got a chance to see and explore these tools. There was even a small piece of a maple tree students were able to practice tapping. It was an exciting hands-on learning experience. Also in kindergarten Mrs. Leblanc's class went on a nature walk looking for signs of spring, gathered some seeds and planted them. They are anxiously awaiting to see what will grow!

Third Grade is working on their wax museum projects and have set April 20th as the date for their wax museum. Parents, second grade, and administrators are invited to come in from 8:30-9:00 to view the students. Students are looking forward to this project. They have already selected their person and are hard at work. Fourth grade has opened their seed business, Future Gardens. They are accepting orders through April 13th. They use this business as a project based learning, covering both economics and math standards.

Before testing, third and fourth grade sent home blank notes to parents requesting families to write a letter or words of encouragement for each day of testing to their child. This is done without the students knowing. Then in the morning before the test, teachers put one letter on their desk for them to read. They love it and parents have had fun coming up with these notes. If students don't return anything from their parents, we find teachers and different staff members to write a quick word of encouragement.

In seventh grade, students concluded their focus on economics with research projects comparing the reasons for wealth or poverty in two countries. Next on the agenda is an exploration of medieval Europe and feudalism.



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Currently, seventh grade STEM is making CO2 powered cars to race and collect data with Mr. Macduff. This data will be used to calculate a rate of speed and convert that rate from ft/sec into MPH. Seventh grade Math students are currently working on geometry and are learning about the different angles, supplementary, complementary, and adjacent. Soon they will be moving to volume and surface area of cones and pyramids. Mr. Pappaceno's 7th and 8th grade elective will be at UNH for an underwater robotics competition with their ROV's on Friday April 13th!

Eighth graders have chosen their Power of One activities and will begin preparations to put their ideas into actions. These include a "Meme Day" to benefit the Downtown Boxing Gym Youth Program, a softball tournament to raise money for the David Ortiz Foundation and Limbs for Life, a barbecue to show support for those in foster care, and seven other activities! In class, their studies have moved on to the expansion of the United States through purchase, negotiation, and war. They have also begun to gather information through class discussion and projects that will help them to rewrite the "Three Witches" scene from Shakespeare's *Macbeth* to analyze and demonstrate the reasons for the American Civil War. In math, students are finishing up their chapter on the Pythagorean Theorem and moving onto the Transformations chapter. They will start with translations, then reflections, rotations, and end with dilations. Algebra is working on the geometric unit of transformations. They are taking an assessment on dilation using "Shrinky Dinks" and drawing a geometric shape on the coordinate plane, transferring that shape to shrink paper, shrinking it down, drawing the smaller shape on the coordinate plane, and finding the scale factor between the two.

For the third year in a row, 8th graders in the ACS band traveled to Boston's historic Symphony Hall to sit in on an open rehearsal of the Boston Symphony Orchestra on Thursday, March 29th. Afterwards, the students were able to take part in a private guided tour around the entire facility. Boston Symphony Hall is considered the third best venue in the world for its acoustics and students were able to experience this with some of the best players in the world performing for them!

Finally, I would like to thank the entire ACS community (students, staff, parents, board members, community members... really everybody) for their support and hard work through the "Edies" process! The school is absolutely beautiful and our entire school is beaming with pride and excitement. Between all the wonderful things that go on here daily at ACS to the recent "spruce ups" building-wide, the displays of student work, bulletin boards, artwork, and our wonderful student tour guides, we have truly made our school a showcase. Win or lose, this is a proud day for ACS to be selected as a finalist! Thanks again to all and we will absolutely keep you posted once the Edie's Team has made their choice.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Upcoming Events @ ACS	
4/10 – 4/12	Grade 3-8 NH State Testing
4/13	7/8 Elective to UNH
4/13	ACS MS Dance 6:00-9:00
4/18	PTSA Meeting 6:00
4/20	No Kindergarten Classes Today – Kindergarten Screening 8:00-2:00
4/20	Grade 3 Wax Museum
4/23-4/27	Spring Break