

The Bulldog Bulletin

Alden Primary School – May 2023



A Note from Mr. Stepnick

Dear Primary School Families,

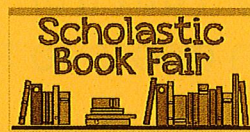
As we enter the final stretch of the 2022-2023 school, I wanted to give families an overview of some of the big events that are just around the corner...

Budget Vote and Elections

Tuesday, May 16th is the ACSO's annual Budget Vote. Voting will take place from 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM in the High School Auditorium.

Spring Scholastic Book Fair

Our PTO book fair is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16th and Wednesday, May 17th. See the enclosed flyer for additional details!



Early Release Days

On Friday, May 19th PS Dismissal will take place at 11:00 AM. Our parent pick-up line will begin at 10:45 AM. Looking ahead to June, 6/16 and 6/22 are also half days for elementary students.

Kindergarten Screening & Parent Meeting

If you have a student that will be starting kindergarten at APS in the fall, we will be reaching out about Kindergarten Screening and our Kindergarten Parent Meeting. If you or someone you know has not turned in the required registration packet, please do so as soon as possible so that we don't overlook you! If you have any questions, feel free to call the Primary School Main Office at 716-937-9116 ext. 6191.



June Field Trips

Each of our grades will be taking a field trip in early June. Teachers will be sending out permission slips for these fun and exciting events. This year, our kindergarten students will be visiting the Buffalo Zoo, our 1st graders will be going to the Explore and More Museum, and our 2nd graders will set sail on the Buffalo Harbor Cruises. Additional information regarding each trip will be coming shortly!

Field Day at Alden Primary School

Our APS Field Day is planned for Tuesday, June 20th! Like all school events, volunteers must be volunteer trained and BOE approved.



PTO Happenings

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, May 9th - 6:30 PM

@ Alden Primary School

Plant sale orders are due on 5/9 and our pick-up will be on 5/18.



Questions?

Please contact Mrs. Nicole Braun, PTO President, at 716-867-1567
aldenprimarypto@yahoo.com

SAVE
THE
DATE

ALDEN



BULLDOGS

2022-2023 DISTRICT ART SHOW

Alden High School

• • • 13190 Park Street Alden, NY 14004.

• • • **Date + Time**

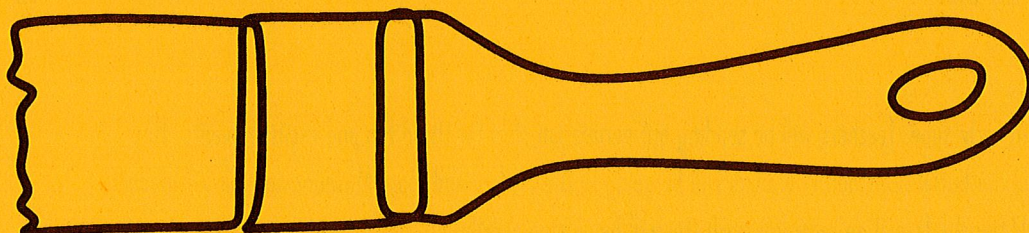
Tuesday, May 16th from 4-9pm
(walk in main doors to the left)

Families are allowed to view
artwork from 4-9pm. Keep in
mind there is a 4th and 5th grade
concert at 7pm.

Miss Kotas can't wait to see you
before and after the band concert!



Each student in
grades K-5 will
have 1
masterpiece in
the show!



Your child's art-folio will return home in June. Students in
grades 3-5 have digital portfolios as well on Dojo. Email
Miss Kotas lkotas@aldenschools.org to connect if you
haven't already. Follow Alden Primary and Intermediate
School Arts @k5art_misskotas on Instagram!



News and Notes:

Primary Post Shopping Dates

- May 5th (K)
- May 11th (1st)
- May 12th (2nd)

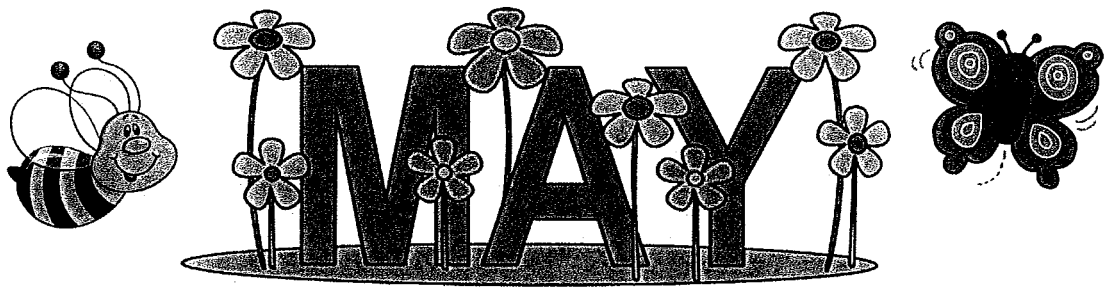
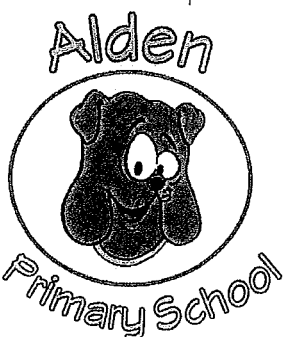









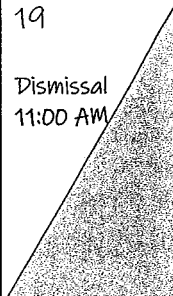



Book Barn Dates

- May 8th (K)
- May 9th (1st)
- May 10th (2nd)

If students plan to shop at either the Primary Post or the Book Barn, please send money in a sealed envelope. You may write a note on the front of the envelope with the enclosed amount.

Happy Mother's Day
to all of our Alden
Primary School moms!



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Mental Health Awareness Day 	2 Sports Day 	3 Dress for How You Feel 	4 Star Wars Day  BOE Mtg. 6:30 PM - HS	5 Hat Day 	6
8	9 PTO Flower Sale Due Date PTO Mtg. 6:30 PM	10	11	12	13
15	16 Book Fair  BOE Mtg. 8 PM - HS	17	18 PTO Plant Sale Pickup (3:30 - 5:30 PM) 	19 Dismissal 11:00 AM 	20
22	23	24	25	26 Spirit Day - A Minion Reasons to Read! 	27
29 Memorial Day  NO SCHOOL	30 Spirit Day - Wear Red, White, & Blue 				

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

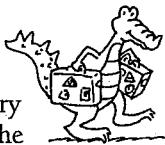
Beginning Edition

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *There Is No Dragon in This Story* (Lou Carter)

Dragon really wants to be a hero. He travels from fairy tale to fairy tale offering to rescue the characters, but everyone sends him away. Then, a giant's sneeze blows out the sun, and Dragon finally gets his chance. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *Keena Ford and the Second-Grade Mix-Up* (Melissa Thomson)

Keena Ford's new teacher makes a special cake for each student's birthday. When Keena's birthday gets marked on the wrong date, will she tell the truth or celebrate anyway to get the cake? The first book in the Keena Ford series.



■ *The House That Jane Built* (Tanya Lee Stone)

In the 1800s, a woman named Jane Addams was determined to make life better for those in need. This biography tells how she founded Hull House, a community center in Chicago, and helped people find housing and jobs. Addams then went on to become the first woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

■ *The Wing Wing Brothers Math Spectacular!* (Ethan Long)

Humor + math = learning fun in this comic book-style story. Five duck brothers put on a comedy show. As they juggle pies and spin plates, readers can compare amounts, learn math facts, and more. Part of the Wing Wing Brothers series.

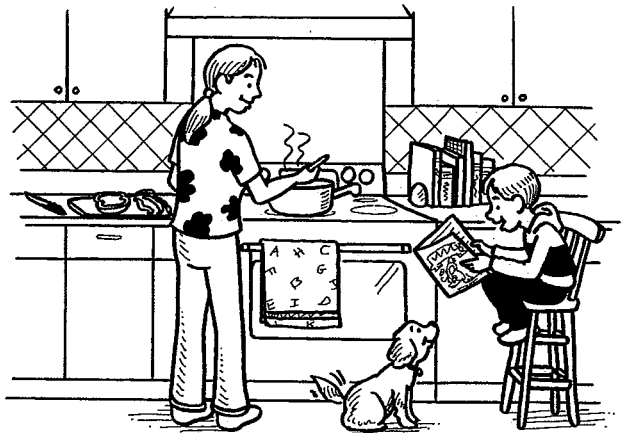


Family reading routines

Reading with your child each day helps him grow as a reader. And just a few minutes here and there really add up. Consider these suggestions for fitting more reading into busy days.

Mealtime practice

Serve up a side of reading! During breakfast, keep the cereal box on the table. You can help your child read the name of the cereal, the slogan, and any riddles or activities. While you make dinner, invite him to read a familiar storybook aloud, or let him browse through a cookbook for words he recognizes (*milk, pizza*).



highlight upcoming events like back-to-school night or picture day.

A reading surprise

Like a tooth fairy who leaves money, be a reading fairy who leaves reading material for your child. Tape comic strips to the bathroom mirror for him to read while he brushes his teeth. Place a poem on his pillow so he can enjoy it before bed. And stash a few books or magazines near his seat in the car. ♥

School days

Together, read the papers your youngster brings home from school, perhaps a story he wrote in class or an announcement about a field trip. Also, post the school calendar on the refrigerator. Read it regularly with your child, and have him

Things I can write about

Your youngster's life is full of creative writing material, whether she's picking apples or riding her bike. Encourage her to collect story ideas with these steps.

1. Let your child decorate a box. She might cover it with stickers or wrap it with construction paper and draw pictures.
2. Together, brainstorm topics she could write about, like becoming a big sister or visiting a new playground. She can write or draw each idea on a slip of colored paper and store it in her box.
3. Have her pull out a slip for inspiration when she wants to write a story, or before school if she knows she'll get to write on a topic of her choice that day. ♥



Stand up and write!

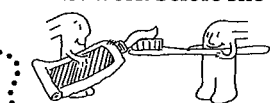
Writing on a vertical surface strengthens your child's arm and wrist muscles and improves the coordination she needs for handwriting. Plus, it's fun. Try these tips.

Windows. Have your youngster use dry-erase markers to draw and color shapes on a window, turning it into "stained glass." Be sure to take a photo of her work before she cleans the window!



Walls. Hang poster board on her bedroom wall, and let your child design a sign using crayons. She might write her name and draw a border of flowers, for example. Also, consider getting a small dry-erase board from the dollar store. Use it to play hangman or to leave messages for each other.

Outdoors. Encourage your youngster to make a crayon rubbing on a tree. She can hold paper against the bark and rub it with the side of an unwrapped crayon to see the pattern. If you have a wooden fence, suggest that she decorate it with sidewalk chalk. She can hose it off when she's done.♥

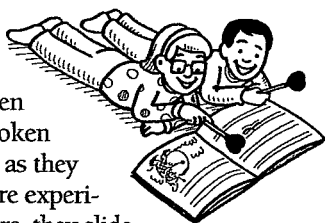


Parent to Parent

My magic reading wand

My daughter Brianna came home excited about the special pointers her teacher lets students use while they read.

I asked the teacher about this. She explained that children enjoy touching the pointers to each word as they say it aloud—and this helps them match written words to spoken ones. Then, as they become more experienced readers, they slide the pointer under the words (rather than tapping each one) so they read smoothly.



I suggested to Brianna that we find pointers to use at home. We filled a plastic jar with items like a bubble wand, a chopstick, a paintbrush, and a pencil with a heart-shaped eraser.

Brianna is always on the lookout for more "magic reading wands." When she finds one, she can't wait to try it out. I love that such a simple thing is boosting her reading skills.♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's reading, writing, and language skills.

Resources for Educators,
a division of CCH Incorporated
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Q&A

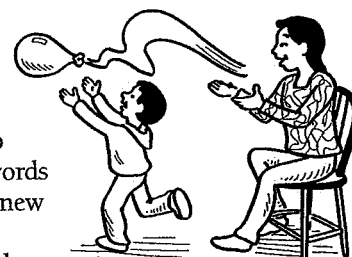
Vocabulary-boosting conversations

Q I've heard that kids with bigger vocabularies have an easier time learning to read and write. How can I help my son learn more words?

A You're right—a good vocabulary does help with reading and writing. Kids absorb many words just by hearing them regularly, so try weaving new words into everyday conversations.

When you talk to your son, use bigger words to expand on what he says. For instance, in response to "That siren is loud!" you could say, "You're right. It's *earsplitting*." Or if he says, "I let the air out of the balloon," you might reply, "It *deflated* really quickly."

Then, encourage him to use the new word often to help it stick in his mind. "What else can you think of that makes an *earsplitting* noise?" To jog his memory you might say, "Remember that jackhammer? That was *earsplitting*, too."♥



Fun with Words

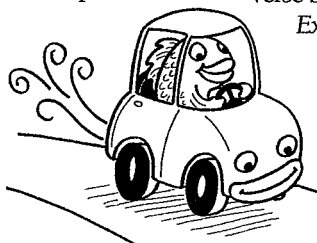
Nursery rhyme phonics

Playing with letter sounds prepares your youngster to decode new words. Read this nursery rhyme together, and do the activities that follow.

*Hey, diddle, diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed to see such sport,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.*

Rhyming words

Have your child tell you which words rhyme (*diddle* and *fiddle*, *moon* and *spoon*). He could circle the letters they have in common (*iddle*, *oon*).



Letter sounds

Ask him to listen for specific sounds. Can he tell you which words have a C sound (*cat*, *cow*) or a D sound (*diddle*, *fiddle*, *jumped*, *dog*, *laughed*, *dish*)? Where in the word does he hear the sound—beginning, middle, or end?

Silly swaps

Let your youngster make up his own verse by changing some of the words.

Example: "The horse jumped over the star. . . And the fish ran away with the car."

Note: Try these ideas with other nursery rhymes from library books or websites.♥

MAY

Monday

May 1

Popcorn Chicken
Seasoned Rice
Golden Corn
Broccoli

May 8

Chix Corn Dog
Golden Corn
Carrot Coins

May 15

Grilled Cheese Sandwich
Broccoli
Baked Vegetarian Beans

May 22

Golden Crispy Chicken Nuggets
Buttered Noodles
Golden Corn
Green Beans

May 29

NO SCHOOL TODAY

Tuesday

May 2

Taco in Bag
Seasoned Rice
Golden Corn
Lettuce
Sour Cream
Salsa

May 9

Mini Waffles
Egg Patty
Hash Brown Patties
Green Beans

May 16

Taco in Bag
Seasoned Rice
Golden Corn
Lettuce
Sour Cream
Salsa

May 23

Pancakes with Blueberry Glaze
Hash Brown Patties
Sausage Links
Carrot Coins

May 30

Taco in Bag
Seasoned Rice
Golden Corn
Lettuce
Sour Cream
Salsa

Wednesday

May 3

Breaded Chicken Patty on Bun
Baked Vegetarian Beans
Crinkle Cut Fries

May 10

Cheeseburger on a Bun
Baked Vegetarian Beans
Carrot Coins

May 17

Pizza Crunchers
Green Beans
Crinkle Cut Fries

May 24

Chix Corn Dog
Baked Vegetarian Beans
Broccoli

May 31

Turkey Sandwich
Crinkle Cut Fries
Carrot Coins

Thursday

May 4

Elbow Pasta Bake
Green Beans
Broccoli

May 11

Pulled Pork on Bun
Green Beans
Golden Corn

May 18

Pasta / Spaghetti
Meat Sauce
Broccoli
Carrot Coins

May 25

Cheeseburger on a Bun
Green Beans
Golden Corn

Friday

May 5

SUPER LUNCH HERO DAY
:)

Grilled Cheese Sandwich
Carrot Coins
Green Beans

May 12

Creamy Mac and Cheese
Dinner Roll
Broccoli
Carrot Coins

May 19

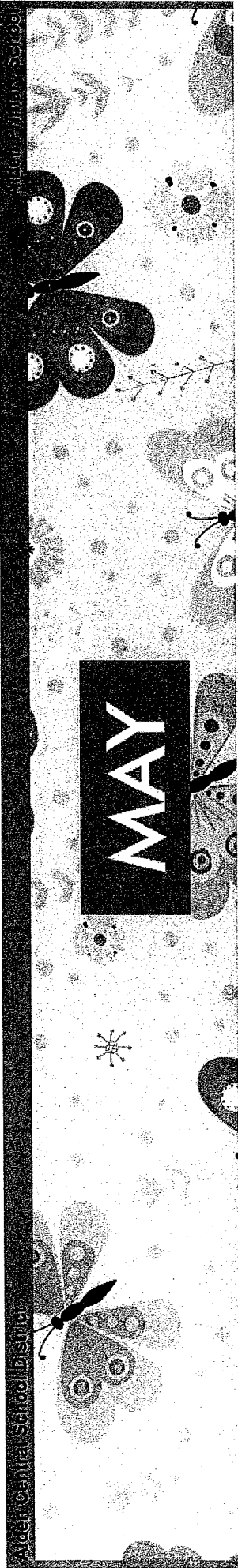
1/2 Day! NO Lunches!

May 26

Creamy Mac and Cheese
Dinner Roll
Broccoli
Carrot Coins

Meal Prices & 2nd Meal Prices: Lunch: @ PS \$2.40 / Juice \$.50 - Milk \$.50 - Small Water - \$.50 - Large Water - \$1.00
Daily Items: Milk Variety, Fresh Fruit Variety and Canned Fruit Variety.
Always Offered: Pizza, Yogurt Lunch & PB&J.

Menu is subject to change. **ICE CREAM AVAILABLE FRIDAY FOR PURCHASE \$.75 A La Carte Sales: Pretzels \$.75 / Cheese Slice \$.25 / Yogurt 4oz. \$.50 / WG Cheese it \$.50 / Scooby-Doo Gummies \$.75**



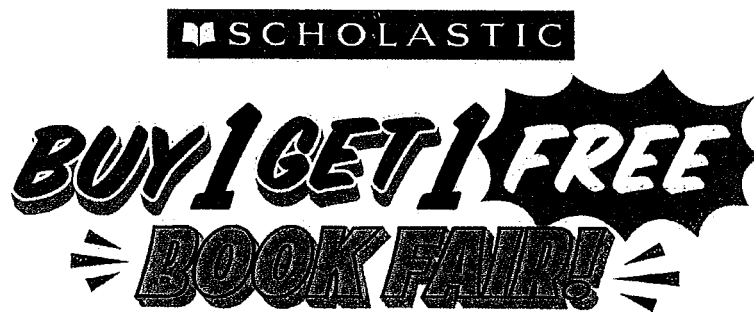
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
May 1 Assorted Cereal w/ Graham Main Fresh Juice	May 2 Warm Buttered Bagel Fresh Juice	May 3 Egg, Sausage & Cheese Sandwich Fresh Juice	May 4 Warm Buttered Bagel Fresh Juice	May 5 Muffin and Graham Cracker Fresh Juice
May 8 Assorted Cereal w/ Graham Main Fresh Juice	May 9 Warm Buttered Bagel Fresh Juice	May 10 Egg, Sausage & Cheese Sandwich Fresh Juice	May 11 Warm Buttered Bagel Fresh Juice	May 12 Muffin and Graham Cracker Fresh Juice
May 15 Assorted Cereal w/ Graham Main Fresh Juice	May 16 Warm Buttered Bagel Fresh Juice	May 17 Egg, Sausage & Cheese Sandwich Fresh Juice	May 18 Warm Buttered Bagel Fresh Juice	May 19 Muffin and Graham Cracker Fresh Juice
May 22 Assorted Cereal w/ Graham Main Fresh Juice	May 23 Warm Buttered Bagel Fresh Juice	May 24 Egg, Sausage & Cheese Sandwich Fresh Juice	May 25 Warm Buttered Bagel Fresh Juice	May 26 Muffin and Graham Cracker Fresh Juice
May 29 NO SCHOOL TODAY	May 30 Warm Buttered Bagel Fresh Juice	May 31 Egg, Sausage & Cheese Sandwich Fresh Juice		

Meal Prices & 2nd Meal Prices: Breakfast: @ PS \$1.50 / Juice \$.50 - Milk \$.50 - Small Water - \$0.50 - Large Water - \$1.00

Daily Items: Milk Variety, Fresh Fruit Variety and Canned Fruit Variety. Always Offered: Cold Cereal & Graham, Pop-Tart Meal & Yogurt Meal.
Menu is subject to change.



Interested in working as a Lunch Monitor or Food Service Helper (regular or substitute)? Contact Reanna Lizauckas @ 716-937-9116 X 4186. This Institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Dear Alden Primary Parents and Families:

Our Scholastic **Buy 1, Get 1 FREE*** Book Fair will connect your kids to fun books and inspiring characters — helping them become lifelong readers while doubling their reading fun! Not only will your child be able to choose from a wonderful selection of titles before summer vacation starts, they'll also **get one free book for every book they buy!**

After missing out on many beloved traditions, our spring Book Fair will be a familiar, welcome, and safe event for our students. Here's what you need to know about the Fair, which will take place from Monday, May 15th thru Friday, May 19th:

- Our Book Fair offers **eWallet**, a safe and secure alternative to cash. Simply create a free account to add funds and/or invite family and friends to contribute so your child can select their own books. Any unused funds can be spent at The Scholastic Store Online or to fund a future eWallet.
- If you can't make it to the Fair, then **shop at our school's Online Book Fair**. All orders ship directly to your home, and shipping is free for book orders over \$25. Your online orders will also benefit our school.

Visit our Book Fair homepage to learn more and get started with eWallet and online shopping:
<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/aldenprimary>

We're excited to celebrate our love of books together at the Book Fair. We look forward to seeing your child there!

Happy reading,

Jackie Canetti
PTO VP and Book Fair Chairperson
aldenprimarypto@yahoo.com

*All free items must be of equal or lesser value than the ones you buy. Titles vary by Book Fair. All items are available while supplies last. Online purchases are not eligible for Buy One, Get One Free pricing.

Mental Health Awareness

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month

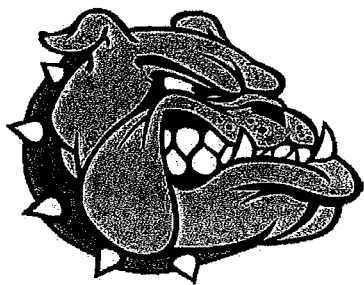
To promote positive coping skills with your child talk about and practice each type of coping skill this month. Talk about and make a list of your favorite ones!

Emotional Awareness	Mindfulness	Distraction	Thinking	Self-Soothing
<p>Focus on identifying and labeling emotions accurately</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Remember that ALL feelings are okay, though all behaviors are not (i.e. kicking when we're mad)Notice and comment when you see feelings begin, change, etc.	<p>Take time to focus on the "here and now"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tune in to your five sensesPlay music and listen to your favorite instrumentPractice mindful eating and focus on how food feels, tastes in your mouth	<p>Spend times doing the things you and your child enjoy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Talk about how you feel while doing these enjoyable activitiesGet outsideRead a bookSnuggle up and watch a movieTell each other jokes	<p>Try to catch "unhelpful" thoughts when they pop up and reframe them into more helpful thoughts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Turn "I can't" into "I can't do this just yet"Turn "This is too hard" into "This is hard, but I can do hard things"	<p>Do things that are relaxing for you and your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sip a warm drinkListen to a meditationPractice yogaLook at your favorite picturesPet your family petListen to relaxing musicTake a bubble bath

If you have concerns regarding your child's mental health, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Kim Musilli (school psychologist) kmusilli@aldenschools.org

Megan Vogl (school counselor) mvogl@aldenschools.org



ALDEN JUNIOR FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING

2023 Registration is now open!

Scan QR code below to register today, spots are limited!

Practice begins Monday July 31, 2023

AJFC is an affiliate of EMPIRE WEST YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING

Ages (as of 9/1) 5-7	Pee Wee	Striper weight > 75 lbs
Ages (as of 9/1) 8-9	Freshman	Striper weight > 110 lbs
Ages (as of 9/1) 10-11	Junior Varsity	Striper weight > 130 lbs
Ages (as of 9/1) 12-13	Varsity	Striper weight > 155 lbs

(Strippers guidelines pertain to football only and are limited to play offensive and defensive line)

Fees and Items Needed to Complete Registration:

- ☐ \$150 Registration fee per participant. Family discount available.
- ☐ \$50 Volunteer Deposit per family will be returned upon completion of mandatory volunteer hours. May submit post-dated check at equipment pick-up (dates TBD)
- ☐ \$200 Equipment Deposit per **player** will be returned after return of uniform and/or equipment. May submit post-dated check at equipment pick-up (dates TBD)
- ☐ Recent photograph and birth certificate for each new participant is required



Documents may be emailed to ajfc_bulldogs@yahoo.com or mailed to PO Box 134, Alden, NY 14004

Checks may be made payable to Alden Junior Football and Cheer

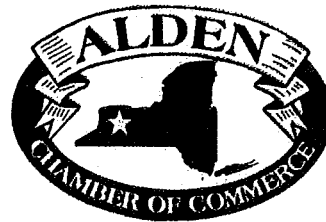
ALDEN FARMERS' MARKET

May 13 Pre-Mothers' Day "soft opening"

Crafts & Specialty vendors throughout May

8:30 am – 1:00 pm Rain or Shine

**Seasonal local produce, bakery, wine, plants,
tie dye, crafts & much more!**



Alden High School/Middle School Jazz Bands Kick Off

June 3 – Sept 30, 2023 Events Season

Earl's Famous Grilled Hot Dogs, Cold Beverages, Full Vendor Line

And Music/Events will be every Saturday after June 3

Tractor Supply/Save a Lot Plaza

13119 Broadway (rt 20), Alden, 14004

Info: 716-937-6177 www.aldenny.org Facebook



TO: _____

FROM: _____

(Parent's Signature)

DATE: _____

STUDENT: _____

(Check applicable box)

☐ is late due to _____

☐ will be picked up at _____ AM/PM _____
by _____

☐ will be going home with _____
address _____

☐ is returning to school after a _____ day absence due to _____

☐ other _____



TO: _____

FROM: _____

(Parent's Signature)

DATE: _____

STUDENT: _____

(Check applicable box)

☐ is late due to _____

☐ will be picked up at _____ AM/PM _____
by _____

☐ will be going home with _____
address _____

☐ is returning to school after a _____ day absence due to _____

☐ other _____