

the **MAROON** monthly

AUBURN ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 3



Casey Park staff bitmoji created by Mrs. Kustyn

Casey Park will host a virtual Family Engagement Night Webinar via Zoom on Thursday, November 12th at 5:30 p.m.

The link will be sent to families prior to the event. During this webinar we will be reviewing Google Classroom settings for student emails, Classlink, and a couple of education websites and apps that are beneficial to our students. We will also have time at the end to answer questions families may still have regarding technology.

Brianne Batis, Assistant Principal, Casey Park Elementary School

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Auburn Families,

Our entire school community – students, parents, and staff – did a tremendous job with our phased-in reopening. It wasn't easy with all of the health and safety guidelines in place, but everyone pushed through, and because of your efforts, we have been able to keep our doors open.

The Cayuga County Health Department (CCHD) and the Auburn School District have been closely monitoring the COVID cases in our area. Cayuga County has had a significant increase in cases the past couple of weeks, and our school district has seen our first few cases in that timeframe as well. Please know we are doing everything we can possibly do to ensure that our doors remain open while also making sure our students and staff are safe.

Many people are asking what the threshold is for having to close our doors. Governor Cuomo recently outlined a micro-cluster strategy that detects small outbreaks and takes action to eliminate them. Once an area meets certain metrics that demonstrate substantial COVID spread, it may be designated a focus zone, which will directly impact our ability to continue in-person instruction.

If Cayuga County's COVID-19 positivity rate exceeds a 7-day rolling average of 3.5% for 10 days, all school districts in our county will be required to test 20% of staff and students in order to be able to stay open for in-person instruction.

continued on page two

Letter from the Superintendent continued from page one:

This would be extremely difficult for both the CCHD and the Auburn Enlarged City School District to do for many reasons, so if we do reach the 7-day rolling average of 3.5%, there is a possibility we may need to switch to fully remote instruction. This is just one reason why now more than ever it is so important for our community to follow the health and safety guidelines set by the state.

The rest of the fall and winter will be challenging, but we will continue to monitor the COVID cases in our region, as well as continue to follow the health and safety protocols in our schools to ensure, as much as possible, that we can continue with in-person instruction per our hybrid model. Please remember to keep your child home when sick. Additionally, if your child has been tested for COVID for any reason, he or she cannot return to school until a negative test result can be proven.

Furthermore, with the holidays approaching, we understand that many may travel to see loved ones. Should you choose to travel to a state other than those contiguous to New York, please remember that you will need to either quarantine for 14 days upon returning home or “test out” of the mandatory 14-day quarantine per Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order 205.2 regarding quarantine restrictions on travelers arriving in New York. Your child cannot return to school unless one of these requirements is satisfied. For more information, please visit governor.ny.gov.

I understand how difficult all of these guidelines can be to follow, but I know we can get through this together. Thank you all for your continued patience as we navigate our way through this unique school year.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Pirozzolo
Superintendent of Schools

Auburn Education Foundation



Last year the Auburn Education Foundation supported a Podcasting project for Victoria Calarco, Librarian at Auburn High School. Students were excited to help with the design and development of a Podcast Studio located in the library. Students helped to clear out the librarian’s “office” and then they installed the soundproofing material to help ensure better sound quality for their recordings.

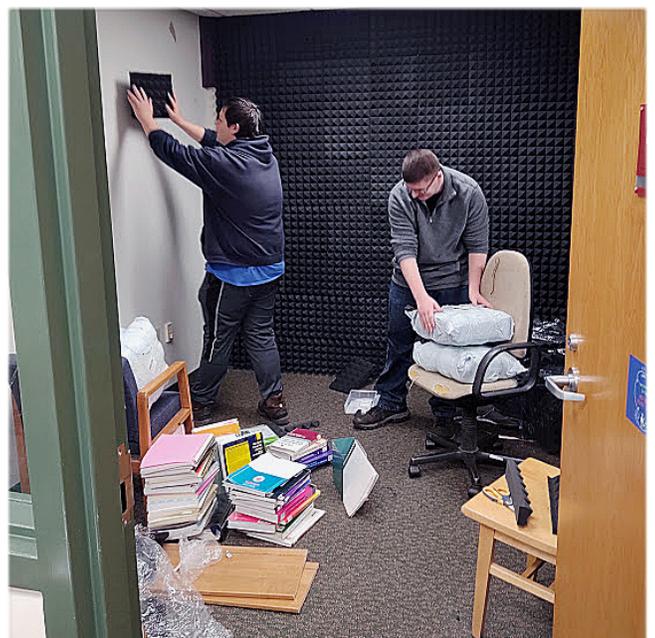
Prior to the COVID-19 shut down, students used the room for class projects as well as passion projects. For example, some journalism students created oped pieces, while english students used it to create podcasts to spur a conversation on social issues and policies as part of a research project.

This is just the beginning of the possibilities for this space! In the future some students have volunteered to help with the design of this small room to increase functionality and usage possibilities. I can envision music recordings and green screen action in the future!

Thank you AEF for your continued support of our students!

AEF will continue to consider proposals submitted after the fall deadline. We recognize the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Thank you to the staff and administrators of the AECSD for your continuous dedication and commitment to excellence for all students who attend our schools.

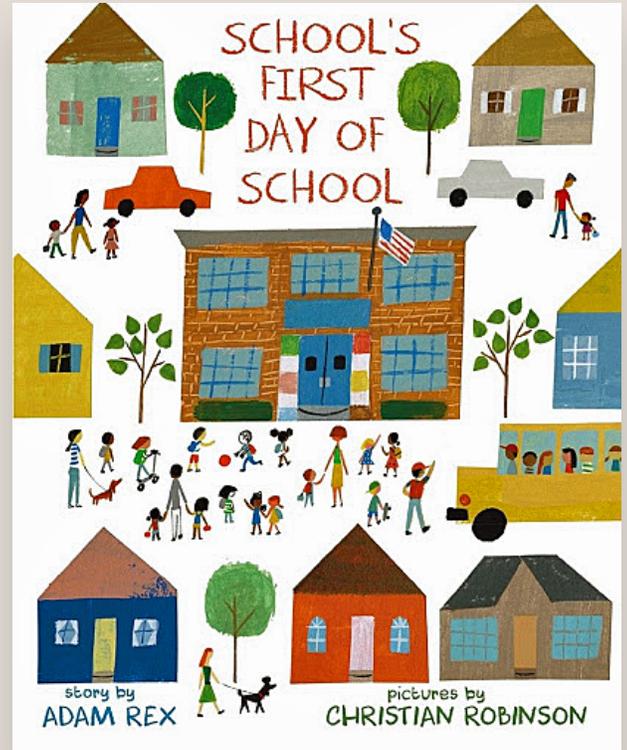


School's First Day of School

Herman Ave. Art and Library students have all come together to create a large mural for the whole school to enjoy. As an interdisciplinary lesson with library and art, students explored a book read by Ms. Crosby called, "School's First Day of School" by Adam Rex. The story is about the first day of school at Frederick Douglass Elementary and everyone's just a little bit nervous, especially the school itself. What will the children do once they come? Will they like the school? Will they be nice to him? The school has a rough start, but as the day goes on, he soon recovers when he sees that he's not the only one going through first-day jitters.

All art students at Herman Ave. were challenged to create themselves using paper, pencil and any choice of coloring tool. Then students used scissors to cut themselves out and were assigned to bring in themselves to be displayed in a large mural in Herman Avenue's main lobby. Art students in 3rd through 6th grade were also assigned to create a drawing of their favorite place in Herman Ave. Elementary School to be colored in and brought back to school to be displayed with all the student's cut out people.

All art students and library students enjoyed hearing the story and creating themselves with their favorite place in their own school. This art lesson ties into NYS Learning Standards for the Arts #1,2,3.



Jessica Rice, Art Teacher, Herman Avenue Elementary School



Halloween at Herman Ave.



Kindergarten students (Mrs. Marginsky)

The Pumpkin Hollow in Onondaga donated pumpkins to the kindergarten classes at Herman Ave; the students loved using these pumpkins for Halloween projects!



**Kindergarten students
(Mrs. Swartz and Mrs. Engle)**



Kindergarten students (Mrs. Greml)

report bullying
or cyberbullying

help your friends

be assertive

report depression

**SEE SOMETHING
DO SOMETHING**

Submit your reports anonymously

report threats
against schools

report drug or
alcohol use

report strange behavior

Anonymous Alerts!

The school district is pleased to continue our partnership with Anonymous Alerts®, the anti-bullying and safety reporting app and system. This safety communications tool is a way for our students to quickly communicate anonymously with school officials and engage in anonymous 2-way communications to share more information about incidents. Types of concerns that may be reported include, but are not limited to, bullying, harassment, drug-related issues, fighting, weapons, threats, and more. The goal of this reporting system is to help maintain a safe school climate while giving students ample opportunity to securely communicate with school administrators without fear of retribution by their peers. The system will be monitored during school days between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

To send a report online:

www.anonymousalerts.com/

- Download the Anonymous Alerts® app
- Start the app, enter Activation Code: **auburnecsd**
- Send important reports to school officials
- Add a screenshot, photo or video about the incident

Two Local Students Compete in National Competition



Auburn Junior High School student **Johntae Smith** (right) and Union Springs High School student **Alexander Church** (left) met for the first time one year ago as participants in the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) held at Cayuga Community College. Since then, they have become

business partners and owners of EZ-Carries, whose main product, the EZ-Carrier, is a water bottle holder that clips to crutches, canes, wheelchairs, and walkers; it is available on their website, www.ez-carries.com.

Smith and Church were one of thirty-four YEA! businesses that competed in the 12th Annual Saunders Scholars Competition on Saturday, October 17, making it all the way to the final eight! Check out their competition promotional video below!

In the news:

- October 15 (Local SYR): [Some Good News You Can Use in CNY and Beyond](#)
- October 15 (Citizen): [Winners of Auburn-based entrepreneurs' contest set for national competition](#)
- July 21 (Citizen): [Cayuga County students come out on top of college entrepreneur program](#)

Central Registration Center for New Students

Remote Registration Process for New Students During COVID-19

Online student registration is currently open for new students enrolling in pre-kindergarten through Grade 12 for the 2020-2021 school year. Like many school districts, Auburn Enlarged City School District is adapting to the ever-changing environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Registration Process that will be followed during this time is online.

Please register your students using the enrollment form located at the following link:

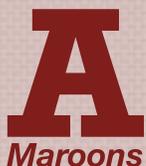
<https://www.familyid.com/programs/auburn-csd-2020-2021-student-registration>



For more information, please contact Tina Brechue, AECSD Central Registration Pre-K through 12th grade

(315) 255-8825 or

TinaBrechue@aecsd.education



GO MAROONS!

For the latest Athletic Updates go to:
www.aecsd.education/athletics

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November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
 <p>1 Daylight Saving Time Ends</p>	 <p>2 School Picture Day @ AJHS</p>	 <p>3 School Picture Day @ AJHS Election Day</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>																																																																																				
 <p>8 National STEM/STEAM Day</p>	<p>9 Community Cafe at Seward 7:00-8:00PM via Zoom</p>	<p>10 Family Technology Night at Seward 6:30-7:30PM via Zoom</p>	 <p>11 Veterans Day NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>12 Family Engagement Night at Casey Park 5:30PM via Zoom</p>	<p>13 K-8 Marking Period 1 Ends</p>	 <p>14</p>																																																																																				
 <p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 7:00PM</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Gettysburg Address Anniversary</p>	<p>20 2 Hr. Early Release for Elementary Junior High Report Cards America Recycles Day</p>	 <p>21</p>																																																																																				
<p>22 American Education Week</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 NO SCHOOL</p>	 <p>26 Thanksgiving Day NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>27 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>28</p>																																																																																				
<p>29 National Native American Heritage Month</p>	 <p>30 Beaver Moon</p>	<p><i>Grateful</i></p>	<p>For updated events please check the online calendar at our new website: www.aecsd.education</p>		<p>October 2020</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>	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	<p>December 2020</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>	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
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Herman, How Does Your Garden Grow?

Third graders at Herman Avenue are exploring “Similarities and Differences between Organisms” using our Smithsonian Science kit. They are examining attributes of different types of “Fast Plants”, ones which grow very quickly. They loved preparing the soil, planting the seeds and watering, but especially loved when they sprouted. Using a magnifying glass, they will categorize the seedlings.

Normally, the students get to plant the garden at Herman for the Summer growth cycles of sunflowers, tomatoes, pumpkins and more. This past Spring did not allow for that so we are hoping to do more planting next March. The plants will not be “Fast Plants” but students will be able to enjoy the veggies and flowers as they grow in the garden.

Jean Zimmer, Third Grade Teacher, Herman Ave.

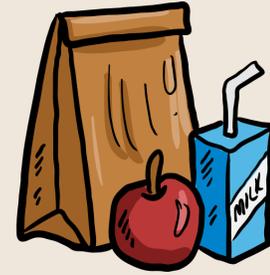


The AECSD Social Workers would like to formally thank the Zonta Club of Auburn for awarding our department with a 2020 Service Grant in the amount of \$500. The grant money will allow us to enhance the quality of services we are able to offer to our students and families at all seven school buildings.



Mr. Whipple, Ms. Carey-Dixon, Mrs. Poole, Mrs. Anthony, Ms. Evans & Ms. Ouderkirk.

FREE Grab-and-Go Breakfast and Lunch For ALL Students!



The Auburn Enlarged City School District is still providing **FREE** breakfasts and lunches for ALL Auburn Enlarged City School District students. Remote learning students will be able to pick up their Grab-and-Go meals between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at Casey Park Elementary School, Genesee Elementary School, or Auburn Junior High School. For students learning in-person, meals will be distributed in each school on the days they attend, and Grab-and-Go meals will be distributed at the end of the school day for the following day(s) for students who wish to take them.

The weekly **Food Box Distribution Program** has now ended. We appreciate that so many families have taken advantage of the food boxes over the last several months, and we thank and appreciate the Food Bank of Central NY and our countless volunteers who have allowed us to provide these food boxes for our families.



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



ATTENTION:

All events and activities are subject to change. Please check the website for the latest updates: www.aecsd.education

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 whereby you can search for Level 2 and Level 3 sex offenders.

#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

SCHOOL TAX INFORMATION

2nd installment due:
December 4, 2020

Last day the collector will accept
taxes is December 4, 2020

Questions about your bill?
Call 315-255-8820
or e-mail:

TessaCrawford@aecsd.education

You can also look up your
bill online at:
www.taxlookup.net

You can pay in person at:
Tompkins Trust Company
186 North St. Auburn, NY

You can mail payments to:
AECSD Tax Collector
P.O. Box 6622
Ithaca, NY 14851



Fall Sports Highlights (Photos by John Miller)



Keep Your Child on Track With Schoolwork

Supporting Children's Learning: Children who are struggling with schoolwork can become frustrated and look for ways to avoid going to school and participating in school. Our goal is to provide them with the support they need so they feel good about learning and good about themselves. Parents and teachers need to work together to help children succeed in school and feel connected. Find out more at:

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.

Auburn Enlarged City School District
Harriet Tubman Administration Building
78 Thornton Avenue
Auburn, NY 13021

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUBURN, NY 13021
PERMIT NUMBER 42
ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER/BOX HOLDER

Updated!



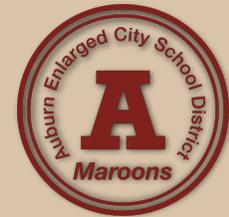
Enhanced STAR Exemption for Senior Citizens

Senior property owners who already have a Basic STAR Exemption on their primary residence may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR Exemption when they are 65. You should apply when you are 64 so that, if you qualify, you may receive the exemption beginning the year that you turn 65. Auburn city residents should contact the Assessor's Office at City Hall on South Street (255-4125). Other Auburn (Aurelius, Throop, Owasco, Sennett, Fleming) and Cayuga County residents should contact their local assessor's office. The deadline for applications for Auburn city residents is February 1. Other Auburn and Cayuga County residents should check with their local assessor.

The Enhanced STAR program for senior citizens provides eligible seniors an exemption from school property taxes for owner-occupied, primary residences. To be eligible for this exemption, a property owner must be 65 years of age or older on December 31, 2021, with income not exceeding \$90,550.

STAR provides qualifying households with up to a \$69,800 exemption on the full value of their property. Qualifying residents owning a home with a full value of \$100,000 would recognize an estimated tax savings of \$1,000+ from the Enhanced STAR for the tax year in which they qualify.

For more information and to check the latest updates go to the NYS STAR Program website: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/star/>



November 2020
DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the
AUBURN ENLARGED CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
www.aecsd.education

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DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
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We Make a Difference!