



Alton Central School

41 School Street , Alton, NH 03809

603-875-7500

FAX 603-875-0380

www.myacs.org

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

John W. MacArthur, Jr.
Principal

James LaFreniere
Assistant Principal

Jennifer Katz-Borin
Special Education
Director

Denise Perry
Curriculum &
Instruction Director

Naim Syed
Technology Director

April Elliott
Health Services
Coordinator

Samuel Cowan
Food Service Director

Chuck Norwood
Buildings & Grounds
Director

Russell Perrin
Athletic Director

Kathy Lagace
Receptionist

Sandra Flanagan
Student Services
Coordinator

Kristin Quarton
Bookkeeper

Brandy Sanger
Special Education
Administrative Assistant

As a school community, we are working to ensure that your child receives research-based instruction that is developmentally appropriate and fun! Early intervention is critical to reading success, and we want you to be confident that your child's literacy development is being supported and monitored.

As you may be aware, school districts in New Hampshire are now required to screen students in kindergarten and first grade for potential indicators of dyslexia and/or other reading related disorders. We are using the PALS (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening) to identify those students who may struggle with beginning reading skills.

Students in kindergarten and first grade at Alton Central School who may potentially struggle with early reading have already been identified through the PALS and are currently receiving small group reading instruction based on a literacy action plan. The grade-specific plans outline four "big ideas" of reading – phonological awareness, phonics, sight words, and text reading – and list skills under each of those four categories. The plans also list resources and sample activities that accompany each skill. A section exists for filling in each student's progress in each area, as well.

A copy of the literacy action plan template for your child's grade level is enclosed. As parents and guardians, you will also receive a copy of the plan with each trimester report card. At each report card time, your child's progress toward the individual literacy skills will be indicated on the plan in order to keep you informed about your child's reading and spelling development.

Please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher or Mrs. Leathers, the reading specialist, with any questions regarding your child's reading.

Sincerely,

Jackie Leathers, Reading Specialist