



# the MAROON monthly

AUBURN ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 6

## Spelling Bee Students Advance to Televised Round



Thirty-five students from Central New York advanced Saturday to the oral round of The Post-Standard/WCNY Spelling Bee. The 35 students scored the highest among the 160 students who participated in the written qualifying exam at Christian Brothers Academy in DeWitt. The oral round will be held at WCNY in Syracuse on February 29.

The winner of the oral round will win a trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the **Scripps National Spelling Bee**, which will be held May 24 to 29.

Here are the winners from the Auburn School District:

**John Cuddy, Grade 4, Herman Avenue Elementary**

**Makayla Hutchinson, Grade 5, Seward Elementary**

**Landon Lenhart, Grade 6, Casey Park Elementary**

**Emma Sroka, Grade 6, Seward Elementary**

**Carter DeRosa, Grade 8, Auburn Junior High**

## Disability Awareness Day at Seward Elementary



On Friday, January 24, Seward Elementary School hosted a Disability Awareness Day for their grade 3 students, which was facilitated by ARISE. The event has been created for our grade 3 students at each elementary school building in the Auburn Enlarged City School District. The program consisted of six 12-minute stations that included the following topics: physical impairment, vision impairment, hearing impairment, learning disability, intellectual disability, and autism/communication impairment.

The students were highly engaged and shared that they enjoyed the experience while learning so much about different disabilities that individuals may have. Emerson Mack shared that people with disabilities can sometimes have things that they can't do and they can't help it. She stated, "People need to understand that." Jack Sroka shared that he learned how hard it is when you can't use one of your arms to open things. Allison Keys added that someone would need to help them open items and that people with disabilities often have to be taught a little differently so that they can learn.

We are lucky to have an organization, such as ARISE, to assist our students with developing empathy and acceptance of all individuals regardless of disabilities or any differences!

*By Amy Mahunik, Principal, Seward Elementary School*

**We Make a Difference!**

BENNY ANDERSSON & BJÖRN ULVAEUS'  
**MAMMA MIA!**  
THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL BASED ON THE SONGS OF ABBA®



The music of ABBA comes alive as Auburn High School presents **Mamma Mia!**

The show will be performed at

7:00PM on Thursday, February 27; Friday, February 28; and Saturday, February 29; and also at 2:00 PM on Sunday, March 1.

**Tickets at the door** are \$14 for General Admission, \$12 for Senior / Students, and \$8 for children under 8.

**ABBA's** hits tell the hilarious story of a young woman's search for her birth father. This sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

Highlighted members of the cast are:

Donna.....Genevieve Cioci  
Tanya.....Erin Kennedy  
Rosie.....Abigail Lentini / Skylar Starrett  
Bill.....Ayden Kowalsky  
Sam.....Jeremiah Czyz  
Harry.....Cameron Hodson  
Sophie.....Fiona Chisholm  
Sky.....James Hunter  
Pepper.....Ian Chisholm

Over 60 million people worldwide have fallen in love with the characters, the story and the music that make **Mamma Mia!** the ultimate feel-good show!



On Wednesday, January 15th at 6:00pm, **Luca Pirozzolo** was recognized for surpassing Ryan Gadsby's school career wins record of 125 victories. Luca, a junior, earned his 126th career victory on December 14th in the finals of the Phoenix Round Robin Wrestling Tournament. Luca is pictured with his parents, Jeff and Tracey Pirozzolo.

**FREE LUNCH** during  
**WINTER BREAK**  
for **AUBURN** Students & Families  
at **GENESEE ELEMENTARY**  
School Cafeteria



**Serving 12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM**

**TUESDAY - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18 -21, 2020**

Warm and healthy lunches being served to Children and their Families. Family favorites with fresh products, fresh veggies, fresh fruit, milk, and cookies.

*Provided by the Auburn United Methodist Church*



## 8th Grade Students go to work, and request longer breaks!



**"The adults didn't tell us what to do."**

**"I got to have independence in a school setting."**

**"I liked being in the adult world."**

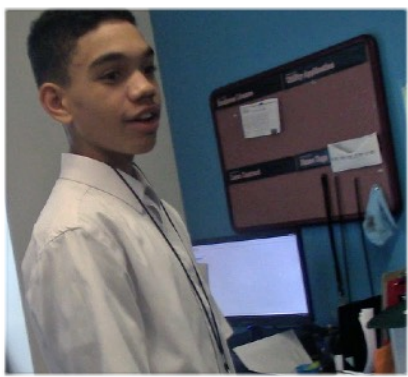
These were some of the comments that 8th grade students gave in reflection of their two consecutive days of experiential learning in mid-January. One day involved a job shadowing experience whereby students spent a six-hour day in one of a variety of workplaces related to their career interests. Some of the participating businesses were Auburn Police and Fire Departments, Beardsley Design, Denny's Restaurant, Game Stop, Simple Roast, and YMCA, among many others. Students explored career options, took career interest inventories, arranged their shadow experience, dressed business casual to the workplace and asked career-related questions of their shadow mentor(s). The next day, they traveled to WCNY in Syracuse, NY, to participate in the entrepreneurial simulation program called Enterprise America. Students spent several weeks preparing to work alongside coworkers and run their respective businesses.



**Mayor of Enterprise America, Avianna Ming, stands alongside City Judge, Noah Coleman, working to process citizens who were fined for walking on the city grass without a permit. Due process is a right that City Hall enforces in this democratic community.**

In each of the two days, students were immersed in the highest type of learning available: hands-on, experiential learning, where soft skills like punctuality, dressing for the business world, being organized, collaborating with others, anticipating problems and asking questions for accuracy are valued. Students don't always make the connection between what they're learning in school and how it directly relates to the workplace. Timing of these opportunities was spot on, as well, given that 8th grade students will also visit the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES facility and meet with School Counselors to set up their high school schedules - all designed to encourage kids to think ahead.

These kinds of experiences give kids the background knowledge and experience to choose careers as they get older, and be prepared for jobs, something our community expects our students to accomplish.



**Thomas Stratton, 8th grade student at Auburn Junior High and Owner and Accountant of the Sign Shop, talks with customers approaching the business. He has been billing other businesses for sign work and paying off the business loan through sales, much of it on the computer in the business office.**

**"Next time I'll be more organized."**

**"Paying bills is difficult."**

**"We need longer breaks."**

**"I'll never wear flats to work; I'll wear comfortable shoes."**

**"I got a real world experience of the work world."**



**Morgan Gorney, Delivery Center's Owner, talks with Web News' Senior Reporter about the fast-paced nature of getting raw materials to other businesses.**

*By Sarah Parisi, Home & Careers Teacher, AJHS*

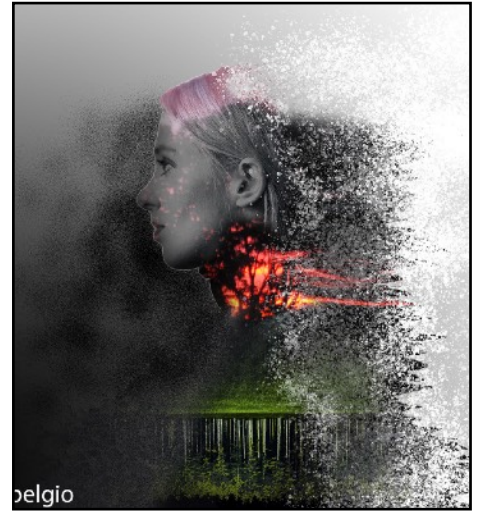




*"Daydreamer"*  
GOLD - Rachel Meyer, Gr. 10



SILVER - Ella Carnes (Sculpture) Gr. 10



GOLD - Emily Sbelgio, Gr. 12



GOLD - Ashley Mohan, Gr. 12

## The 2020 CNY Scholastic Art Awards

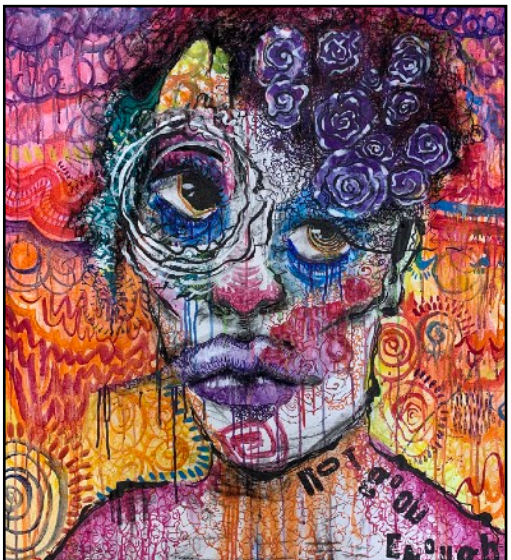
The Scholastic Art Awards program, founded by Scholastic, Inc. in 1923, is the largest annual student art competition in America. The free exhibit is open daily at the Whitney Applied Technology Center at OCC, 4585 W. Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, through February 28. Rachel Meyer's Gold piece "Daydreamer" also won American Visions - Best in Show Award and Syracuse Cultural Workers - Peace and Justice Award.

For more information visit:

[Syracuse.com/2020/Scholastic\\_Art](http://Syracuse.com/2020/Scholastic_Art)



GOLD - Bryn Whitman, Gr. 10



GOLD - Bryn Whitman, Gr. 10



SILVER - Tyler Jasniewski, Gr. 12



SILVER - Bridget Donnelly, Gr. 12



**NOW OPEN!**

**Open Enrollment for Auburn Enlarged City School District's  
2020-2021 Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program**

The Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program is an integral component of our District, and includes a UPK program for our 4-year-old learners and a 3PK program for 3-year-olds. Together, these programs offer comprehensive educational services to Auburn School District residents who will be 3 or 4-years of age on or before December 1, 2020, and are available at **no cost** for eligible children.

A list of our Universal Pre-Kindergarten program locations (sites) is below, and contains information regarding which sites offer 3PK and/or UPK, and which sites provide full-day and/or half-day programs. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are welcomed and encouraged to visit any of these participating sites before completing your registration packet. Kindly contact the site to arrange a visit.



Site	Program *	Full/Half Day*	Contact
Cayuga Community College – 81 Wall St.	3PK and UPK	Full-day	315-294-8603
Cayuga Onondaga BOCES – 1879 W. Genesee St. Rd.	3PK and UPK	Full-day	315-255-0075
Cayuga Seneca Community Action Agency - 89 York St. and sites at several AECSD schools	3PK and UPK	Full-day	315-252-0038
Early Childhood Center – 1110 Corporate Dr.	UPK	Full-day	315-255-0233
E. John Gavras Center – 182 North St.	3PK and UPK	Full-day & Half-day 3PK Full-day UPK	315-255-2746
Montessori School of the Finger Lakes – 6734 Pine Ridge Rd.	3PK and UPK	Full-day	315-252-2225
YMCA – 27 William St.	3PK and UPK	Full-day & Half-day 3PK Full-day UPK	315-253-5304

*\*Program offerings, and full/half day classes per site are subject to change*

Interested Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may pick up a 2020-2021 registration packet at any of the UPK sites listed above, at all Auburn Elementary schools, or at our Administrative Offices. Registration packets can also be downloaded from the AECSD website: [www.aecsd.education](http://www.aecsd.education).

Registration packets should be available for pick up or download mid-January.

**REMINDER: We cannot accept any completed registration packets prior to February 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Need more information about the 2020-2021 Universal Pre-Kindergarten?  
Please contact Tina Brechue at 315-255-8825 or Michelle Kolceski at 315-255-8613.**



**#FixAndFundIt**

**The Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee has put this website together as a way to get information out to the community regarding the Foundation Aid issues affecting the district.  
For more information please visit: [fixandfundit.org](http://fixandfundit.org)**

# Thank you! Thank you!

*From Jennifer Poole, School Social Worker*

On behalf of the Auburn Enlarged City School District, Genesee Elementary School would like to thank all volunteers and donating sources for supporting our annual Fill-A-Belly Over School Break Food Program and Winter Gear Give-A-Way and Holiday Assistance Program.

For the tenth year, the elementary school was able to offer the opportunity for families to receive both perishable and non-perishable food items. The program was designed to assist families in providing their children with healthy nourishment over the extended winter school break, with the hope that no child would ever go to bed hungry.

This year, through the generous donations of private donors, local community businesses and organizations, the Fill-A-Belly Program was able to offer families perishable items including bread, meat, milk, cheese and eggs, to supplement non-perishable meal items. According to our records, 105 families received a meal basket with approximately 477 people benefiting from the meal boxes.

The Fill-A-Belly committee would like to formally thank and recognize the following volunteers and/or donors: Nucor Steel, Auburn United Methodist Church, Auburn Fire Department, Auburn Permanent Firemen's Benevolent Associations, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Ladies Auxiliary of the AOH, Balloons Restaurant, Rotary Club of Auburn, Zonta Club, Auburn VFW Auxiliary to Post 1975, Knights of Columbus Council #207, Perform for Purpose, Northside Coolers & Trailers, Year of the Dragon Tattoo, Wegmans Grocery Store, Genesee Parent Teacher Partnership (GTPT) and numerous community members and small businesses who wish to remain anonymous.

We, the students and faculty at Genesee, would also like to recognize the following churches and/or organizations for their donations of hand-knitted winter items (mittens, gloves, hats and scarves) which include the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Year of the Dragon Tattoo, and several other anonymous community knitters and organizations. Nearly, 400 students benefited from the volunteers' generosity and passion for helping to keep everyone warm throughout the long winter months.

Lastly, we would like to thank several community churches and organizations for their generosity in assisting our families and students during the past holiday season through the donation of time, gifts and/or the finances to support gift giving and basic need items. We would like to recognize the Auburn United Methodist Church, Grace Chapel of Skaneateles, St. James Church of Skaneateles, the Auburn High School Wrestling Team, and donations provided by other community members, who also wish to remain anonymous.

A special thank you is also extended to Tracy Kulis, who donated gifts in loving memory of her daughter, Megan Condes. Tracy, family and friends, hoped to turn a community opioid epidemic into a positive experience for another family and to offer hope to others. If you, or someone you know, may be struggling with an addiction, please call or text 315-246-6485 or go to [nicksride4friends.org](http://nicksride4friends.org) for additional resources.

Once again, the outreach by the local community, through the donation of resources, has truly been appreciated by those individuals who have been impacted by the giving, in addition to those who have witnessed the generosity.





# February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Kindergarten and UPK Registration Packets for 2020-21 are now available at the Tubman Building, 78 Thornton Ave, 8:00AM-4:00PM 3PK, UPK and Kindergarten Registration Opens Feb. 3rd.	January 2020 S M T W T F S 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	March 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	"But February made me shiver..." (American Pie, Don McClean)		FIRST 1 Sr. High Area All State @ Ithaca College National Freedom Day Groundhog Day	
2 National African American History Month	3 Owasco OPT Mtg 6:30PM National School Counseling Week District Parent Council Mtg. 6:30PM @ Tubman	4	5 AJHS PTO Mtg. 6:00PM	6 Herman PTO Mtg. 4:30PM	7 Elementary Report Cards	8
FULL 9 Snow Moon	10 CCMEA Scholarship Auditions @ AHS Herman PTO Mtg. 4:30PM Library	11 Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 7:00PM	12 District Cup Stacking Contest @ Seward 3:30PM Abraham Lincoln's Birthday	13	14  Valentine's Day Herman Movie Night 6:00PM	LAST 15
16 	17 NO SCHOOL Winter Break Week National PTA Founders Day www.pta.org Presidents' Day	18 NO SCHOOL 	19 NO SCHOOL 	20 NO SCHOOL 	21 NO SCHOOL 	22 George Washington's Birthday
NEW 23 National Children's Dental Health Month	24	25 Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 7:00PM Mardi Gras	26 Ash Wednesday	27 AHS Spring Sports Physicals Girls 2:20PM AHS National Honor Society Induction Ceremony 7:00PM	28  AHS Musical 7:00PM Mamma Mia!	Leap Day 29  AHS Musical 7:00PM Mamma Mia!



Finalists from Ms. Rose's class: Zoey Stebbins, Gracie Fenley, Jeni Gonzalez, Syria Ryle and Rielly Hurley



## "Who Was" History Bee at Genesee

Genesee fifth grade students studied hard to learn about famous people for the first ever "Who Was" History Bee. Five fifth graders from each class were finalists, and participated in a school bee, which went seven rounds. The winner of the fifth grade bee, Zoey Stebbins, will take a written test that could qualify her for the national competition in Washington, DC, in May.



Finalists from Ms. Dietsche's class: Emma Kelley, Trinitie Brewer, Kiera Amerman, Jonathan Young, and Carter Hall

Submitted by Anne Mlod, School Librarian

# How to Cope With an Anxious Child

[childmind.org/article/what-to-do-and-not-do-when-children-are-anxious](http://childmind.org/article/what-to-do-and-not-do-when-children-are-anxious)

*Dr. Clark Goldstein is a child and adolescent psychologist who specializes in the treatment of anxiety and mood disorders.*

When children are chronically anxious, even the most well-meaning parents can fall into a negative cycle and, not wanting a child to suffer, actually exacerbate the youngster's anxiety. It happens when parents, anticipating a child's fears, try to protect her from them. Here are pointers for helping children escape the cycle of anxiety.

## **1. The goal isn't to eliminate anxiety, but to help a child manage it.**

None of us wants to see a child unhappy, but the best way to help kids overcome anxiety isn't to try to remove stressors that trigger it. It's to help them learn to tolerate their anxiety and function as well as they can, even when they're anxious. And as a byproduct of that, the anxiety will decrease or fall away over time.

## **2. Don't avoid things just because they make a child anxious.**

Helping children avoid the things they are afraid of will make them feel better in the short term, but it reinforces the anxiety over the long run. If a child in an uncomfortable situation gets upset, starts to cry—not to be manipulative, but just because that's how she feels—and her parents whisk her out of there, or remove the thing she's afraid of, she's learned that coping mechanism, and that cycle has the potential to repeat itself.

## **3. Express positive—but realistic—expectations.**

You can't promise a child that his fears are unrealistic—that he won't fail a test, that he'll have fun ice skating, or that another child won't laugh at him during show & tell. But you can express confidence that he's going to be okay, he will be able to manage it, and that, as he faces his fears, the anxiety level will drop over time. This gives him confidence that your expectations are realistic, and that you're not going to ask him to do something he can't handle.

## **4. Respect her feelings, but don't empower them.**

It's important to understand that validation doesn't always mean agreement. So if a child is terrified about going to the doctor because she's due for a shot, you don't want to belittle her fears, but you also don't want to amplify them. You want to listen and be empathetic, help her understand what she's anxious about, and encourage her to feel that she can face her fears. The message you want to send is, "I know you're scared, and that's okay, and I'm here, and I'm going to help you get through this."

## **5. Don't ask leading questions.**

Encourage your child to talk about his feelings, but try not to ask leading questions— "Are you anxious about the big test? Are you worried about the science fair?" To avoid feeding the cycle of anxiety, just ask open-ended questions: "How are you feeling about the science fair?"

## **6. Don't reinforce the child's fears.**

What you don't want to do is be saying, with your tone of voice or body language: "Maybe this is something that you should be afraid of." Let's say a child has had a negative experience with a dog. Next time she's around a dog, you might be anxious about how she will respond, and you might unintentionally send a message that she should, indeed, be worried.

## **7. Encourage the child to tolerate her anxiety.**

Let your child know that you appreciate the work it takes to tolerate anxiety in order to do what he wants or needs to do. It's really encouraging him to engage in life and to let the anxiety take its natural curve. We call it the "habituation curve"—it will drop over time as he continues to have contact with the stressor. It might not drop to zero, it might not drop as quickly as you would like, but that's how we get over our fears.

## **8. Try to keep the anticipatory period short.**

When we're afraid of something, the hardest time is really before we do it. So another rule of thumb for parents is to really try to eliminate or reduce the anticipatory period. If a child is nervous about going to a doctor's appointment, you don't want to launch into a discussion about it two hours before you go; that's likely to get your child more keyed up. So just try to shorten that period to a minimum.

## **9. Think things through with the child.**

Sometimes it helps to talk through what would happen if a child's fear came true—how would she handle it? A child who's anxious about separating from her parents might worry about what would happen if they didn't come to pick her up. So we talk about that. If your mom doesn't come at the end of soccer practice, what would you do? "Well I would tell the coach my mom's not here." And what do you think the coach would do? "Well he would call my mom. Or he would wait with me." A child who's afraid that a stranger might be sent to pick her up can have a code word from her parents that anyone they sent would know. For some kids, having a plan can reduce the uncertainty in a healthy, effective way.

## **10. Try to model healthy ways of handling anxiety.**

There are multiple ways you can help kids handle anxiety by letting them see how you cope with anxiety yourself. Kids are perceptive, and they're going to take it in if you keep complaining on the phone to a friend that you can't handle the stress or the anxiety. I'm not saying to pretend that you don't have stress and anxiety, but let kids hear or see you managing it calmly, tolerating it, feeling good about getting through it.

*Submitted by Margaret Walsh, School Counselor, AJHS*

*Related Reading on [childmind.org](http://childmind.org)*



## New Central Registration Center for New Students

Effective immediately, the Auburn Enlarged City School District will begin registering new students at its Central Registration office, located in the Harriet Tubman Administration Building at 78 Thornton Ave.

Any new families that have moved into the school district and need to register their children for any grade level, Pre-K through 12th grade, may do so at the new Central Registration office between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

“Having a Central Registration office should make the registration process much easier for families moving into the district, and we are excited to provide this customer service,” said Camille Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services.



For more information, please contact Tina Brechue  
AECSD Central Registration  
Pre-K through 12th grade  
(315) 255-8825  
TinaBrechue@aecsd.education



### TOUCH DOWN!

The Owasco Owls collected 221 items for The “Souper” Bowl. The food was delivered to a local food pantry. An exciting win for all!

*Submitted by Jacquelyn Aversa*

### Follow us on Twitter!

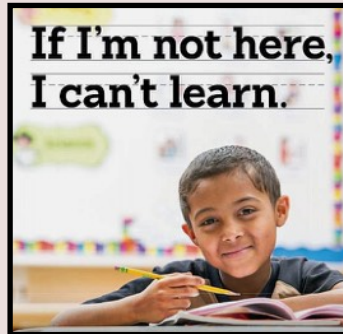


- District: @AuburnECSD
- AHS: @auburn\_ahs
- AJHS: @auburn\_jrhigh
- Casey: @auburn\_casey
- Genesee: @auburn\_genesee
- Herman: @auburn\_herman
- Owasco: @auburn\_owasco
- Seward: @auburn\_seward

### NEW YORK STATE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

You can go online to find out if any sexual offenders live near you. The New York State Sex Offender Registry is available at [www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/nsor/index.htm](http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/nsor/index.htm) whereby you can search for Level 2 and Level 3 sex offenders.

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS!



If I'm not here,  
I can't learn.

Missing just a few days of school a month can hurt a child's math and reading skills or even their chance of graduating. Please help us reduce chronic absence.

Find out more at:

[www.everystudentpresent.org/parents](http://www.everystudentpresent.org/parents)

Check out #EveryStudentPresentAECSD on social media.



### Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)

Students who are applying to colleges, please be aware that procedures for the confidentiality of student records within the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) have recently changed. FERPA permits school officials to disclose all education records, including disciplinary records, to another institution at which the student seeks or intends to enroll. This now also applies to post-secondary institutions (colleges), upon request.



**Put Healthy Food  
on the table with  
SNAP**

**Supplemental  
Nutrition  
Assistance  
Program**

## **OUTREACH COORDINATOR CAYUGA COUNTY**

### **Let Us Help You**

Your Outreach Coordinator can help you find out if you may be eligible for SNAP. They will be your partner throughout the entire application process. We provide eligibility prescreenings for other programs as well as for SNAP. We can also make referrals to other agencies to assist in the needs of the client. Please contact your Outreach Coordinator, Angela Mastracchio at 315-437-1899 ext. 227 for any further questions.



SNAP is a program that supplements your food budget by providing eligible households with a special card (EBT card) loaded with SNAP dollars that can be used to buy groceries.

**Prescreening &  
Application Assistance**

**Site & Home Visits  
Available**

**Put Healthy Food on the  
Table with SNAP**

**FOOD BANK  
OF CENTRAL NEW YORK**

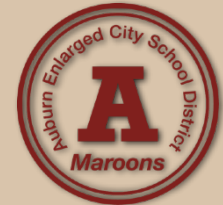
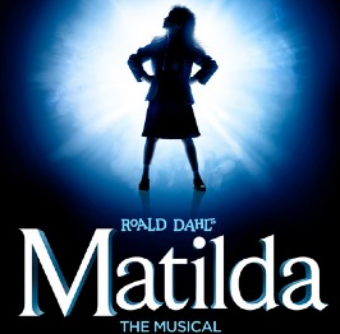
7066 Interstate Island Rd,  
Syracuse, NY 13209  
(866) 839-7404  
Option 3

Cayuga County  
[amastracchio@foodbankcny.org](mailto:amastracchio@foodbankcny.org)  
Angela Mastracchio

**SAVE THE DATE!**

AJHS Musical Production!

March 13-15, 2020



February 2020  
**DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**

Official Publication of the  
**AUBURN ENLARGED CITY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

[www.aecsd.education](http://www.aecsd.education)

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**We Make a Difference!**