News from the Superintendent

I hope that everyone had a peaceful holiday and enjoyed their time with family and friends. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

This school year has provided all of us with new challenges and changes. From Phase II of our EXCEL Maintenance project, the new Common Core Curriculum, Data Driven Instruction, the new evaluation processes for teachers and administrators to initiatives to ensure our students are college and career ready, all of us have worked diligently to make sure these new programs are in place and the building is ready for staff and students. I would like to take a moment to commend all of our staff and students for their hard work and perseverance during this time of huge change!

In the middle of all of these changes came an unexpected issue with the 1908 building. From the reports of structural engineers there is a problem concerning a weight bearing beam that was removed during the 1994 project and not properly replaced. This has caused cracking in some walls and the sinking of some floors. All of this has been shored up for the time being. It is not an immediate concern but an issue that must be dealt with. The Board of Education and administration have been looking at the various options for repairing the building. A final decision on how to move forward will be made in the near future.

While the building is being repaired the District Offices and GED Office have taken up residence near the Elementary Office. We anticipate being in these offices at least through the end of this school year.

As we move into the winter months I would like to remind all parents of the Global Connect calling system we use to inform you of emergency closings. A decision on closing is usually made after I confer with Mrs. Bradley, Transportation Coordinator, around 5:30 a.m. I then place the call by 5:45 a.m. If you do not receive a call please call the appropriate office to make sure your contact information is up to date. Closing information continues to be on the local TV and radio stations, as well as YNN and the WBNG and Pressconnects websites.

The New Year often brings about resolutions to eat healthy and to exercise. I'd like to remind you that the school is open for walking before and after school. The pool has also re-opened and the schedule is:

- Open Swim—Mon./Wed., 6:30-8:00 p.m. ($1.50 adult, $1.00 students)
- Adult AM Swim—Mon./Wed./Fri., 6:15-8:00 a.m. ($1.50/session)
- Adult Water Aerobics—Tues./Thurs., 5:30-6:30 p.m. ($2.50/session)
- Adult Swim—Tues./Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m. ($1.50/session)

The winter sports season is in full swing. We would like to invite everyone to come and watch our basketball teams play. We also have quite a number of wrestlers on the BGA team to come out and watch. The schedule for all games is on our website at www.aftoncsd.org under Athletics.

We have started working on next year’s budget and we are anxiously awaiting the governor’s proposal. We are concerned about what type of financial impact Hurricane Sandy may have on State Aid. We will keep you updated on the budget progress on the website under District Info—Superintendent.

—Elizabeth Briggs, Superintendent

Angel Tree Donations

Afton Central School would once again like to thank teachers, students and community members for making this year’s Angel Tree program a huge success. This year we were able to serve 50 families and 116 children. Thanks for helping us make these children’s Christmas a little brighter this year. Thank you to several students for moving gifts and helping to sort.

—Stacy Parks

Thank you!

“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid.” —Albert Einstein
Important Information

Recent events in Newtown, Connecticut have yet again spurred a heightened awareness and discussion of school safety issues. In Afton, providing a safe and nurturing educational environment for all students, employees and community members is our top priority! To ensure maximum security for all stakeholders, the following precautionary measures are in place:

• Intercom Door Release System—Limits the points of access to the school building. This system essentially allows us to identify and track visitors and their purpose for entry into the building.
• Security Cameras—in Phase I of the EXCEL Maintenance Project, 26 cameras were installed inside the building and are located strategically throughout the building. Another 10 cameras have been installed along the outside perimeter of the building. Several of these outside cameras are able to swivel and allow us to see the playground and parking lot/fields area.
• Dignity For All Training—The District is implementing anti-bullying training for all staff members. Students have also met with administrators to discuss this act.
• Teacher/Administrator Visibility—School District administrators and teachers work to maintain high visibility throughout the course of the day. This presence will be increased after this incident—especially at student drop off, change of classes, student dismissal and after school events.
• Lock Out/Down Drills—As a matter of best practice for school safety, the District has developed a plan for lock out/lock down. While we have practiced the emergency dismissal part of the plan, we have not practiced the lock down part in quite a while. Given the recent events, we will be practicing it soon. Since we do not want to scare students or staff—staff and parents will be informed of the first practice.

In addition to the above mentioned practices the District maintains a proactive relationship with village and county law enforcement agencies, mental health organizations, as well as the New York State Police.

Most important, the Board of Education and administrative team will continue to hold the strict posture that all threats to the health, safety and welfare of our stakeholders—regardless of how frivolous or meaningless they may appear on the surface—will be swiftly and thoroughly investigated.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of the Afton Central School District. It is my sincere pleasure to serve all members of our School District community.
—Betty Briggs, Superintendent

Sinus/Gastrointestinal/Flu Season is Upon Us

There are three sicknesses we are seeing in the Health Care Office right now. One is a viral sinus illness. The symptoms are: a really sore throat, sudden nasal congestion, postnasal drip. It usually lasts two weeks no matter what treatment. The patient should take a decongestant (Robitussin Dm, Mucinex Dm, Pseudoephedrine). Of course parents should check with their pediatrician before giving meds if their child is under age five. Decongestants enable the patient to blow their nose or expectorate the phlegm. A hyperactive child or an adult on blood pressure meds should not take decongestants as it races one’s heart. However, most can take Zyrtec or plain Robitussin. Beware of cough suppressants; one should only take them at night as they stop a cough. If you consistently stop a daytime cough it will lead to pneumonia. Of course complications can set in after 1½-2 weeks and then an antibiotic is needed. With this viral illness you may miss a day or two of school/work but no more.

The second illness is the gastrointestinal illness. This is usually a 24-hour session of nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. This illness usually lasts 24 hours if the patient takes sips of ginger ale in first eight hours and then at the end of the illness (16 hours) advances to dry toast. The patient should then advance to white foods to finish out the 24 hours. They should be ready for work/school the next day. White foods are rice, baked potato and toast.

The third illness is the flu or influenza. We have only seen two cases as of 12/11/12. Flu symptoms are: high fever for 3-4 days (100-102°F) and moderate to severe body aches. The patient may have sneezing, stuffy nose, and sore throat. The patient is so sick he/she often goes to bed for 4-5 days. Fatigue can last up to 2-3 weeks. Your provider can test for the flu and then place you on Tamiflu or another med that lessens the symptoms. In order for Tamiflu to work you must start it within 24-48 hours of onset of symptoms. 
—Carol Nightengale, Family Nurse Practitioner

In Need of Names of Service Men and Women

The 6th grade is again looking for the names and addresses of service men and women serving overseas. The class would like to adopt them as pen pals. Each service person will receive a few letters from a student followed by a care package in June. Please forward any names and APO or FPO addresses to Mrs. Covey at the following email address ccovey@aftoncsd.org or phone the Elementary Office at 639-8234.

Thank you for your help!
—Cindy Covey
New Teachers at Afton Central School

**LAURA BALLARD**
I grew up in this area but as a teenager I relocated to Texas, where I stayed until after college. I moved back to this area and settled in Deposit to raise my family. I have a son Ronnie and a daughter Erin who are 14 and 12 respectively. My husband and I spend most of our free time watching them play sports year round. Previously I was a stay-at-home mom and when my daughter entered school I returned to college to obtain my teaching certification. I completed my student teaching in Afton six years ago and I have worked as a substitute in the District since then. I am currently finishing my Master’s Degree in Special Education at Binghamton University. I am working as a 9th grade special education teacher in the District and I am thrilled to be a part of the ACS family.

**SARAH GAQUIE**
I grew up in Afton and graduated from Afton Central School in 2006. From there I went to SUNY Cortland where I received my Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood/Childhood Education Birth through Sixth Grade. I am currently working on my Master’s Degree in Special Education Birth through Sixth Grade at Binghamton University. I am very excited to be joining the Afton Elementary team and look forward to a great year!

**KATE SANFORD**
I am the long-term substitute teacher for Algebra, Math 9 and Financial Math. I grew up in Coventry and attended Afton Central School District from elementary through high school. I graduated in 2007 and went on to SUNY Oneonta for four years and obtained my Bachelor’s Degree in Secondary Education and Mathematics. While in college I worked as a tutor for other college students in Pre-Calculus and Calculus. After graduation I substituted full time as the AIS Math Teacher in Afton for both the Middle and the High School students. Over the summer I was hired as the long term substitute and I am having a blast! I enjoy the chance to be creative and make math as much fun as possible. Math is everywhere in the world and I enjoy the looks on my students’ faces when they figure that out. Sorry kids, you’re stuck with math forever!

**PAUL SLIVKA**
I was born in Lehighton, PA. I grew up in a town named Kunkletown, a town about half the size of Afton. I was a 2000 graduate of Pleasant Valley High School. From there I spent six years in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard as an accounting specialist. I received my Associates degree in Letters, Arts and Sciences from Penn State Berks located in Reading, PA. In 2011 I graduated with my Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education from Penn State Lehigh Valley in Allentown. During this time I lived in the coal-region town of Summit Hill, PA, where my grandparents and great-grandparents lived and worked as coal-miners. I moved to upstate New York and started as a substitute for the Norwich City School District. I grew attached to the area and decided that I wanted to stay here permanently. I came to Afton in early 2012 as a long-term substitute for a vacated RTI position. I was thrilled to find out that I would later stay here as a full-time teacher. Afton shares many qualities of the small towns I am from in PA and I feel welcome and at home here. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, hiking, biking and spending time with my parents, family and friends back in Pennsylvania.

**STEFANIE FELLOWS**
I received my Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in teaching both from Binghamton University. I am certified in 7-12 Students with Disabilities and 7-12 Social Studies. It is my second year at Afton Central School as a high school special education teacher. I worked here in the 2010-2011 school year. Currently, I am working with students in grades 9-12.
Mrs. Gregory Receives New York Honorary FFA American Degree

Mrs. Victoria Gregory was recognized on October 26 at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis for her outstanding work with the New York FFA. Mrs. Gregory was nominated for the Honorary FFA American Degree by the New York FFA Foundation Executive Director and the New York FFA Executive Secretary. The nomination was for the following reasons:

- New York FFA Foundation Chairperson for three years and member for five years. Has donated many hours of service and money to the FFA and Camp Oswegatchie
- Been the State coordinator and provider of awards for the State FFA Tools and Materials contest held at the state FFA convention for the past five years
- Has helped coordinate, judge leadership/career development contests at the district and state levels of FFA
- Has directed the parking and supervised students at Empire Farm Days for 10 years
- Helped to coordinate the FFA with helping on the trams at the State Fair for seven years
- Has been an advocate for students of agriculture through legislation at county, state and national levels.

Congratulations, Mrs. Gregory and thank you for all that you do for our students and school.

—Victory Gregory

Adult Basic Education/High School Equivalency Program

Are you interested in earning a high school equivalency diploma or improving your reading, writing and math skills? There are free educational services available through Afton Central School’s Adult and Continuing Education program.

Afton Adult Education sponsors two classes per week in many area schools and libraries. You may join a class at any time. Classes are free and the work is individualized. For those unable to attend a class, there is a program offered through the mail called GRASP (Give Ready Adults a Study Program). This program is designed for motivated people 21 years of age or older who work well on their own and possess good reading skills.

For more information about classes or GRASP call June White, Director at (607) 639-2811 between 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday when school is in session.

—June White

PTO Honor Roll Recognition

The PTO sponsored a breakfast for those students in Middle/High School who achieved honor roll status for the first quarter. The breakfast was served on Friday, January 11 by Superintendent Briggs and the cafeteria staff. The PTO wanted to recognize these students for their dedication to their school work.

The students were served a meat frittata with seasoned potato wedges and fruit. The PTO would like to thank Ms. Briggs and the cafeteria staff for all their help in making this breakfast a success.

The PTO plans to recognize the students who earn honor roll status each quarter during the 2012-2013 school year.

—Deanna Lawrence

Congratulations!
**AFTON CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
**ADULT BASIC/HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EDUCATION**

The classes are self-paced and **FREE**  
- Classes subject to change  
- Sites are Handicap Accessible  
- All sites are non-smoking facilities  
- Many GED® classes are offering Basic Computer instruction and, if applicable, how to Surf the Web

Please call (607) 639-2811 to verify time and location.

2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room/Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afton Central School</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4:00 pm – 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Room 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDO Workforce Center Norwich</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10:30 am – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>1 O’Hara Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Youth only 17-21)</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10:30 am – 4:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9:00 am – 12:00 noon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10:30 am – 4:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nineveh Public Library</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4:00 pm – 7:00 pm</td>
<td>NYS Hwy 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidney Civic Center</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9:00 am – 12:00 noon</td>
<td>21 Liberty Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9:00 am – 12:00 noon</td>
<td>2nd Floor, Room 204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morrisville State College Norwich</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9:00 am – 12:00 noon</td>
<td>20 Conkey Ave., Norwich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus (call 639-2811 for details)</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9:00 am – 12:00 noon</td>
<td>Rooms 136/137, 1st floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Inside the library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walton Elementary School</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4:30 pm – 7:30 pm</td>
<td>42-66 North St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4:30 pm – 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Elementary Library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THERE IS A HOME STUDY PROGRAM CALLED GRASP (GIVING READY ADULTS A STUDY PROGRAM) WHICH IS AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE 21 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER WHO CANNOT ATTEND A CLASS.

For more information about classes or GRASP, please call June White, Director (607) 639-2811 or 1 800-792-2145
Afton Elementary School—A Great Place to Grow and Learn

The Afton Central School Mission Statement states that we, as a District and Board of Education, believe that “working together as a team within an environment of respect, creativity and academic challenge, we will use all available resources to help all students learn to be responsible, productive and eager to continue learning, while becoming prepared to meet the challenges of a diverse society.” In our vision, we state that “we are committed to providing educational opportunities which ensure success and meet the diverse needs of our students and staff, ensuring their success.”

On a State and Federal level, we are being challenged as an elementary school to raise the bar on student learning expectations. The initiative calls for implementation of a rigorous common core curriculum with both literacy and real-life application tasks as the foundation across all content areas. This model integrates curriculum and helps students make real connections, problem solve at a high level and become college and career ready. As an elementary school, we started implementing the common core ELA and Math during the 2011-2012 school year. We are making strides in adapting the state education curriculum modules as they are being released by New York State. Our elementary curriculum was already strong in its math and literacy components prior to this initiative. Our teachers are doing a phenomenal job of assimilating new and expanding ideas and curriculum adaptations to continue to strengthen our existing curriculum and ensure that our students are learning at high levels.

As I was reading and commenting on report cards over the past month, I was pleased to read comments like, “Thank you so much for practicing math facts at home with Susie. It has made such a difference in her success with math in school.” “Thank you for the extra reading that you have been doing with Thomas at home. His reading is really coming along nicely.” Comments like these reiterate the importance of the home and school connection. When teachers and parents work together as a team, they are able to provide the best educational experiences possible for our children. One of the areas that parents can really be of assistance is homework and at home, nightly reading.

Homework and nightly reading have been a part of education since the one-room school house days, yet it remains an area of struggle for many families and teachers. It has also become a topic of debate in the educational realm the past few years regarding its importance and focus. At Afton Elementary School, we strongly believe that homework is an integral part of academic success for many students. In school, we teach children concepts. We model, we teach, we practice and we check along the way to see if students are learning the concepts that we are teaching. Homework and nightly reading are additional practices of concepts for students that they are learning in school. Homework should never be busy work. It should never be new learning for students.

Students need to have practice hundreds of times with a concept before it becomes automatic. Unfortunately, there is not enough time in the school day for students to have all of the practice they need to master the concepts that they are being taught. Many students are not completing homework and this contributes to gaps in their education that grow significantly over time causing the student to fall behind and struggle academically.

Homework and nightly reading are powerful tools for letting parents/guardians know what their child is learning, where they are struggling, what their strengths are and for giving children and their parents/guardians an opportunity to discuss their learning. Furthermore, parental involvement is key to student success.

PARENTS’ AND GUARDIANS’ ROLE: (K-8)

Establish a Routine

a. Provide an appropriate space and materials
b. Provide ample time (providing breaks or chunking work as needed)
c. Help student structure time, space and materials by setting expectations

Parent/Guardian Involvement

a. Be available on demand (if your child has a question, you are there)
b. Help or tutor as necessary (practicing facts or asking study guide questions)
c. Review and check completed assignments (make notations of errors for teacher if correcting)
d. Reinforce students’ efforts by providing emotional support (verbal praise and positive feedback)
e. Contact your child’s teacher if you have questions or concerns about your child’s ability to complete the assignment and/or the length of time it took for completion
f. Maintain awareness of the child’s emotional state and work patterns

Parents/guardians have the greatest influence on their child’s motivation to learn. By being engaged in your child’s learning process, you are modeling how you value education. Naturally, your child will be more likely to desire success because you have set the foundation at home that this is important.

We have students across all grade levels who need to receive additional practice outside of school on concepts that are required to be mastered at their grade level. Increased achievement occurs when students and their parents/guardians are engaged in the above homework process.

Continued on next page
Elementary School, cont.

Please take this opportunity to review your child’s homework habits and routines. We thank you for supporting the importance of homework and hope to see some improvements in homework practices from our students in all grades K-8.

The old adage that it takes a village to raise a child still holds true—parents, guardians, teachers, aides, office staff, bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria workers, community volunteers, Board of Education members and administrators. Only when we all work towards a common mission and vision can we successfully meet the needs of each child in this District. Everyone’s role on the team is different, and yet, each team member represents an equal part of the puzzle that when put together can spell success for every child. We, as an elementary staff, believe that all of our students can be successful. We believe in enhancing our learning curriculum, providing enriching experiences and strong foundations. We believe in building character and building confidence in students. We believe with the right supports in place, all students can achieve to their potential.

I ask you to think about what you can do in the coming year to help ensure all children are reaching their potential. Can you volunteer to read with students, send in Box Tops™ or soup labels, volunteer to serve on a school committee, help improve a child’s homework and nightly reading routine, volunteer to help in a classroom? Please contact your child’s teacher or the Elementary Office at 639-8234 if you want to be a part of making a difference for our children.

—Kimberly Werth

Fall Sports Scholar-Athletes for 2012

CROSS-COUNTRY (BOYS’)
JOSEPH D.

CROSS-COUNTRY (GIRLS’)
JULIA K.

FIELD HOCKEY
TANYA H.

SOCCER (BOYS’)
JESSE D.

Great Job!

Afton Elementary/Community Playground

Now that the building project in the Elementary Cafetorium is near completion, it is time to take a long, hard look at the playground. Much of the equipment the students play on during recess was originally installed in 2005. This makes the equipment over 15 years-old with some equipment being even older. Pieces of equipment have broken and have not been replaced. The company that it was purchased from is no longer in business. A committee has been formed to consider new playground equipment that would provide a variety of activities for all students. We hope to purchase equipment that will enhance healthy playtime habits as well as provide a safe environment for our children to use whether it is recess time during school or family time after hours.

In order to build a playground, funds are needed. During the next few months we are planning to hold several fundraisers. We currently have two activities occurring. Our Elementary Student Council, with the assistance of their advisor Mrs. McManus, has written letters to larger businesses asking for monetary donations for our playground. They have already received several responses! All Elementary students have been challenged to bring in 10,000 Box Tops™ between January and March. The money earned from General Mills™ will be donated to the playground fund. We are asking middle school students, high school students as well as community members to save box tops for us. Keep your eyes and ears open for future fundraisers and activities to help us build a safe and fun playground. Another opportunity is available on line.

The playground committee would like to hear from any interested community members who have suggestions for this endeavor or are interested in serving on this committee. The contact people for this committee are Karen Ludwig, Room 107, and Karl Ludwig, Room 106, Afton Elementary School, PO Box 5, Afton, NY 13730. They can also be contacted at school at 639-8234.

—Karen Ludwig
Afton Elementary Celebrates Reading

On December 19 and 20 students in grades 3-6 participated in a reading celebration. This first celebration in a series was centered on the theme of historical fiction. Each grade level planned a fun craft that fit with a historical fiction book or time period that they studied in their grade. This craft got students excited about the historical period it came from and led students to browse through the selection of historical fiction books on display.

During one activity planned by the third grade teachers, students created beautiful snowflakes like those they read about in Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin. Native American friendship necklaces were crafted by students. The fourth grade teachers chose this craft because students learned about the Iroquois in fourth grade social studies. The fifth grade teachers planned a craft that was centered on the westward expansion social studies unit. They made yarn dolls, a common toy for pioneer children. Mosaic tile designs were the focus of the activity planned by the sixth grade teachers. In ancient Mesopotamia, this was a typical art form.

There were several historical fiction books that spanned the ancient history time frame for this center. Students loved the hands-on opportunities to learn about historical fiction. By the end of the two days of activities, many of the books on display were checked out from the library and clutched in the hands of our eager readers.

—Tara McManus

YES! LEADS

Afton Central School is excited to announce that the YES! LEADS program, sponsored by Lourdes Hospital and Senator Tom Libous, has returned!

YES! LEADS is a peer leadership program designed to train high school students to serve as positive role models for younger students. New YES! LEADers attend a day-long training in the fall and then meet with all YES! LEADers from their school for a second day of training. LEADers then develop their own presentations for elementary school children about making good choices and developing resistance skills. Each school year YES! LEADers present lessons and activities to more than 5,000 elementary students!

In October, all Afton Elementary students created posters to celebrate Red Ribbon Week. This annual event is a time when students learn about and demonstrate their understanding of the dangers of alcohol and drugs. In addition to the local winners pictured here, Afton Elementary also had several regional winners in the YES! LEADS poster contest: Gracie B., Anthony P., Emily L., Emily B. and MakayLee H. In addition, Mr. Beames’ classroom was the prize package winner.

Mrs. Samuel, Mrs. Nordberg and Mrs. Noone are working with the YES! LEADers and meet weekly with the students. Upcoming activities include classroom presentations and community events. For more information contact the Guidance Office at (607) 639-8240.

—Deb Samuel, Jilene Nordberg and Ronal Noone

Poster winners: Gracie B. (1st grade), Anthony P. (Kindergarten), Erika N. (3rd grade), Elijah B. (2nd grade), Amanda S. (4th grade), Dionna B. (6th grade); missing from photo: Kayla Y. (5th grade)
Afton Elementary Student Recognitions

SEPTEMBER CITIZENs OF THE MONTH
First Grade ........ Ryan D.
Second Grade .... Gabriel G.
Third Grade ...... Elizabeth Q.
Fourth Grade ..... Sasha W.
Fifth Grade....... Jesse H.
Sixth Grade ...... Ritajane S.

OCTOBER CITIZENs OF THE MONTH
First Grade .......... Chloee H.
Second Grade ...... Elijah B.
Third Grade ......... Quinton P.
Fourth Grade ...... Michaela R.
Fifth Grade ....... Zachary G.
Sixth Grade ...... Paul M.

NOVEMBER CITIZENs OF THE MONTH
First Grade ......... Ava T.
Second Grade ...... Paige D.
Third Grade ...... Jason R.
Fourth Grade ...... Ashley S.
Fifth Grade ....... Sarah K.
Sixth Grade ...... Paul M.

DECEMBER CITIZENs OF THE MONTH
First Grade ......... Landon J.
Second Grade ...... Cassidy H.
Third Grade ...... Alexander C.
Fourth Grade ...... Kassie M.
Fifth Grade ....... McKenzie H.
Sixth Grade ...... Calixta T.

Honor Roll—1st Marking Period
4TH GRADE
*High Honor Roll*
Joseph C.
Loraine M.
Amanda S.
Ashley S.
Damien T.

*Honor Roll*
Michael A.
Emily G.
Oliviah H.-M.
Brody O.
Michaela R.
Brianna S.
Zachery S.
Sasha W.

5TH GRADE
*High Honor Roll*
Nathaniel B.
Zachary G.
Sarah K.
Reilly L.
Sierra W.

*Honor Roll*
Jesse H.
Ariel H.
Carlee H.
Jenny J.
Taelyn L.
Lucas N.
Joseph S.
Hannah T.
Kayla Y.

6TH GRADE
*High Honor Roll*
Madison B.
Jerrel R.
Calixta T.
Devin W.

*Honor Roll*
Dionna B.
William B.
Casey E.
Patrick H.
Samantha S.
Alexis S.
Tommy T.

—Julie Sutton

Congratulations!
Reading: Your Passport to the World

This year’s primary reading program is designed to introduce our students to other countries and their cultures, plus encourage the reading of any and all nonfiction, or informational, books. Each primary classroom is responsible for an assembly that will inform their peers about another country (or continent, as is Antarctica). We have already learned about Brazil, Kenya and Russia and look forward to presentations about Japan, Australia, France, Israel, Antarctica and we end with a presentation about our own country the United States.

—Leslie McGraw

Village of Afton Christmas Parade and Winter Carnival

This year the Afton Village Christmas Parade was a huge hit. The day started with Breakfast with Santa sponsored by the Class of 2013. The Ross Park Zoomobile was on hand at the breakfast to meet and greet the children while waiting for their breakfast. There were numerous groups throughout the village with bake sales, craft sales, a chili cook off, a fish fry and a community Snow Ball dance which was sponsored by the senior class. Just before the parade start local artist Kaitlyn Jackson put everyone in the spirit of Christmas with her singing.

There were 53 ACS Elementary entries in the tree coloring contest. The two winners, Landon J. and Kayla Y. received a free tree from Z’s Trees, located on Long Hill Road. All other pictures were hung in the window of Vincent’s Restaurant for display. Every year it gets harder and harder for our committee to choose the winners. Every child has a vision all their own and they are wonderful.

The committee would like to thank Mrs. Westover and the school band for their performance, and Mr. Higby, Mrs. White and Mrs. Palumbo for judging the parade.

Thank you to all students, faculty, parents and the community for taking time to help celebrate this holiday season in a little village in a big way. We look forward to seeing all of you next year.

—Barbara Niles

After reading many nonfiction books about the African country of Kenya, Mrs. Wayman’s second grade students shared their knowledge at our November reading assembly. Using a PowerPoint™ presentation, they informed us about the culture, the geography and the economy of Kenya. The high point of the presentation came when presenters and audience alike participated in a Kenyan jump dance!

Mrs. Krom’s second grade students presented at our first reading assembly. As a class, they had read a lot about the country of Brazil and its citizens. At the assembly they shared some of the most interesting facts they learned, showed their Brazilian flags, taught us some Brazilian words and showed us a fun dance called the Salsa.

In December, Mrs. Batsford’s first grade class told us all about Russia. The students took turns reading facts from an ebook (that’s an electronic book) about Russia. Did you know Russia is the largest country in the world? The students ended the program with a special Russian song and dance.
Summer Readers Enjoy Their Reward

We have all seen the statistics concerning summer reading. We know that a student who leaves school in June and does little reading over the summer is likely to return in September having lost some reading ability. Our goal is to keep our students reading even when school is over!

It is sometimes hard to motivate students to do the necessary reading over the long, lazy days of summer . . . So we have come up with a summer challenge that we hope will keep our students reading! This past September saw our third summer reward activity for our participants and a successful one it was!

This year our reward for primary students was a trip down the slippy slide for every six books read. The more books read, the more trips down the slide! This activity was enjoyed so much that I have a feeling we will repeat it next year.

The activity for our 3rd through 6th grade students also involved water, but used in a different way. Any student who read three books was allowed to toss a wet sponge at a teacher; the more books read, the more sponges to toss! Being the second year we used this reward, we wanted to spice things up so we allowed the teachers to pick up the sponges and toss them back at the students. Was this a hit? Yes, a major one!

It certainly helped that we had a beautiful day for these activities! Now we hope that students will recall the fun that was had and do some summer reading so they become active participants rather than just observers.

—Leslie McGraw
Basketball Booster Club

The Afton Central School Basketball Booster Club is pleased to offer their student athletes the opportunity to participate in school sports and hone their basketball skills by providing financial and organizational assistance. The Booster Club sponsored several opportunities to help students achieve their athletic goals. Some of the opportunities included basketball clinics, new uniforms, scholarships and travel to and from basketball related events. Due to tightened school budgets and reduced funding for extracurricular activities, students from small schools often miss out on opportunities afforded to students in larger, wealthier districts. It is a fact that students who are active in school sponsored sports programs are less likely to suffer from childhood obesity, drug abuse or become potential dropouts. The Afton Basketball Booster Club is pleased to help athletes succeed.

The Afton Basketball Booster Club, along with the Boys’ and Girls’ Varsity Basketball teams, their coaches and their parents hosted a spaghetti dinner on December 9 at the Main Street Grill and Bakery in Afton. Liz Dawson, Executive Chef and owner of the Grill worked with the teams to prepare and serve the delicious spaghetti dinner. Professionally made desserts were donated by Ms. Dawson to round out the meal. The community support was amazing with over 350 meals served (dine in, dine out) and over $4,000 raised to support the teams.

The Afton Basketball Booster Club would like to recognize the student athletes, their parents, coaches and community members for making this event a success. A huge thank you goes out to the Main Street Grill and Bakery, the Afton Golf Club, Magpie Farms, the Full Moon Nail Boutique, Bob's Diner, McDonald’s®, Mary Kay®, the Silo Restaurant, Belden Hill Golf Club, Serenity Escape, Vincent’s Italian Restaurant, Dr. Dygert, Bob Granger, Ambit, Jenn Decker, Ambit, June and Steve White, Brett Sherman, Alliance Masonry Corp., Cliff Olin, C. F. Olin Appraisal Services, Afton Custom Meats and Neighbor’s Insurance, Sidney.

On February 2, from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., there was an Alumni Basketball game and Shoot-a-Thon at school. There will be Caribbean-themed food and beverages for purchase and an Art Show in the lobby sponsored by Mr. Higby’s students. Many exciting raffles will be offered, including an autographed hat and golf towel personally donated specifically for this event by actor Clint Eastwood, a $50 gift certificate from Afton Custom Meats, a radar detector and many more coming in all the time. This will be a lot of fun for all ages. Everyone is encouraged to dress in summer or island attire. There will be a small entrance fee, $2 for adults and $1 for children. Since the newsletter will not be in print prior to February 2, please look for photographs and details in the June edition.

To learn more about the Basketball Booster Club feel free to contact Cliff Olin at 639-1089 or Liz Dawson at 639-2223.

—Trevor Beames and Liz Dawson

Second Grade Food Drive

The second grade classes did their yearly food drive for a community service project. We have been learning about communities and our community in particular. Students in second grade went to the elementary classrooms to collect donated items. They kept track of how much food each class brought in. A graph was made and posted in the Elementary Cafeteria. It was a lot of work and students learned a lot.

This year Chobani® helped us out by offering a prize to the class that brought in the most food. They also helped us deliver the food to the food pantry in the United Methodist Church. Second grade won the prize—an all-expense paid field trip to the Children’s Museum in Utica. The students are very excited.

The second grade would like to thank everyone for helping with our food drive. We had fun!

HERE ARE THE STATISTICS:

• We collected a total 671 items.
• Second grade brought in a total of 137 items—78 from Mrs. Wayman’s class and 59 from Mrs. Krom’s class.
• Kindergarten brought in a total of 128 items—60 from Mrs. Ross’, 29 from Mrs. Palmer’s, 22 from Mrs. Umbra and 17 from Mr. Kober’s class.
• Fourth grade brought in a total of 124 items—71 from Mr. Beames’, 35 from Ms. Gauquie’s and 18 from Mrs. Phetteplace’s class.
• First grade brought in a total of 116 items—56 from Mrs. Ludwig’s, 33 from Mrs. Batsford’s and 27 from Mr. Ludwig’s class.
• Third grade brought in a total of 96 items—41 from Mrs. Kehoe’s, 34 from Ms. Scuozzo’s and 21 from Mrs. Mayo’s class.
• Sixth grade brought in a total of 41 items—34 from Mrs. Covey’s class and 7 from Mrs. DeYoung’s class.
• Fifth grade brought in a total of 33 items—22 from Mr. Slivka’s class and 11 from Mrs. Sines’ class.

—Karen Krom
ACS Fall Sports Season Summary

BOYS' VARSITY SOCCER
Coach Todd Dancesia

The 2012 Knights Varsity Soccer season was fun and exciting for all those involved. Our tournament at the beginning of the season was a huge success and everyone is looking forward to hosting it again next year. The team showed incredible heart and determination throughout the year. Once again the Crimson Knights had another All-Star with Josh D. being named to the 2nd team. I would like to thank all of the seniors for their commitment to the program and wish them the best of luck. I look forward to helping the program improve for next season.

BOYS' MODIFIED SOCCEER
Coach Jennifer Patten

Boys’ Modified Soccer had a great season this year. Although we ended up winless, there was a tremendous amount of improvement from start to finish. After a scoreless six games, the games started heating up when the boys put the ball in the net. Their hard work and never giving up turned into goals. Four out of the last five games ended in at least one Afton goal, sometimes two. As the coach, I am very proud of my boys (and girls) for their constant effort and improvement. Most of the squad will be returning. I am hoping to attract more hard working, amazing soccer players next season to add to the mix.

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL
Coach Nikki Page

The volleyball season concluded with an overall record of seven wins and 11 losses.

Although this was not a winning season, the girls were dedicated and worked hard throughout. It would have been easy for them to get discouraged and give up but they held their heads high and finished with seven wins.

I thank everyone who participated and hope to see them back next season. To the graduating seniors, I wish you the best of luck in all you do. I will miss you all!

MODIFIED A VOLLEYBALL
Coach Cathy Decker

The Girls’ Modified Volleyball team had a strong season which was full of improvement. Their overall record of 2-7 does not provide you a true picture. The girls lost 14 games by less than five points.

The team was led by our four 9th graders, Nicole H., Brittany P., Rebecca S. and Leslie T. They will be a great addition to JV and Varsity programs in later years!

VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY
Coach Cindy Bostelman
Co-Coaches: Josh Conover and Casey Conover

The Varsity Field Hockey team completed an excellent 2012 season with a record of 9-9. The girls qualified for sectionals for the first time in four years. This year’s team consisted of one senior, four juniors, nine sophomores and one freshman. Even though the team was young they played to a higher level. In three games we went into double overtime, three offs and won. Senior Jessica B. will be greatly missed next year.

I am looking forward to next season. After gaining valuable experience this year, we should be extremely strong!

J.V. FIELD HOCKEY
Coach Tammy Miller

The Junior Varsity Field Hockey team had another great season. We had players who had never played field hockey that became good players. I hope to see them back next season. The team played well together and learned a lot about the importance of the passing game. Our season ended 6-7-1 in the league and 6-7-1 overall. I wish the girls the best for the remaining year. I am looking forward to next season!

MODIFIED FIELD HOCKEY
Coach Jen Smith

This year’s Modified team had a huge challenge to overcome. How can we maintain our winning records with only eight girls when it takes 11 to field a full team? The girls rose to the occasion by coming to every game ready to play! They also maintained their academic eligibility so they could play. We had some great returning talent on the front line so we could keep the pressure on the other team’s defense. Our younger (even first time players) worked hard to keep the ball out of the circle. We want to thank Ms. Bostelman for letting us play short this year to keep the program going for the future. We are excited that our AYSO program will supply many good hockey players for next year.

VARSITY CROSS-COUNTRY
Coach Steve Oakley

This year, we had full teams for both girls and boys. The girls finished 2nd place at the MAC Championships while the boys were 4th. Daphne K. placed 10th overall at the Section 4 Championships, missing qualifying for the State championship by two places. Daphne, Julia K. and Katie C. were all First Team league All-Stars, while Kerstin C. was a Second Team League All-Star. For the boys, Joe D. was top finisher at Sectionals, placing 15th. Joe was also a First Team League All-Star, along with Aaron W.

MODIFIED CROSS-COUNTRY
Coach Steve Oakley

Modified Cross-Country had another great year. Amanda G. and Paige P. returned for a second year along with newcomers, Matilda K. and Emalee F. Amanda finished the season as the MAC League champion, while Matilda finished 2nd overall. Amanda had five first place finishes this year and she and Matilda finished all their races in the top 10.

The boys’ team dominated the league once again. There were 10 runners for the team. Led by 8th graders Keith I., Kevin H., Brett H., Travis N., Kevin R., McGwire T. and Josh P., the rest of the team included first year runners Zack A. and Damion R.
Coaches vs. Cancer

The Afton Central School Coaches vs. Cancer® night was held on Tuesday, January 8 in the Afton Central School Gymnasium. The Afton Crimson Knights hosted the Sidney Warriors to benefit the American Cancer Society®, the official sponsor. The games helped raise funds to help support the American Cancer Society®’s efforts to help people in our region stay well, get well, find cures and fight back.

Cancer awareness stickers were given to fans. Pin-up cards were available for a donation to either write your own name on or honor a friend or loved one. The cards were then put on the school’s Wall of Hope. There were 50/50 raffles and a half court shooting contest at half time.

In addition to supporting lifesaving American Cancer Society® research, education and advocacy, the money that was raised by the Coaches vs. Cancer® event will be used to support patient service programs. Programs such as Road to Recovery, which provides free round-trip transportation for cancer patients to doctor visits and treatments and Reach to Recovery, which helps breast cancer patients cope with their diagnosis, treatment and recovery will benefit from the Coaches vs. Cancer® game.

Together, with millions of supporters, the American Cancer Society® saves lives and creates more birthdays by helping people stay well and get well, by finding cures and by fighting back. For 24-hour cancer information, call toll free 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

The JV and Varsity Basketball coaches would like to thank everyone who attended for their support and for making this event a success. Special thanks to Cindy Bostelman, Stacy Parks, Connie Beames and Liz Dawson for their part in making this event happen. Also to Lori Kemmerer of the Chenango Health Network and the Every Woman Counts in Chenango County Campaign.

— Trevor Beames, Boys’ JV Basketball Coach

Activity Guide

Pyramid

Eating a variety of foods and being physically active every day will help children be strong and healthy.

Get Your Child and Yourself Moving!

Be Active!

Cut Down On

• Watching TV
• Watching videos
• Using the Computer

Often

• Swing
• Tumble
• Slide
• Hop
• Basketball
• Soccer
• Kick ball
• March to music

Every Day

• Play outside
• Ride a bike
• Go for a walk
• Help around the house
• Walk to the store, mailbox, or library
• Climb the stairs
• Help with yard work
• Walk your dog
• Pick up your toys

• Go for at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day.

• There is a link between TV viewing and being overweight so turn off the TV, the video games, the computer and move your body.

New York State Department of Health
SHINE WITH SCHOOL BREAKFAST!

START THE DAY IN A HEALTHY WAY... WITH SCHOOL BREAKFAST!

If you’re household gets SNAP/ food stamps, your children can eat breakfast FREE!

School breakfast can help your children focus on schoolwork and get better grades!

Did you know that both the SNAP/Food Stamp Program and the School Breakfast Program help our local economy, too?

Both are federally funded programs that bring in money to our local businesses and school districts.

School Breakfast & SNAP/Food Stamps:
Helping keep our children healthy & our community strong!

To find out if your child can eat breakfast at school for FREE, please contact:
Darlene Alexander (NOEP Coordinator) at (607) 336-7897
Catholic Charities of Chenango County
SNAP—the new name for the Food Stamp Program!

Prepared by a project of Hunger Solutions New York, USDA/FNS, and NYSOTDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
PTO Sweetheart Dance

It is time for you to grab your favorite adult guy sweetheart and attend this year's Sweetheart Dance sponsored by the Afton PTO. The dance will be held on February 15 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Elementary Cafeteria. This is also known as Father/Daughter Dance.

The price will include admission, a carnation for the girl(s), cookies and punch. This is a time for girls to bond with that special adult guy, so mom can enjoy the night off or the time with the boys in her life.

Valentine's Day is the theme, so come dressed up in your prettiest colors, pinks, reds, whites and even purples if you wish. The cost of the dance is $5 per couple and $2 for an additional girl.

Parents/guardians will find more information in Friday folders or by calling Mrs. Lawrence in the Elementary Office at 639-8234. Last year the couples had a great time. The PTO is looking forward to hosting the event again this year!

—Deanna Lawrence

Senior of the Month

Each month, the faculty and staff at Afton Central School recognize one senior for exhibiting a particular character trait. The winning senior receives a certificate and a free lunch at the Main Street Grill and Bakery.

Congratulations to all of the winners so far this year!

SEPTEMBER
REBEKAH P.
Kindness

OCTOBER
JESSIE B.
Creativity

NOVEMBER
DAKOTA L.
Respectfulness

—Jilene Nordberg