



Alton Central School

Principal's Report to the School Board

May 14, 2018

It is incredible to think that we are already at the half way point through May and the end of the year is rapidly approaching! Aidan Conrad and Valeria Ramos were selected by their team teachers to represent ACS as 2018 NELMS Scholar Leaders. The students and their families will join an 8th grade teacher and myself at the 18th annual Scholar Leaders Banquet in Manchester, NH on May 17th. This program is intended to give public recognition to 8th grade students from New Hampshire who distinguished themselves in terms of outstanding Middle Level scholarship and leadership. This typically includes qualities such as: Teamwork, Dependability, Positive interactions with others, Productivity, Respect, Service to others, Personal Goals, and Respect for diversity.

In kindergarten this month students are learning about living and nonliving things. They are doing planting experiments using special planters so that they can not only observe the plants and stems as they begin to sprout, but also the roots and what is underneath the soil. Towards the end of the month they will be observing caterpillars and watching their transformation into butterflies. In first grade, plays are written and both classes are recording their plays in preparation for the Trimester Three Showcase. Students are also learning about plants and how animals and humans are alike. Mr. Pappaceno has been joining the classes to enhance their learning on a weekly basis.

The Third Grade had a wonderful turnout for their Wax Museum the Friday before vacation. It was a wonderful day and the students did a fantastic job with their projects and presentations. We had a wonderful turnout of families for this event. The Fourth Grade is happy to announce that they made a profit of \$401.74 from their PBL "seed sale" project and will be donating the profits to a local charity.

5th grade students have been learning about early space exploration. Recently, they completed research about our galaxy and created brochures with facts and illustrations about individual planets, our moon, and a variety of other elements that comprise our solar system. Students will be participating in a field trip to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center to augment the curriculum. In ELA, 5th grade students created graphic novels that focus on a theme (author's purpose) such as hard work pays off, and treat others as you'd like to be treated.

The sixth grade social studies students have been studying the rise and expansion of the medieval Islamic empires. In ELA, students wrapped up with their work in the novel, "Thura's Diary." They learned about events that occurred during the time of the 2003 war in Iraq. They are now beginning work on their final novel, "Touching Spirit Bear" by Ben Mikaelson. In science, students are currently learning about cells, reproduction, and heredity. Recently, students have learned about how traits are passed along through heredity and scientific research and manipulation.

In grade seven, our students recently started their chapter on direct proportion in math. They are learning to tell if data is directly proportional, the constant of proportionality, and writing equations that represent the direct proportion. They will soon move onto graphing data and examining that graph to see if the data is indeed proportional. In 7th Grade Language Arts, students have just started a TED talk unit. This project has students mixing the skills of persuasive writing and public speaking in order to create engaging TED talks for their classmates that they hope will inspire them in some way about a topic that is meaningful to them. Students will write and revise their speeches, practice their public speaking skills, and present their speeches to their classmates.



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in TED talk-style. In addition to this unit, students are engaged in a variety of on-going book clubs which meet weekly with a learning goal of having effective and meaningful discussions about literature.

In the 8th grade, physical science has begun to wind down the year as they look forward to the annual egg drop experiment. In the recent past and as classes progress on toward the egg drop on May 30th, they are focusing on Forces and Motion as related to Newton's Laws and all relevant calculations that go along with those topics. Many hands-on labs are being completed as these topics allow for a lot of learning by doing rather than memorization. All topics of the third trimester will be a part of the egg drop experiment and its lab analysis and report. Math classes have started their work in statistics by graphing data into a scatter plot, being able to identify the associations of that scatter plot, and explaining what any outliers mean in accordance with the data. They will be working on a project as an assessment at the end of this week, hypothesizing the relationship between arm length and a person's height, creating scatter plots on data collected, identifying the associations of their scatter plot, and determining conclusions based on their graph.

News from Unified Arts. Mr. Perrin reports that classes are finally able to get outside for Physical Education! During the month of May our Middle School children will be learning and competing in all of the events in Track & Field. While the Middle School students are competing in Track events, the elementary children will be outside also. They will be working on some cooperative games as well as starting Tee Ball and hopefully leading up to a bit of Coach Pitch. Library and computer classes are gearing up for author Marty Kelley's visit May 25th. They have been reading his books in class, examining the illustrations and discussing the themes he carries throughout his books. In Spanish, students are creating "Children's ABC books" with Spanish words in the style of our visiting author. They used his book "Summer Stinks" as an inspiration. All computer classes are working on illustrating. Younger students are using "Tuxpaint" and older students are using pen tablets.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Upcoming Events @ ACS	
5/17/18	ACS Band and Chorus Concert 6:30
5/25/18	Author Visit – Marty Kelley
5/28/18	No School – Memorial Day