

the MAROON monthly

AUBURN ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 8

Auburn High School Celebrates Excellence in Education

On March 23, 2021, Auburn High School celebrated the accomplishments of the members of the Class of 2021 whose four-year averages are 95 and higher. At the annual **Excellence in Education Dinner and Award Ceremony**, thirty-six seniors were honored for their commitment to academic excellence. In addition to their outstanding achievements in the classroom, these students also thrive in athletics, music, leadership positions in the school, and participate in many extracurricular clubs and activities. They are role models for all and make us proud everyday!

The students recognized for Excellence in Education in the Class of 2021 are:

Jack Bennink	Marissa Moore
Kathryn Brown	Grace Morgan
Ethan Caputa	Elizabeth Moriarity
Sadie Coleman	Lucy Noble
Allison Crawford	Jane Oliver
Ailish Cuthbert	Chloe Picciano
Raizel Demaria	Luke Picciano
Doray Dilallo	Ivana Pierce
Ella Doan	Peter Prue
Adam Gagnier	Caitlin Rigby
Tony Gao	Natalie Ryan
Gracie Giannettino	Megan Schulz
Jake Hansen	Jenna Sliwka
Thomas Hoskins	Ryan Stewart
Abbie Izzo	Sylvan Taylor
Emma Kennedy	James Vasile
Meghan Mahunik	Shelby Weeks
Hannah Marek	Christopher White

Madison Chambers



Auburn High School Senior, Madison Chambers, is being honored as a “Rising Star” for her non-profit organization “Sports 4 All” (www.sports-for-all.org) by the Central New York Business Journal.



When she was in elementary school, Madison wanted to play a sport but she couldn't because her mom didn't have the money to pay for the participation fee or equipment. When she finally did play softball, she had to wear used cleats that didn't fit correctly. She didn't want other kids to have to go through what she did, so she started “Sports 4 All” which provides cleats, sports equipment, and scholarships to students in need. According to Madison, “I want all children to be able to play a sport they want at a young age and feel good about themselves and confident in their playing skills, without having a financial barrier that prevents them from doing this.”

Madison has created a partnership with the Auburn YMCA, who will be giving her office and storage space, as well as space for a collection box for used equipment. She is in the process of putting together a Board of Directors that includes Anne Mlod, Jeanice Freeman, Laura Pesarchick, ShaeLynn Freeman, and Kelly Grinnell, and will be applying for 501(c)3 non-profit status.

Madison plans to attend Cayuga Community College in the fall. In addition to running her non-profit organization and attending school, Madison also works at Mark's Pizzeria.

This accomplishment during a “normal” year is notable; to have done this during a pandemic is exceptional!

Event Photos Link: <https://www.flickr.com/photo>

AUBURN ATHLETICS . . Winter 2020-21 Team Summary

COVID-19 has impacted both the academic and athletic aspects of school this year. NYS made a late decision allowing high risk winter sports to compete in the 2020-21 Winter season with the permission and guidance of their local County Health Departments. Many sports did not present typical awards due to the shortened Winter season conducted with varying County rules of participation, incomplete schedules due to COVID outbreaks and quarantines, no Section III Tournaments and no NYS Championships.

We are grateful that Auburn student-athletes were able to practice and compete this Winter, and that spectators were allowed to return to the games late in the season. Although it was a unique experience, the opportunities the Auburn District and Coaches offered our student-athletes through athletics this Winter were invaluable.



Boys Basketball: The team finished the season with an overall record of 5-5. Team Captains were Troy Churney, Kevin Dolan, DeSean Strachan and Jordan Wilson. Auburn had several players listed as Section III Stat Leader Boards through March 21, as reported by coaches: DeSean Strachan (Scoring & Steals), Troy Churney (Rebounds & Assists & Blocks & Steals), Jordan Wilson (Assists & Blocks). SCAC All-league honors were earned by: Troy Churney (2nd Team) and DeSean Strachan (3rd Team).



Girls Basketball: The team finished the season with a league record of 5-2, and an overall record of 6-3. Auburn had several players listed as Section III Stat Leader Boards through March 21, as reported by coaches: Leah Middleton (3-point Scoring), Peyton Maneri (Scoring & Assists), Kylie Guarino & Doray DiLallo (Blocks). The Most Valuable Player award was shared by Doray DiLallo and Natalie Calandra-Ryan.



Girls/Boys Bowling: The girls team finished 2-8 in league and 4-10 overall. The boys team finished 7-3 in league and 12-4 overall. Team Captains were Kristen Phillips and James Wilkes. All meets were conducted virtually this season due to restrictions at bowling facilities across the league.



Ice Hockey: Auburn finished the season with an overall record of 3-10-0. Team Captains were Austin Black, Ty Hlywa, Tommy Ventura and Nick Major. Austin Black received the Ganey Award and was also honored with the Christian Lewis Award. The Cameron Award was earned by Tommy Ventura. Mason Jones received the Auburn Hockey award, and Elise Clifford was recognized with the Most Improved Player award. The team proudly qualified to earn the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Award.



Boys Swimming: The Auburn Boys Varsity Swim team finished with an 0-6 league record and 0-8 overall. The team had eight members this season with three seniors and five underclassmen. Team captains were Matthew Whiting and Jefferson Vitale.





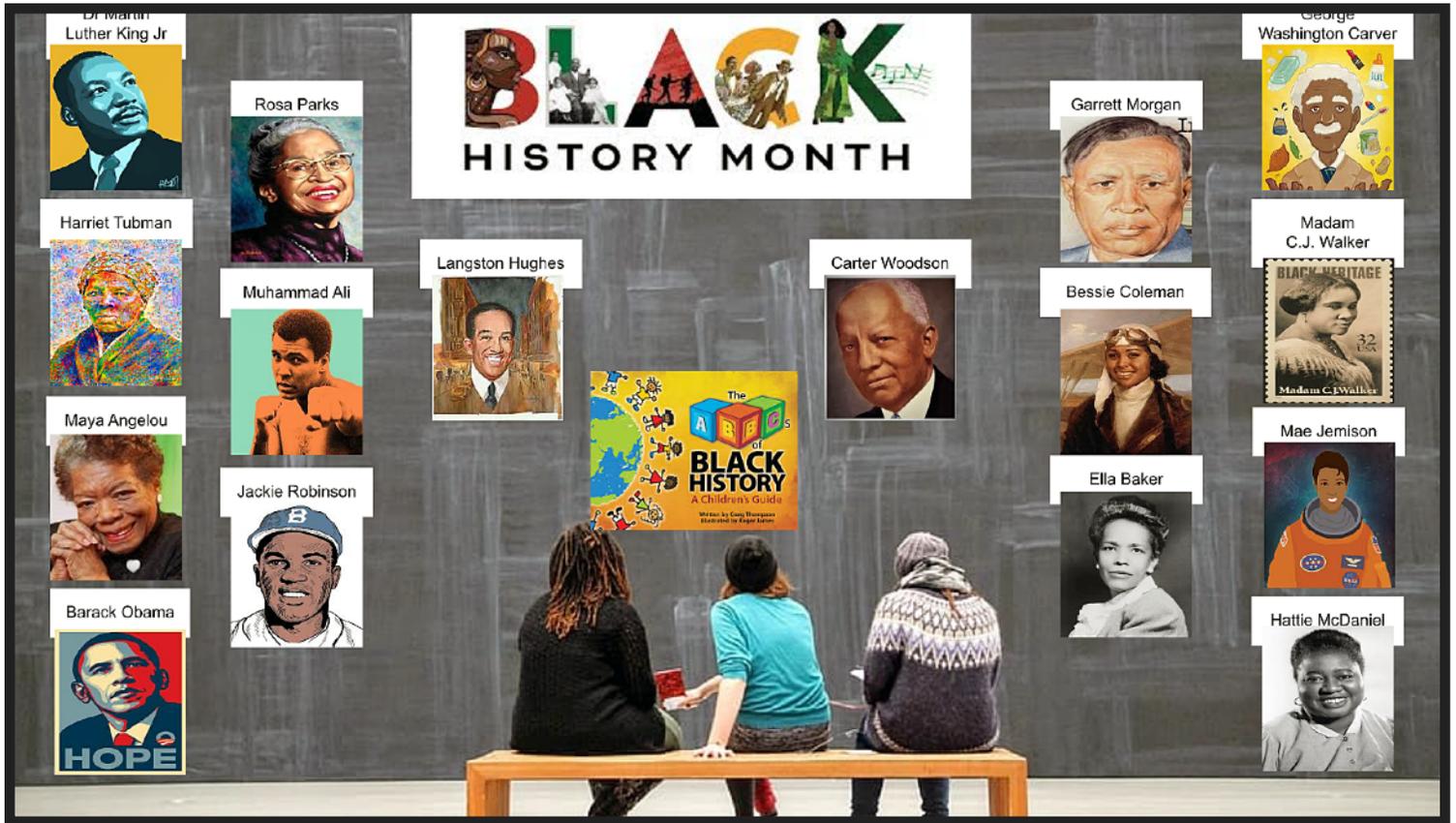
Spirit Days, Zooms, and Popsicles! Casey Park Elementary Celebrates Reading Week

The first week of March brought some reading excitement to Casey Park students and staff. Despite not being able to have a guest author this year, the school decided to celebrate reading in many other fun ways. Spirit days were planned for all five days where students and staff were able to dress and coordinate to five different popular Dr. Seuss books. District administrators recorded themselves reading each of the five books and these stories were shared daily in classrooms. Students were also encouraged to pick up a book and read a minimum of 15 minutes each day, whether in class or at home. As a school, students logged 14,717 minutes and the grade level that recorded the most minutes was treated to popsicles.



Lastly, Casey Park was also fortunate enough to have several community members Zoom into their classrooms to read stories and answer questions that students may have had. Many thanks to the Auburn Fire Department, Auburn Police Department, Cayuga County Sheriff's Department, Dr. Adam Duckett, Kelly Morgan, and Mayor Quill for taking the time to read and chat with students. A fun and entertaining week was had by all!

Meghan Parry, Instructional Literacy Coach, Casey Park Elementary



In recognition of **Black History Month**, students at Owasco Elementary School have been sharing accomplishments of people of color on the morning announcements. Each day students share a brief biography about Black Americans from a variety of fields. Students highlighted Maya Angelou, Kamala Harris, Barack Obama, Jackie Robinson, and Harriet Tubman just to name a few. Owasco Librarian, Christina Lupo, created a Black History Month Reading Room for students. Each bitmoji in the reading room pictured above is tagged to a read aloud so students can learn more about the contributions of all Americans.

National School Nurse Day is Wednesday, May 12th



National School Nurse Day has been an annual recognition since 1972, with the goal of promoting a better understanding of the role of nurses in the educational setting. The National Association of School Nurses defines school nursing as a specialized practice of nursing which “protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success.” Please take time on May 12th to acknowledge and thank your school nurses for all they do. For more information on National School Nurse Day, Safety and Health Week, visit the NASN website at nasn.org Safety & Health Week.

Caren Radell, Nursing Supervisor, Auburn Enlarged City School District



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.

Seward 6th Grade Career Days



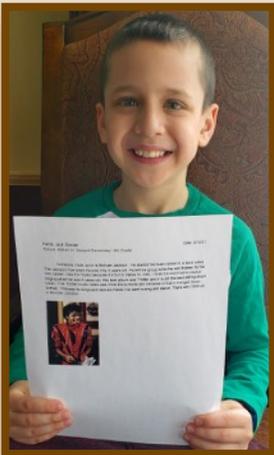
Career Day

A group of sixth grade students at Seward Elementary School completed research on the careers they are interested in as a project for Career Day in Mr. Fitzgerald's classes. As a culminating activity, Mrs. Jackson setup Zoom meetings over the course of two days with local individuals including a lawyer, water filtration plant worker, city project manager, restaurant manager, owner of a plumbing company, police officer, and a corrections officer. Each participant discussed the education

required for their respective position; the pathway they took in securing their current role; the responsibilities that lie with their chosen career; the positive and challenging portions of their position; and the average salaries for individuals in their position from a starting salary to veteran status.

In reflection, the students noticed that most of the careers often worked collaboratively with each other in some way. Some of the common attributes of each career include being able to think quick on your feet and having strong speaking and listening skills. Each of the participants shared that you can have a fulfilling career if you pursue something you truly have a passion for and enjoy doing. The group of students and teachers thank all the presenters for taking the time out of their busy schedules to share their careers and respond to questions posed by the students to assist them in better understanding their careers!

TOPS Black History Month Essay Contest Winners



Jack Slywiak, 4th Grade
William H. Seward Elementary

Someone I look up to is Michael Jackson. He started his music career in a band called The Jackson Five when he was only 5 years old. He left the group when he was thirteen for his solo career. I like his music because it is fun to dance to. Also, I think it is cool that he started singing when he was 5 years old. His best album was Thriller and it is still the best selling album today. The Thriller music video was more like a movie and because of that it changed music forever. The way he sings and dances makes me want to sing and dance. That's why I look up to Michael Jackson.



Jaden Jones, 5th Grade, Genesee Elementary

The person in my life that has made a difference is Kizzy Mitchell. She is a staff member at a community center here in Auburn New York, called Booker T. Washington. I have known Mrs. Kizzy since I was 6 or 7 years old. I go to the community center during the summer and during the school year. She is a person who thinks of everyone. She has helped me with problems, my school work, and she has also told me when I'm not being my best self. She always has a smile on her face and she knows my family by name. The Booker T. Washington program and Mrs. Kizzy do so much for the kids and families in my town. My Mom would not be able to work if Mrs. Kizzy and the BTW program weren't there for my family. Mrs. Kizzy is a very nice, caring, and fair person.



Cameron Jones, 4th Grade, Genesee Elementary

Hi my name is Cameron Jones and the one African American person who has made the biggest difference in my life is Darnell Murphy, or Mr. Darney. Mr. Darney works for Booker T. Washington in Auburn NY. He makes sure I do all my school work when I am at program. He doesn't let me get away with not doing it. I look up to him also because he makes me a stronger person. He talks to me when I start messing around or goofing off. He knows my family very well and is nice to everyone. He's just a fun person to be around. He also has helped me be better at basketball. Mr. Darney helps a lot of kids at BTW not just me.



Now Accepting Registrations for 2021-2022

- Do you reside in the Auburn Enlarged City School District (AECSD)?
- Will your child be five years old on or before December 1, 2021?

★ ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR NEW STUDENTS

Online student registration is currently open for new students enrolling in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 for the 2021-22 school year. Please visit our district website at www.aecsd.education and click on the appropriate link to register your child now! Registrations are also being accepted in person at the Harriet Tubman Administrative Offices, 78 Thornton Ave. Kindergarten packets can be picked up at the Administrative Offices or at any of the five elementary schools.



Genesee Elementary

244 Genesee Street (315) 255-8678

Casey Park Elementary

101 Pulaski Street (315) 255-8798

Herman Avenue Elementary

2 North Herman Avenue (315) 255-8718

Seward Elementary

52 Metcalf Drive (315) 255-8638

Owasco Elementary

66 Letchworth Street (315) 255-8721

★ We will not have a formal Kindergarten registration like we typically do in each building this spring due to COVID-19.

★ Questions?

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



NOW OPEN!

Open Enrollment for Auburn Enlarged City School District's 2021-2022 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 1st, 2021 and are available at **no cost** for eligible children.

A list of our Universal Pre-Kindergarten program locations (sites) below 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 welcome and encouraged to visit any of these participating sites before completing your child's registration. 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.	3PK and UPK	Full-day	315-255-0233
E. John Gavras Center – 182 North St.	3PK and UPK	Full-day	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*

Parents/guardians can register their child online and upload the supporting documentation.

Please register your student using the online enrollment form located at the link on the Auburn Enlarged City School District website www.AECSD.education under Student Registration or <https://www.familyid.com/auburn-csd-student-registration-programs/auburn-csd-2021-2022-upk-registration>

Parents/guardians who prefer to submit their student's registration in person may also pick up a 2021-2022 registration packet at any of the UPK sites listed above and also at any Auburn Elementary School or our Administrative Offices. **Completed applications should be submitted to your child's current Pre-Kindergarten site or to the Harriet Tubman Administrative Offices at 78 Thornton Ave.**

Need more information about the 2021-2022 Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program?
Please contact Tina Brechue at 315-255-8825 or Michelle Kolceski at 315-255-8613.





Entertainment at the Aquarium

By Sophia Currier

Watching two otters wrestle.

They played like two players in a football game.

Amazing aquarium fun.

Hearing the whistling wind whip around my body.

It whistled like a big train leaving the station.

Amazing aquarium fun.

The dolphins smooth skin skimmed my fingers

The smooth skin felt like touching flat glass on a window.

Amazing aquarium fun.

Smelling the salty chlorine as soon as I entered the building.

It had a salty odor like the pools at the YMCA.

Amazing aquarium fun.

Seward Fourth Grade Poetry

The fourth grade classes at Seward were excited to start poetry, the focus of their new CKLA ELA unit this month. They really love how poetry offers a new way of thinking about texts and encourages children to express themselves and their feelings through creative application. As students have been looking at a variety of poetry types from a variety of time periods and poets, they have cultivated their understanding of figurative language. This multi-dimensional look at poems has sparked much imagination and creativity as they work to be poets themselves! The real fun was mixing sports with learning when we decided to have our own March Madness poetry tournament this year to analyze poems and look for their elements. It allowed for students to compete in a unique way. Mrs. Vitale and Mrs. Weaver initiated the project by picking a "Sweet 16" of poems and they set the rules on scoring points. The rules included 10 ways in which a poem could score points. For example, if the poem had alliteration, similes, metaphors, 2 or more stanzas, etc, it would score one point for each element it had.



Once the poems and brackets were established, each 4th grade homeroom analyzed and scored different poems to see which would advance to the next round. With each round students were able to build fluency with reading poems, assess their understanding of poetry elements and engage in friendly competition. It was wonderful to see children get excited and cheer on poems as well as hear them discuss poems like a true fan, by talking about what the author could have added to the poem to get more points. The students are anxiously awaiting to see which poem wins the championship round.

Simile Self Portrait

By Cian Dorsey

My hair is as crazy as a rollercoaster

My eyes are hazel like a silver snake

My nose is as long as a stick

My mouth is as wide as a hole

My face is as cool as a cold day

My hands are as small as a mouse

My body is as tall as 1 and a half meters.



#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



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.

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	For updated events please check the online calendar at our website: www.aecsd.education		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	1 NO SCHOOL Spring Break April Fool's Day	2 NO SCHOOL Spring Break Good Friday	3 
4  Easter Sunday	5 School Resumes National Library Week	6	7 World Health Day	8	9	10 
11 NEW	12	13 <i>Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 7:00PM</i>	14 National PTA Founders Day	15	16	17
18 National Volunteer Week	19 4 Day Hybrid Model starts today	20 FIRST	21 Administrative Professional's Day	22 Take Your Child to Work Day 	23  JHS Report Cards	24
25	26 FULL Pink Moon	27 <i>Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 7:00PM</i>	28	29 International Dance Day	30  Elementary Report Cards National Arbor Day	May 2021 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

Looking for past issues: [Maroon Monthly Newsletters](#)

Download & Print: [April Calendar Page](#)



Important STAR Tax INFORMATION

Again, this year, Governor Cuomo has included in his budget proposal various School Tax Relief (STAR) Program Actions. He is requiring those who have not yet switched over from the STAR exemption (reduction directly taken off the school tax bill) to the STAR Tax Relief check (credit), to do so by May 1, 2021 in order to receive the check in time for your school tax bill. If the change

to the credit is not made by the deadline, the exemption will still be received for the current year but any difference generated by the credit will be issued as a check. The current deadline is June 15, 2021.

Why should you switch to the STAR credit? In 2019, New York State announced that the value of the STAR exemption will no longer increase, yet, the STAR Tax Relief check may increase by as much as 2% each year and never be less than the amount received from the exemption. If you currently receive your STAR benefit as a reduction on your school tax bill (the STAR exemption), you may receive a greater benefit if you switch to the STAR credit to receive a check instead. Therefore, by making the switch you could receive a greater benefit.

To see what the savings could be for your home, take a look at your 2019-2020 school tax bill to see what your STAR savings was and then multiply that by 1.02. For example, if your savings was \$800 in 2019-2020 then next year your STAR credit could be \$816, an additional savings of \$16. Yet if you continue with receiving the exemption it will remain the same, year after year.

To make this switch, please visit the New York State Department of Taxation website at: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/default.htm#switch> and follow the directions to get registered.

Reading Rally Week at Casey Park



Kindergarten students enjoyed the book, *A Day With No Crayons*, read by Police Chief Shawn Butler. Chief Butler's Mr. Potato Head dressed in police gear was a big hit with the children!

Later in the day, Officer Flickner delivered a surprise from Chief Butler - coloring books, pencils, and bracelets from the Auburn Police Department! Reading Rally Week was awesome! Thanks to all of our guest readers from the Auburn Community!

*Colleen Miles, Ed. D., Kindergarten Teacher,
Casey Park Elementary School*

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.**

**SEE SOMETHING
DO SOMETHING**
Submit your reports anonymously

- report bullying or cyberbullying
- help your friends
- report depression
- be assertive
- report drug or alcohol use
- report threats against schools
- report strange behavior

Anonymous Alerts!

The school district is pleased to partner 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

National Library Week is April 4-10th

Auburn Enlarged City School District Librarians:

Casey Park - Ms. Penelope Pitman ([Casey Park Library Link](#))

Genesee - Mrs. Anne Mlod ([Genesee Library Link](#))

Herman Ave - Mrs. Michelle Crosby ([Herman Ave Library Link](#))

Owasco - Mrs. Christina Lupo ([Owasco Library Link](#))

Seward - Mrs. Elizabeth Cuddy ([Seward Library Link](#))

Auburn Jr. High - Mrs. Marcella Didio ([AJHS Library Link](#))

Auburn High - Ms. Victoria Calarco ([AHS Library Link](#))

The Power of the SCHOOL Librarian



TEACHER-LIBRARIAN LEARNING EXPERIENCE

70%-100%

of students met or exceeded the highest expectations for a learning experience co-taught by the classroom teacher and teacher-librarian.

Cohen, Stephanie, Ivey Paitros, Khalia Mickens, and Anushka Shirali. Roles of the School Librarian: Empowering Student Learning and Success. Northeast Comprehensive Center, 2019.



STRONG LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Data from more than **34 statewide studies** suggest that students tend to earn better standardized test scores in schools that have strong library programs.

Carry, Keith, Lance and Debra E. Kachel. Why School Librarians Matter: What Years of Research Tell Us. Phi Delta Kappan, March 26, 2018.



HIGHER WRITING PERFORMANCE

Elementary schools that spend more on their libraries average almost **10% higher writing performance**, and middle schools that invest more in their libraries average almost **13% higher writing levels**.

Kachel, Debra E. and Graduate Students of LSC 5530 School Library Advocacy. School Library & Information Technologies Department. School Library Research Summarized: A Graduate Class Project. Miami University, 2011.



LIBRARIANS GIVE THE BEST IDEAS

40% of students ages 9-11, **30%** of those ages 12-14, and **19%** of ages 14-16 say that the school librarian gives them the best ideas about books to read for fun.

Krusler, Stephen. Why School Librarians Matter. Shirashan.blogspot, April 17, 2017.



ABOVE AVERAGE STUDENT SCORES

2x as many schools with above average scores had full-time media specialists. One study showed **68% schools with above average student scores** on the Grade 3, 5, and 8 reading tests had a full-time media specialist.

Schools with Above Average Reading Scores Frequently Have Full-Time Media Specialists. America Library Association.



STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS

More than **60** education and library research studies have produced clear evidence that school library programs staffed by qualified school librarians have a positive impact on student academic success.

School Librarians Make the Difference. [lovebrarics.org](#), 2014



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AJHS: @auburn_jrhigh
Casey: @auburn_casey
Genesee: @auburn_genesee
Herman: @auburn_herman
Owasco: @auburn_owasco
Seward: @auburn_seward



April 2021

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

www.aecsd.education

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