



School District News



Winter Weather School Bus Safety

Winter will soon be here! The buses are ready, the snow tires are on. Cold temperatures, snow and ice means additional safety precautions for students who ride the school bus and the drivers who travel the same streets as the community.

Safety Tips for Students:

1. Dress appropriately for the weather. Wear coats, hats, gloves and boots. Make sure hats or face coverings don't obstruct vision and boots have good tread. Try to find outerwear that is bright-colored and reflective for better visibility to drivers.
2. Allow extra time to get to the bus stop. If the sidewalk or street is covered in snow and ice, students will need to walk more slowly to get to their stops. Wait 15 feet safely back from the road.
3. Stay off snow piles and don't push or shove. Doing so could cause students to fall on the ice and become injured.

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Vote Scheduled for December 6

The District will hold a Special Meeting and Vote 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on December 6 on one proposition, entitled

"Future Transportation Facility and Improvements Project."

The vote will be held in the High School cafeteria.

Message From the Superintendent

I hope this newsletter finds you well and preparing for the upcoming holidays. Our faculty, students, staff and families continue to do a tremendous job spreading goodwill at this time of year. We are very fortunate to partner with several local organizations to coordinate Angel Tree activities, food drives, winter clothing drives and toy donations, in addition to spreading holiday cheer through in-school and off-campus concert performances.



*Adam Stoltman
Superintendent
of Schools*

On December 6, 2023, the District will be holding a Special Meeting and Vote as we seek voter approval on a plan to relocate our transportation facility and replace a section of the Primary School roof. Earlier this year, our team of architects and construction managers began reviewing the New York State-mandated Building Conditions Survey, a report on the condition of all of our buildings and facilities. We were in the process of developing a 15-year facilities plan when the opportunity to purchase a piece of land on Broadway came up. The property, an 11-acre parcel of land with an existing manufacturing building on it, would afford the District the ability to relocate our transportation facility off of our academic campuses, potentially relocate our High School technology department/Bulldog Manufacturing, and address traffic patterns and parking at our village campus. The District put in an offer to purchase the property, with several contingencies, which was accepted by the seller.

Since then, our team has been able to construct a plan and get State Education Department approval to aid both the purchase and renovation of the building. The plan involves renovating the interior of the building to include lifts, storage areas, upgraded lighting and service areas for our buses. As an added benefit, we would be able to store our buses inside the building, which will protect them and our drivers from the weather. Long-term, the relocation of buses from the Intermediate/Middle School campus will improve traffic flow on Park Street.

Throughout the fall, we have heard from District stakeholders at multiple forums. The valuable dialogue allowed the administration and our consultants to hear from community members and answer their questions and concerns. This is the first step in developing a 15-year plan that includes redesigning educational structures/spaces, updating building control systems and improving security and access to our facilities.

The voting will take place December 6th in the High School cafeteria from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. In the instance of a school closure on December 6th due to inclement weather, or other emergency, voting will take place the next day school is open. Your input and support over the years has helped shape our capital investments and the direction of the District for decades to come.

In closing, I wish you all a peaceful and safe holiday season. May you take time to relax and spend time with your loved ones. I look forward to seeing everyone back in 2024 and working with you to continue providing the K-12 students and families we serve with incredible education opportunities!

Sincerely,

Adam Stoltman
Superintendent of Schools

Winter Weather School Bus Safety

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4. Cross 15 feet in front of the bus. If it's snowing, the driver may have more trouble seeing students, so make sure to leave plenty of room and, as always, wait for the driver to signal it is safe to cross.
5. Use the handrail when getting on and off the bus. The steps are likely to be slippery due to wet and snowy footwear.

Safety Tips for Drivers:

1. Slow down! This is a good rule of thumb in any winter driving situation, but it's especially important when driving near school zones or buses. Driving on ice will mean less time to slow down and stop for students or other vehicles.
2. Turn headlights on. It may be more difficult to see students in snow or cloudy weather.
3. Pay attention. This is a good rule for any season, but especially important in winter. Don't use your phone. Always keep your eyes on the road. Students are unpredictable.

Alden Family Center

This year, the Alden Family Center will be offering a variety of services to the students and families in the School District. Services include short-term counseling for families and students, mental health resources and connecting families with community resources as needed. In addition to these services, look for more information about our current educational programming and presentations on the District website under the Alden Family Center webpage. The center is located at the Middle School and is open Tuesdays 7:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m., Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. and Thursdays 8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m. If you would like to make an appointment or have suggestions about what kind of programs you are interested in, contact Meredith Howard at mhoward@aldenschools.org or 716-937-9116 ext. 2158.



Extended Learning Opportunities Benefit Students

After-school opportunities to extend learning are being offered at the Primary, Intermediate and Middle Schools this year. Fall sessions were offered in the months of September and October. The District partnered with the Buffalo Museum of Science, Discovering Together: Challenge Island and Penn Dixie Fossil Park to offer science and STEAM courses. Alden CSD teachers offered a variety of courses, including Introduction to Volleyball, Mindfulness in Art, Adventures in Creativity, Problem Solving and Cooperative Activities and Edible Experiments.

Students developed problem-solving skills using tangrams and mazes during the Problem Solving and Cooperative Activities course at the Primary School.

During the Edible Experiments course at the Intermediate School, students learned about DNA and built licorice and marshmallow models. They also completed a STEM challenge using toothpicks and gumdrops to see which team could build a design to hold the most weight.

These learning opportunities are made possible through the American Rescue Plan Grant, focusing on opportunities to address learning loss. Additional opportunities are being scheduled for the 2023-2024 school year and the summer of 2024.

We continue to seek input as we monitor and adjust our plans to support students. Please take a few moments to complete the survey at forms.office.com/r/QCLRERgg49. It will be open until December 31.



Universal Pre-Kindergarten Offered for District Residents

Alden Central School District is excited to continue offering our tuition-free Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program for the 2024-2025 school year. Alden CSD collaborates with World of Wonders, a community partner, to provide eligible students with a quality, developmentally-appropriate UPK experience located at the Primary School. The UPK program follows the District calendar and is in session five days per week. Parent transportation is a requirement for participation in the program. Important information regarding the UPK Program can be found on the District website by using the following link: www.aldenschools.org/upk.

Families interested in learning more about the UPK Program are invited to come to an informational session on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 6 p.m. to be held in the Alden Primary School Commons, located at 11197 Broadway, Alden, NY 14004.

In the event of a school closing, the informational session will be rescheduled for Monday, January 29, 2024 at 6 p.m.

To Be Eligible to Attend Universal Pre-Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 School Year:

- The child's family must reside in the Alden Central School District.
- The child must turn 4 years old on or by December 1, 2024.
- The completed registration packet and all required paperwork must be turned in to our Central Registrar no later than **March 1, 2024** to be eligible to participate in the lottery.

Mail completed packets to:
Attention: Patti Piegdon
Alden Central School District
13190 Park Street
Alden, NY 14004



How To Apply:

- Download an application from our District website at www.aldenschools.org/upk OR
- Request an application by emailing your name, phone number and address to ppiegdon@aldenschools.org or call 716-937-9116 ext. 4172.

Adding Fun to Mathematics

Kindergarten through grade 8 teachers have started using enVision Mathematics as a curriculum resource. Designed by SAVVAS Learning, the program utilizes the Standards of Mathematical Practices as a foundation to improve both mathematical fluency and problem solving. The Standards of Mathematical Practices are:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
- Attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure.
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Are you looking for a simple, fun way to engage your child ages 3-9 in math-based stories? Please consider trying Bedtime Math at bedtimemath.org/. Bedtime Math was created with a simple premise: to make math a fun part of kids' everyday lives, as beloved as the bedtime story. Families can sign up for a daily email or use the free app to access the problem of the day. Problems are designed for kids ages 3-9 and begin with a fun set-up story, followed by three math problems at three levels of challenge. The designers state, "Getting families to enjoy math as a fun activity at home is what Bedtime Math is all about."



Alden Family Center Fall Food Drive

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the Family Center's Fall Food Drive. We were able to put together emergency food bags and provide some support for families in the District. A special thank you to Mrs. O'Neill's class, who offered to pack the food bags. The generosity of everyone was very much appreciated and it is always nice to see how this community comes together to support one another. The Alden Family Center is located at Alden Middle School and is open Tuesdays 7:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m., Wednesdays 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. and Thursdays 8:15 a.m.-3:45 p.m. If you would like to make an appointment or have any questions, please feel free to call Meredith Howard, Alden Family Center Facilitator, at 716-937-9116 ext. 2158 or email at mhoward@aldenschools.org.

Student Concerts Planned for December

The ACS Music Department presents a series of December concerts each year with a wide variety of holiday selections and more. Come out for an evening of entertainment presented by Elementary, Middle and High School musicians during the most wonderful time of the year. All ACS Holiday Concerts are presented at 7 p.m. in the Alden High School auditorium and are free to the public.

- Middle School Bands: Tuesday, December 5
- 5th Grade Band & Chorus: Wednesday, December 6
- Middle School Chorus: Thursday, December 7
- High School Band & Chorus: Thursday, December 14





Fire Safety at Alden Primary School

During their first Districtwide "Safety Week" of the year, Primary School students spent some extra time learning about fire safety. Volunteers from the Townline Fire Department presented to all K-2 classes to help teach students about potential fire hazards in their homes, the importance of smoke detectors and what to do in an emergency. Students attended a brief assembly before receiving a chance to interact with volunteers and view the trucks and equipment.

This year, as an extra treat, students had the option of participating in a fire safety poster contest. Students submitted their poster designs and the top three entries from each grade level were recognized for their artwork. First-place winners were surprised with a ride around the Primary School campus in one of the fire trucks and presented with a Target gift card by Townline Fire Department President Jennifer Broska and Service Award Trustee Thomas Schlicht.



Primary School

Curriculum Carnival at Alden Primary School

On October 20, K-2 students were eager to put their skills to the test at the first-ever Curriculum Carnival at Alden Primary School. Students and their families had an opportunity to take part in a variety of carnival-themed activities that demonstrated simple ways to put a fun twist on learning. Carnival games focused on topics such as sight words, sentence structure and math fact fluency.

In addition to the prizes and games, Primary School students had the chance to showcase their passion for learning by reserving a spot as a student presenter. Eighteen K-2 students designed and presented projects they had completed at home to their classmates and guests. Project topics included balloon-powered cars, LEGO mazes, animal research projects and even magnetic slime! Student presenters did an amazing job sharing their knowledge with those in attendance and we couldn't have been prouder of our Primary School students.



Intermediate School

Attendance Matters

Did you know students who attend school regularly are more likely to perform well academically? Studies show that elementary students with good attendance are 1.5 times more likely to meet or exceed grade-level expectations in reading and math. Daily attendance builds a strong foundation for their future and missing even a few days can have a big impact. Missing just 10% of the school year (about 18 days) can lead to lower test scores and challenges keeping up with their classmates.

Sometimes, children may develop school avoidance and it's important for parents to address this. Here are some tips for managing school avoidance:

- **Open Communication:** Talk to your child about their feelings and concerns regarding school. Listen to them attentively and offer emotional support.
- **Establish a Routine:** Create a consistent daily routine including regular bedtime and wake-up times. This helps children feel more prepared and less anxious about going to school.
- **Connect with the School:** Stay in touch with teachers and school counselors. They can provide insights into any challenges your child may be facing academically or socially.
- **Set Goals:** Encourage your child to set achievable goals for their schoolwork. Achieving these goals can boost their confidence and motivation.
- **Reinforce the Positive:** Highlight the enjoyable aspects of school, such as friendships, extracurricular activities or subjects they like. Emphasize the positive experiences they have at school.
- **Seek Professional Help:** If school avoidance persists or worsens, consider consulting with a child psychologist or counselor who specializes in school-related issues.

Regular school attendance helps your child develop good habits, improves their reading and math skills and sets them up for a bright future. If you ever have concerns or just want to proactively discuss these pieces, feel free to contact our school counselor, Ms. Anderson, at asanderson@aldenschools.org or our school psychologist, Mrs. Musilli, at kmusilli@aldenschools.org.

Students Enjoy Yuki-Ball

Alden Intermediate students enjoyed the unseasonably warm start to fall with outdoor physical education classes. Students were introduced to a new unit called Yukigassen. The game, referred to as "Yuki-Ball," is a Japanese sport which means snow battle. Students loved that the sport combines concepts from Capture the Flag and snowball fighting all in one!



Third Graders Receive Letters from Taiwan

Mrs. Fazio's third graders were excited to receive letters from their pen pals in Taiwan. They have already learned they have so much in common with the children overseas. Students found out that kids in Taiwan like to read Magic Tree House, play soccer, swim and build with Legos. What surprised students even more was that their new pen pals like to play video games, such as Minecraft and Roblox. As the year goes on, Mrs. Fazio's class will learn more about their pen pals and the culture of Taiwan, while also sharing the American culture with their new friends from across the globe.



Students Meet Author, Poet

In October, author, poet and educator Mrs. Amy Ludwig VanDerwater visited Alden Intermediate. She worked with every classroom, writing poetry, sharing her books and engaging students in creative writing. Students loved her energy and creativity, and especially enjoyed the opportunity to read some of Mrs. Ludwig VanDerwater's books!



Girls on the Run

This fall, 11 girls in grades 3-5 participated in Girls on the Run (GOTR). Led by Miss Glowny and Mrs. Hause, GOTR is a fun, evidence-based program that inspires all girls to build their confidence, kindness and decision-making skills. At each practice, the girls worked hard to meet their running goals, while also participating in dynamic lessons that instill valuable life skills, including the important connection between physical and emotional health. The season ended with a celebratory 5K at Delaware Park in Buffalo on November 12. Each girl ran the 5K with a running buddy that included parents, extended family members and friends. Congratulations to all on a successful season!



Alden Bulldog Council Builds Spirit

This year, the Alden Bulldog Council (ABC) is led by Chloe Frost as president, Brianna Tyczka as vice president, Peyton Pytlak as treasurer, Olivia Winling as secretary and Peyton Szczepanski in the position of public relations. ABC meets at least once a month to work on a variety of projects. All students are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly meetings and activities. Information about meetings is on the daily announcements, on the second floor television and in emails.

The students have done an excellent job brainstorming and planning new spirit days and fundraisers, as well as activities for this school year. We will continue to support local charities throughout the year by holding various events, such as pajama/hat days, spirit weeks, Socktober, canned food drive, etc. Some events will suggest a monetary donation. A minimum of \$1.00 is suggested to participate. We are also planning to host our annual holiday-themed competition, Holiday Follies. This is a series of minute-to-win-it-type games that promotes fun, friendly competition between the three grade levels.

We have had a few spirit days already this year and it was so much fun to see the students participate in the various themed days. Some of the themes included Red/White/Blue or Bills Day, Wear Orange Day for Unity Day and Pajama Day. We will also be hosting a couple of Fun Nights this year. Stay tuned for more info.

In honor of National Principals Month (October), the students were excited to show Mr. Smith how grateful they are for all he does at Alden Middle School. All students were given an opportunity to fill out a card with a reason(s) they love our school and/or things they wanted to thank Mr. Smith for. The officers had fun going through all the responses from the students.

ABC will also be working with younger grade levels (3-5) this year in some capacity. The students are always excited to demonstrate what a good leader and role model looks like and have a little fun at the same time.



Middle School



Middle School Multi-Age Class Learns New Life Skills

Mrs. O'Neill's class has been busy learning and practicing their job skills. Four times a week you can see the class in different locations around the school cleaning, organizing and completing jobs. Each month students apply for a job they would like by completing an application and stating why they should be hired for this position. With the help of Speech Language Pathologist Mrs. Oar, students prepare for job interviews and are then "hired" for a job. They are given a schedule and a list of tasks that need to be completed each time they go to work. Students walk in each day excited to get to work.

Not only are the students gaining skills from learning these specific tasks, but they are also working on developing a variety of social skills by writing a monthly newsletter, The Bulldog Bulletin, that goes out to the Middle School staff and students at the end of each month. The Bulldog Bulletin has a main article, which is decided upon by the students and written together as a whole class. The main articles have an interview component, which provides the students with additional social skills practice. In addition to the articles, the Bulldog Bulletin also shares upcoming events and reminders, club meeting dates, a mindfulness strategy and the survey results to a question that both staff and students are asked.



Beauty and the Beast JR. Hits the Stage Jan. 18-20

This January, Alden Middle School students will bring the classic tale of Belle, her father Maurice and the enchanted castle to life. Come along for all the fun as Belle, the book-loving dreamer, falls in love with the Beast in his castle, with all of the amazing magic of Mrs. Potts, Chip, Lumiere, Cogsworth and more. You'll be laughing along as Gaston epically fails while trying to win Belle's heart. Please "Be Our Guest" this winter. You will not want to miss this show and support all of the hard-working and dedicated Middle School students. Tickets go on sale in late November at the Alden CSD Box Office, located on the District website.



Middle School Holiday Concerts Planned

Over 200 of our Middle School students will be performing in holiday concerts the first week of December. The Middle School bands and jazz band will perform on December 5 at 7 p.m. in the High School auditorium and on December 7 the Middle School chorus will perform at 7 p.m. in the High School auditorium. Before the winter recess, the eighth-grade band and choruses will be taking our show on the road with performances for residents at Brothers of Mercy.

High School

Bulldog Manufacturing Goes “Back 2 Bulldog”

A new school year means going “Back 2 Bulldog” for members of Alden High School’s student-run company, Bulldog Manufacturing.

The 2023-2024 team is comprised of a mix of new and returning students who connected during a few summer team-building sessions. Every department within the company has new members and every team member, new and old, is highlighted on the company’s Instagram account, @bulldog.manufacturing. Make sure to check it out.

Fall is one of the busiest seasons for the company, as it brings in lots of new business. The “Back 2 Bulldog” Sale kicked off the release of new designs made by the design teams. Featured in the sale was a variety of drinkware, including the bestselling 20 oz. tumbler. The sale was the perfect way for team members to get back into the swing of things. More sales are in the works.



Bulldog Manufacturing also participated in the Alden Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition’s Halloween Spooktacular during the “Trunk or Treat” event. This was a great way to get the company name out there and for members to experience what community outreach is like. The company loves to participate in local events that support amazing causes.



The annual Industry Open House allowed Bulldog Manufacturing to welcome a number of industry partners to the school on November 2. Critical industry partnerships are developed during this event, as it provides opportunities for every student to talk to industry professionals in their field. Bulldog Manufacturing looks forward to hosting this event each year, as they get to display an array of products and services they provide.

On the manufacturing side of the company, a brand-new CNC Plasma table was delivered in mid-October, thanks to generous donations from local industry partners. This state-of-the-art manufacturing machine will allow students, present and future, to enhance their training and product quality. Acquiring this new machine opens up many more opportunities with industry partners.

Bulldog Manufacturing is looking forward to another year full of new ideas, products and partnerships. Be sure to take a look at our website, <https://bulldogmfg.square.site>, or scan the above QR code.

National Honor Society Inducts New Members

In late October, the Alden High School Alpha Chapter of the National Honor Society added 35 new inductees to its membership at their 74th annual induction ceremony.

Based on a cumulative grade average of their first two years of high school, students who academically qualify are invited to apply for NHS membership. During the application process, students must obtain recommendations and provide examples of their leadership, character and service. If selected, NHS members must continue to maintain high academic standards and perform several hours of service in school groups and the greater community.



Area All-State Performing Groups

During the month of November, students in Alden Middle and High School had the honor of playing with Area All-State Performance groups. On the first weekend of November, seventh grade percussionist Andrew B. (bottom photo) performed with the Area All-State Junior High in Akron. Later, three seniors represented Alden High School in the Area All-State Senior High at SUNY Fredonia. These seniors were Hannah Cuthbertson on violin, Grace Leonard on French horn and Gabe Nieman on trombone. These students auditioned last spring and were selected from a large pool of musicians. They performed with the top musicians of the area. These talented students spent many extra hours of practice to prepare for these ensembles. Congratulations to all of our Area All-State Bulldog musicians!



High School

Technology Programs Approved by NYSED

Alden High School's Technology Department worked with industry partners and the Technical Assistance Center of New York to develop Career and Technical Education Pathways in Advanced Machining and CAD-CAM (Computer Aided Design - Computer Aided Manufacturing).

The programs are geared toward students pursuing skilled trades, manufacturing, engineering and other STEM-related education and career paths.

NYSED-approved programs lead to an industry-recognized credential, certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree and offer:

- an opportunity to apply academic concepts to real-world situations,
- preparation for industry-based assessments or certifications,
- the opportunity to earn college credit or advanced standing while still in high school,
- work-based learning opportunities where students demonstrate mastery of skills essential in the workplace.

The application process included labor market research, which showed

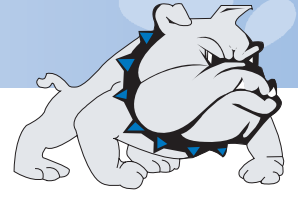
growth from 2018-2028 in three key areas supported by Alden's Pathways: Industrial Machinery Mechanics - WNY 9.70% (NYS 6.90%), Maintenance Workers Machinery - WNY 13.20% (NYS 10.00%), Computer Numerically Controlled Machine Tool Programmers - WNY 19.00% (NYS 21.6%). Industry partners Moog, RJ Watson, Integer, Sharp Tooling, North American Carbide, Deluxe Laserworks, Personify Pets and others met regularly with teachers to inform their curriculum and advance projects like these pathways, Bulldog Manufacturing and even the Robotics team.

Course sequences include Career & Financial Management, Design & Drawing for Production, Metalworking 1, Metalworking 2 and CAD-CAM. NOCTI CAD-CAM and/or NIMS Machinist Level 1 industry-standard assessments must be earned at the end of the course sequence. Students have Work-Based Learning opportunities for hands-on learning and are eligible for college credits through SUNY Buffalo State.



High School

Students Recognized for Food Drive



HEY-EY-EY-EY! Coming off a fresh first-place win with 600 donations and a visit from offensive lineman Dion Dawkins and tight end Dawson Knox, our Bulldogs were pumped and ready to participate in the Huddle for Hunger food drive hosted by FeedMore WNY and Wegmans again this year. The Alden High School's Student Congress, led by the Peer Wellness Pillar, decided to use this opportunity to expand our efforts into the community.

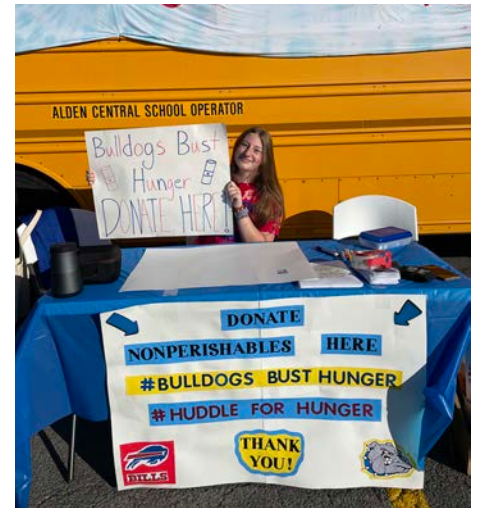


During the weekend of September 30-October 1, our student leaders held a food drive in the Alden Tops Parking Lot, collecting over 1,000 donations. Alden High School and Student Congress would like to extend their gratitude for the Alden community and their generous donations. We couldn't have done it without you.

In the end, Alden High School surpassed our goal and more than tripled our donations to 2,000 total for FeedMore WNY. The students and faculty of Alden High School are proud to participate in this competition and more broadly support an amazing cause for Buffalo and Western New York. Our nine Student Congress Pillar



officers attended the Bills vs. Buccaneers game on October 26 to be recognized



for their second-place win. Go Bills and Bulldogs!

Hands-Only CPR at Alden High School



During the first week of classes, students at Alden High School participated in Hands-Only CPR training during their physical education classes. Physical education teachers Mrs. Poeller and Mr. Cornwell led students through a variety of instructional videos on CPR, how to properly use the AED and introduced Stop the Bleed to students. Students learned how to properly perform compressions on CPR training mannequins. In Stop the Bleed, students learned the proper steps to take when they decide to help someone. Safety is the first thing students have to take into consideration. If the situation is safe for them to go in and help, we hope they now have some simple skills that may help in the event of an emergency.



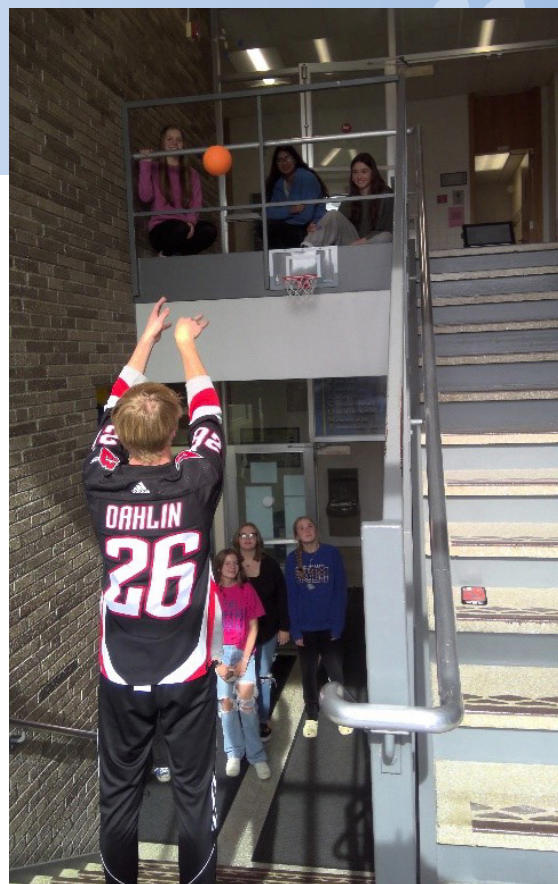
High School

Physics Students Learn Science Through Sports

Sports and science make natural companions in the physics classroom. A fundamental study of physics includes the interactions of matter, energy, forces and motion. Studying these concepts using examples from sports makes challenging concepts relevant and engaging.

In a recent physics lab, students were asked to analyze a basketball free throw to determine the original velocity of the shot. By using a reverse engineering approach, students designed their own experiment to solve this problem. They carried out their plan by taking measurements and performing the necessary calculations to determine the original velocity. All students were successful, even if they used different strategies to solve the problem.

In an upcoming project, students will be asked to design and carry out an experiment related to the concept of "projectiles." The merging of science and sports works well for this project too. In the past, students have launched footballs, shot arrows and even launched themselves into the pool. Sports and competition make it exciting to study physics!



Trombonist Selected for All-State Band

Alden High School senior Gabriel Nieman has been selected to perform with the Conference All-State Symphonic Band at the 87th Annual New York State School Music Association Winter Conference in Rochester November 30-December 3.

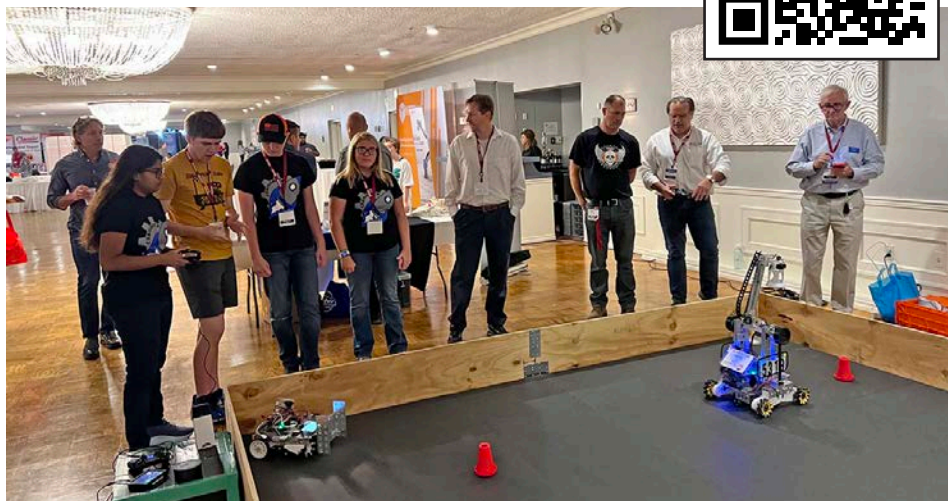
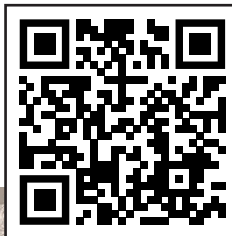
"Gabe has worked very hard at developing his talent and he's been selected for prestigious organizations like the Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra and the Interlochen Summer Music Academy in Michigan," said AHS Band Director Bill Larrabee. "The All-State band is another achievement that requires a high degree of talent, study and commitment to artistry."

Every spring, NYSSMA administers solo festivals across the state to students who wish to prepare a musical selection for contest. Sophomores and juniors who perform a selection from a list of the most difficult pieces can choose to be considered for selection. Approximately 6,000 instrumental and vocal students audition, but only 600 are selected for an All-State Choir, Band or Orchestra.

High School

Robotics Team Demonstration at Manufacturing Trade Show

The Alden Robotics teams, Blackwater Bot and Alden Knights, participated in the Buffalo Niagara Manufacturing Alliance (BNMA) Annual Trade Show to connect with regional industry partners. The teams worked with student robotics teams from Nichols (Electric Mayhem), Buffalo Academy of Science (Buff Sci-borgs) and a regional community team of larger robots (Rustbelt Robotics) to show the types of technical and competitive learning they engage in through the international FIRST Robotics organization. The teams discussed how the Robotics team introduces students to technical education and career paths in addition to other areas while developing collaboration and communication skills. Students in grades 8-12 are welcome to find more team info at www.aldenrobotics.org.



StarBOOKS Café Encourages Reading

The High School library was recently transformed into StarBOOKS Café. Students in Mrs. Terech's College English 11 class rotated through six tables, with books representing six different fiction genres. Students had to rate each book they browsed, pick their three favorite titles, then check one out to read independently. Students also enjoyed some StarBOOKS-themed iced coffees and snacks.



Yearbook Offerings Grow

Yearbook is now both a class and a club, under the leadership of Mr. Cox. Students can enroll in the class or be members of the club or both.



High School



Students in the Community



A group of fabulous juniors and seniors interested in a career in education attended the Careers in Ed Conference on October 18 with Future Teachers of America Club.



The officers from Friends of Rachel Club posing with the presenter after a school-wide assembly about how we can make the school and community a more kind and accepting place.

Fall Athletics 2023



Bulldogs Find Success in Fall Season

This fall we were lucky to have had mostly great weather throughout the season. We celebrated our seniors, who have contributed on and off the field in their tenure here at ACS. We wish them luck as they pursue careers and education beyond Alden Central. We appreciate your continued support as we pursue sportsmanship from our fans and our players. We encourage you to be loud, be proud and be positive.

In the fall of 2024, ACS will once again celebrate former athletes who have excelled at Alden and beyond. If you know an athlete you would like the Wall of Fame Committee to consider, please fill out the proper forms located on the Alden Athletic Homepage under "shortcuts": www.aldenschools.org/domain/66.

The coaches have written summaries of their seasons. Congratulations to all the teams and a successful fall.



Varsity Cheerleading

Coach Paluch

The Alden Varsity Cheerleading squad had a tremendous 2023 fall season. The team had a lot of fun cheering at football games and supporting their team from the sidelines. On the competitive side, the team did amazingly and grew over the course of the competitive season. Starting off as a very young varsity team, the squad had growing and learning to do. Over the course of the season, they improved stunting skills and learned a lot. Captains Sophia Riccione, Emma Everett, Kendra Leisenheimer and Summer Stanley helped set positive examples for all the other athletes. The team competed in five total competitions. Addison Washburn and Ava Catanzaro were awarded the ECIC All-Star patch for their impressive performance. The squad improved their score by several points each competition and showed consistent improvement in their competitive skills. They really proved their ability to change routines in a short amount of time. Each performance was more enjoyable and fun to watch.

Varsity Cross Country

Coach Mancino

Our Bulldog Boys and Girls Cross Country harriers have continued to improve upon their successes from last fall. Eighteen out of our 19 Bulldog harriers have raced to lifetime best five-kilometer cross country performances. Caleb F., Evan F. and Gage F. participated in the NYSPHSAA Cross Country Championship in Verona, NY and all three finished as Section Team Champions.

Varsity Football

Coach Buono

The Boys Varsity Football team had a historic season. Our boys achieved their first six-win season and playoff berth since 2017. Our team was dominant on the offensive line, led by senior Owen Stanley and junior Robbie Westmiller. In the back field, Layne Jaworowicz had a career year breaking out the school's single-season points record, beating former Alden QB Tyler Stoldt, who set the record back in 2010. Our defense was a force to be reckoned with all season long. Jack Kidney and Ben Partell anchored the back end of the defense. Inside, Owen Stanley, Nick Wypij and Bobby Bartram flew around the field at the linebacker position. The team was young but strong. Up front on the defensive line, Robbie Westmiller, Lucas Nagel, Josh Kruk, Owen Golas and Dylan Burkhardt gave opposing offenses fits trying to protect their RBs and QBs. It was an exciting year for the Alden Bulldogs football program, re-establishing themselves as a small school contender in Class B.

Varsity Golf

Coach Casillo

The Boys Alden Varsity Golf team finished the season in second place with an 8-2 record in the ECIC Small School North Division. Alden's only losses of the season were to a tough Williamsville South team. The starting lineup this year included sophomore Riley Eggink, juniors Nate Jegierski, Austin Wirth and Steven Syracuse and seniors Noah Gauld, Carter Speranza, Jack Rahuba and Enzo Riccione.

Speranza was the team's leading scorer. Among all golfers within ECIC, he was ranked 36th overall. Speranza represented the team at this year's ECIC Boys Golf League Individual Championship & Qualifier at Diamond Hawk, finishing 17th out of the top 70 players, and will go on to represent Alden in the Section VI Championship in spring 2024.

Three awards were given out this year to the following players:

- Enzo Riccione: The Letterman Award was awarded to Enzo for exhibiting leadership and being a role model for the team throughout the season.
- Carter Speranza: Most Valuable Golfer - Carter played in the No. 1 position and played consistent golf all season.
- Noah Gauld: Most Improved - Noah was the most improved player on the team, showing considerable improvement over last year's performance.

Varsity Boys Soccer

Coach Turton

The Boys Varsity Soccer team finished in second place in Division 5 with an 8-8 divisional record and 9-7-1 overall record. Seven shutouts for the season showed their defensive dominance and outstanding goal keeping by Kalen Czelusta. Offensively, this team demonstrated how to share the spotlight, by having 18 of the 20 players on the roster with a goal or assist. Leading scorers for the team were Quinn Grover, with 10 goals and one assist, along with Nate Long and Tim Boucher, who each tallied seven goals and eight assists. The

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Fall Athletics 2023



Varsity Boys Soccer

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No. 4-seeded B1 Bulldogs put on a great show as they hosted No. 5 seed Cassadaga Valley Falconer. The game went into a shoot-out after a scoreless 80-minute game and double 15-minute overtimes.

Varsity Girls Soccer

Coach Whiteford

The Girls Varsity Soccer team finished third in ECIC Division 4 this year, with an 8-3-1 divisional record and a 9-6-1 overall record. Seniors Brooke Bennett, Cassie Kurek, Jaclyn Principe and Riley Schilling were great leaders on and off the field. Bennett and Sienna Scheiffla dominated at center defense, while Cassie Kurek and Mia Schwab played aggressively on the outside. Our strong defensive players assisted Brianna Brunner with six shoutouts this season. The offensive players elevated their passing game, communication and aggressiveness to win the ball throughout the season to score 30 goals. Camryn Speranza and Schilling were the lead goal scorers. Their most memorable game was beating the undefeated divisional East Aurora team 1-0 in the last regular season game. This tightknit group of girls made unforgettable memories on and off the field. Coach Whiteford thanks the girls for their hard work, dedication to the team and laughs this season.

Varsity Girls Tennis

Coach Hebert

The Varsity Girls Tennis team was second in the ECIC IV Division this year, with an 8-2 record. Every player worked hard and played with impressive endurance and integrity. Many other division coaches complimented the team on their sportsmanship and effort. Our captain, Ava Dimao, was a great leader and mentor for her team. At the ECIC tournament, Dimao and Taylor LaVarnway won their first round against a tough competitor. Hannah Cuthbertson, Dimao and Michelle Nuwer won the ECIC Division IV All-Stars. Sectionals were held here in Alden against Fredonia, where the

team unfortunately lost in a close match. This 2023 season was full of extraordinary experiences and fond memories.

Varsity Girls Swimming

Coaches Osucha & Pelitera

The Girls Varsity Swim team finished the season with a 6-2 record. Eight of the team's swimmers and divers, Avery Stahl, Maddie McKibben, Claire Stoltman, Ellen Ritchie, Izzy King, Skylar King, Sheeanne Defedericis and Mackenzie Lang, went on to post-season ECICs, Class C Championships and the State Qualifier meet.

Varsity Volleyball

Coach Cornwell

The Girls Varsity Volleyball 2023 season officially closed after their loss against Lackawanna in the pre-quarter finals of playoffs. The Lady Bulldogs played with heart and determination throughout the season. Looking back, it's clear to see all the effort and support that went into this year's season.

The girls faced some tough teams and ended the season with three wins and eight losses in their division. With competitive sports comes wins and losses, and instead of focusing on the losses, the girls reflected on the team's hard work during the season.

One of their most memorable games occurred on Senior Recognition Night against Lackawanna. It was an eventful match of five sets and each set was so close. It was similar in how their season ended: a close match against Lackawanna on Tuesday night's playoff game. At the start of the first of four sets, Alden earned the first point and continued to take the lead. Their strong teamwork and skills supported their win of the first set. Each set thereafter was a loss by only two points, giving Lackawanna the win.

This team had talented athletes. With six seniors graduating after this year, the team will take on new talent with the upcoming JV players. Varsity's key players were Sylvia White, leading the team with 48 kills and 72 digs. Bella Decker took second, with 41 kills and 54 digs. Lilly Bromstead had 32

kills and 61 digs, while Gowri DeMay took fourth on the team with 46 digs. The team's setter, Emily Wetzler, ended the season with 62 assists. Maddy Uhrich led the team with 23 aces and Claire Shadle led the team with 12 blocks. With the rest of the team's combined effort, the season consisted of many excellent passes, blocks, hits and sets.

Throughout the season, the team not only showcased their skills, but exemplified the power of teamwork. In the end, the Alden Varsity Volleyball team had a season of growth, and coach was proud of their efforts and accomplishments.

JV Football

Coach Westmiller

The JV Football team finished the season on a three-game win streak that, unfortunately, included a win by forfeit due to struggling numbers at Albion High School. Regardless, the young Bulldogs overcame a slow start at the beginning of the season to finish at 5-3 overall. The Bulldogs needed to learn why technique and position-specific responsibilities were so important. While being in close games defensively, the Bulldogs finally got over the hump and started producing offensively to average nearly 20 points per game. Jon Koch, Tyler Lucas and Aiden Dollinger were just a few of our outstanding student-athletes to lead us on the field this year offensively, defensively and on special teams.

JV Boys Soccer

Coach Moretti

The Alden Boys JV Soccer Team experienced a youth movement in 2023, with a roster featuring 12 freshmen and two sophomores. Alden began the season with an exciting 3-1 victory over Eden and later collected wins over Maryvale (4-0), Springville-Griffith (1-0), Maryvale again (3-1) and Williamsville South (1-0).

Liam McCarthy and Nicholas Schindler anchored the defense while a variety of goal scorers emerged for the Bulldogs. Ethan Schmitz led the team with five goals to go with a pair of assists. Logan Riedel collected four goals, Jonas Jahn added

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Fall Athletics 2023



JV Boys Soccer

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three with five assists and Aiden Phillips scored twice in his first season playing soccer. Adam Bauer added a goal and an assist, as did Jack Sperduti. McCarthy scored once and Jonathan Clark handed out one assist.

It was an exciting season for a young team opposite a very challenging schedule. The future is bright for Alden Soccer!

JV Girls Soccer

Coach Gibson

The Girls JV Soccer team improved to a 2-12 record. Throughout the season, we witnessed both individual and team growth. Our defense was led by first-year goalie Kara Partell and sweeper Hailey Muff, with help from Bryce Lasker. Partell made a lot of impressive saves and improved as the season went on. From the offensive end, Ava Turnbull, Kendra McCoy and Emma Casillo lead the charge. The girls grew this season so much as soccer players, but also as young adults. Coach is very proud of every single one of them, as many stepped in to play new positions.

JV Volleyball

Coach Wolinski

The JV Volleyball Team at Alden High School showcased an impressive season marked by their exceptional serving skills, totaling a remarkable 146 aces. Joelle Amrhein led the charge with a stunning 11 aces in a single match, closely followed by Kaylen Jaworowicz with 10 aces in another. Mylah Urso shined in the backcourt with a team-high 39 digs, while Kaylen Jaworowicz and Cadence Allen delivered a powerful offensive punch with 26 and 21 kills, respectively. The team's defensive duo, Brooklyn Jankowski and Abigail White, dominated the net, contributing to 10 out of the team's 14 total blocks. In addition to the team's impressive statistics, it's essential to recognize the unwavering commitment and reliability of Isabella Hensley. While Hensley's contributions may not always be

reflected in the stats sheet, she consistently demonstrated exceptional teamwork, sportsmanship and dedication, both during practices and games. With a notable record of 8-3, the team's losses were hard-fought battles, often claiming at least one set in each match. This season was truly a testament to their skill and determination.

Modified Cross Country

Coach Fazio

The Modified Cross Country team had a fantastic season! The effort the team put forth during practice and races was always their best. This was a fun group to coach because of their willingness to push themselves to be better every day. Coach Fazio had a great time coaching Hailey, Elias, Chase, Jaxon, Evelyn, Amelia, Ashely and Emily and appreciates their hard work and dedication.

Modified Football

Coach Matecki

The Modified Football team finished the season with a 0-6 record; however, the team continued to work hard throughout the season. The Bulldogs played their best football during the final three games. Unfortunately, several costly turnovers made it difficult to score enough points for the win. Offensively, Jackson Frey carried much of the load as tailback. Frey did a nice job reading his blocks, which resulted in several nice runs. Eli Peresan, Vinny Puccio and Owen Palicki split the QB roll. Each player worked hard and had a tremendous impact offensively. Brayden Becker and Andrew Wery anchored the offensive line play. Both players set the standard of working toward excellence during practice and games. Defensively, Sam Hemphill and Carson Smith made beautiful interceptions by undercutting the receiver. Brayden Becker was the heart and soul of the squad. Becker also recovered a fumble. The boys came a long way from the beginning of the season. I'm confident that with continued hard work and increased dedication in perfecting their position of play, each player will continue to contribute to the success of the program.

Modified Boys Soccer

Coach Kronenwetter

At the time this was written, the Boys Modified Soccer team was 5-4-3. Development went well, but was still technically behind a couple of teams in the division. The boys had a loss and tie vs. Holland, two losses vs. East Aurora and two ties vs. Depew. The team had sterling goalie play from Ryan Marino. Goals against averaged 1.00 in 11 games. Offense was paced by Cole Fisher and his nine goals. Evan Estrada had five goals as a seventh grader. Defense played every minute in the 11 games. Captain Hayden McKibben, Pat Serafin and Mike Shisler carried that load.

Modified Girls Soccer

Coach Kasper

Modified soccer is always about learning and growth. This team still has a lot to do, but learning and growth throughout the season were evident. This team had some sickness and injuries to deal with, but it was good to have a full roster going into the last couple of games of the season.

Elle Canzoneri (8G) and Emma Weininger (7G) led the offense with 15 goals. They had some help from Raelynn Robel and Mikenly Tryka, who each scored a goal as well. In net, Haley Lewandowski, Adeline Poloncarz and Madeline Urso split time and kept the team in almost every game they played. Coach Kasper is proud of the work and effort that this team put in this season and looks forward to seeing their continued improvement in the future.

Modified Volleyball

Coach Breyer

The Modified Girls Volleyball team played a phenomenal season, growing every practice and game. With so many girls on the team, the talent was endless for both 7th and 8th graders. Coach Breyer and the team will miss our 8th grade girls as they move on to a higher level next year: Sawyer Faso, Karleigh Westmiller, Kaylie Pytlík, Brea Wery, Mckayla Geraci, Faith Winters, Maddy Enser, Tori Cole, Becca Vink, Spencer Check and Amanda Baeson. Proud is an understatement when it comes to the overall season.

Alden Central School District
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Vote Scheduled for December 6

The District will hold a Special Meeting and Vote
9 a.m.-9 p.m. on December 6
on one proposition, entitled

***"Future Transportation Facility
and Improvements Project."***

The vote will be held in the
High School cafeteria.

NOW HIRING

Employment Opportunities at ACS

Are you looking for a job, but need hours to work around your child's school day? Employment with the Alden Central School District may be just the thing for you. Alden currently has openings in the following positions: bus drivers, bus attendants, food service helpers, food service monitors, teacher aides and substitutes in all areas. Applications can be found on the District's website at www.aldenschools.org. For more information, please contact Barb Rung at 716-937-9116 ext. 4176.