



the **MAROON** *monthly*

AUBURN ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 4

Auburn High School Announces Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2021



Jake Hansen
Valedictorian Class of 2021

Jake Hansen, son of Thomas and Dawn Hansen, has earned the distinction of **Valedictorian of the Auburn High School Class of 2021**. Jake is a member of the National Honor Society and several other clubs including the Chemistry Club, Varsity Club, French Club and the History Club. He is also a member of the Auburn High School golf and baseball teams and has spent many hours volunteering in the community for organizations such as the Red Cross and Majorpalooza. Among the many challenging courses Jake has successfully completed at Auburn High School are the Project Lead the Way Biomedical Science courses, which have helped cultivate his desire to pursue a career in the medical field.

Kathryn Brown, daughter of Jeffrey and Melissa Brown, has earned the distinction of **Salutatorian of the Auburn High School Class of 2021**. Kathryn is a member of the National Honor Society and several other clubs including the Z-Club, Model UN, the Chemistry Club and the History Club. She is also an accomplished athlete as a member of the Auburn High School girls' tennis program having earned honors as a tennis All-Star and as captain of the division and league champion girls' tennis team. Outside of school Kathryn is an active volunteer for multiple organizations including Y-Pals and the Kiwanis Club. Kathryn plans to pursue a career in the accounting field.

Both Jake and Kathryn carry a weighted cumulative GPA over 101. They are leaders in the classroom and in the community-at-large and their determination to succeed extends far beyond academics. The Auburn High School community is proud to recognize Jake Hansen and Kathryn Brown as the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the Class of 2021.



Kathryn Brown
Salutatorian Class of 2021



**Auburn High School
Scholarship Night
Thursday, December 17
Virtual Event from
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

Z-Club Revamps Casey Park Courtyard

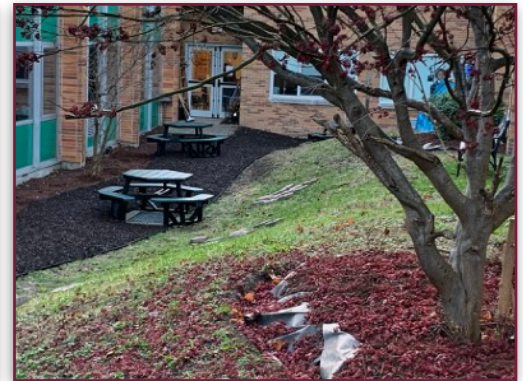
Every school year, Z-Club embarks on three major service projects. One of those projects includes a school service project, which must benefit one of the local schools in the area. In the fall of 2019, Z-Club members unanimously voted “yes” to the complete overhauling of the overgrown interior courtyard at Casey Park school. A couple of years ago, the club reached out to all of the elementary schools’ principals and inquired about ways they could help the children and the schools. Mrs. Garback, principal of Casey Park suggested the courtyard and she put the club in touch with a teacher at the school (Ms. Dellostritto). This is how an idea began and evolved into something a lot bigger.

Z-Club is a service-oriented club that is affiliated with the local Auburn Zonta Club. Students in this club are taught to network and work with local professionals on meaningful projects that make an impact on the local and international communities. When the Casey Park Courtyard renovation project began, Z-Club members partnered up with Ms. Dellostritto and put out surveys to staff and students to get their input on what they would like to see happen with that area. The club sorted out the surveys and enjoyed seeing possibilities for the area. The next step was to partner up with an architect to conceptualize the vision the club had for the courtyard, taking into consideration the needs and wants of the teachers and children.

Z-club has worked with professionals at Beardsley Design on past projects. Another one of their local architects volunteered to help students put together a plan that would work for the landscape. Larry Liberatore was the architect who graciously volunteered his time and resources to meet with students regularly, taking trips to survey the area, and draw a final design of the courtyard. An ad hoc Z-Club committee was created and they worked through the early winter months planning for this project. Z-members decided to create an area where teachers could hold outdoor classes and students could participate in plantings so they could watch things grow.

A big project needs resources to make it happen. The Z-Club Advisor applied for a grant from the Auburn Education Foundation and reached out to the Auburn Beautification Commission for supplies to complete the project. The pandemic hit and the project stalled but it was far from forgotten. Once school began in the fall 2020, former Z-Club alumni and local landscaper, Jacob Coleman, took initiative to prep the landscape so the project could begin before the cold weather set in. He was a loyal member of Z-Club for many of his high school years and he was happy to give back to the club and serve as a mentor to younger Z-Members. Jake volunteered his time weekly to clear brush, debris, and smooth out rocky areas. He paved the way for Z-Club to move in and help lay the groundwork for the rest of the project.

Over the span of a few weekends, Z-Club members made massive strides transforming this overgrown, unusable area, into a neat, welcoming area where students can play, eat outside on new tables and benches, and a place where teachers can bring students outside and conduct outdoor activities/ classes. There will be raised galvanized steel planters that will be available to students for plantings in the spring and some flowers will be planted in the area later in 2021. The new area is a welcomed addition to the school, especially during this unprecedented school year. Changing times call for renewed visions of underutilized spaces, as well as creating new avenues to expand student learning.



The Casey Park Courtyard project was a massive undertaking that could not have happened without the collaboration and teamwork of multiple people and entities. Thanks to the Auburn Education Foundation for the grant that allowed for the purchase of the tables & benches, galvanized steel planters, and potting soil. Thank you to the Auburn Beautification Commission for supplying the topsoil, mulch, and rubber nuggets so we could provide a safe environment for the children and beautify the area. Most of all, thank you to the group effort it took to make it all happen and partners who came together and did not give up on this project, especially Z-Club members, Z-Club alumni Jake Coleman (mentor to students), Sarah Dibble (colleague & ABC member), Joe Sarnicola (ABC), Larry Liberatore (Beardsley), Mike Ianiri (Casey Park custodian who helped with coordination), Mike Liccion (use of power tools), and Eric Francisco (AECSD Facilities Director)- for lending us use of equipment. Thank you to two local businesses for providing us with hot food for dinner and hot drinks & donuts for breakfast while we worked .

Z-Club is a high school club that allows students to work on and engage in meaningful projects that allow them to network with professionals and learn real life skills that will benefit them for years to come. In this project alone, students were taught to plan, organize, draw & sketch a design, problem-solve, collaborate, work together, landscape, use power tools (to assemble tables & benches), analyze surveys, critically think, learn about architecture & design, and so much more. Most importantly, students got to witness first-hand the giving community that we live in and the meaning of teamwork and perseverance. They learned the power of interdependence. Within Z-Club there is a sense of community that is fostered early on and members feel a strong sense of belonging. After graduation, Z-Club alumni return as mentors and some of them move on to join the Zonta Club of Auburn to continue to give back to the community. We are looking forward to this growing trend continuing for many more years and developing the full potential of our future leaders!

By Julie Liccion, Z-Club Advisor, CTE/ FACS Instructor

Remote Academy News

Education Moves Closer to Home

By Jonathan Roberts, Principal, Remote Academy

As we continue to navigate through these uncharted waters deemed “remote learning”, we find that there needs to be more of a connection between school and home than ever before. In these unprecedented times, families are also seeking more ways to connect with teachers. Education is at the crossroads of instructional dependency. Moving closer towards that dependency, the teacher is needed more now than ever in order to help navigate through the curriculum to allow all students the access to be successful in such an isolated model. The shared message, however, remains consistent among all; education is imperative.

The teachers and families of the Remote Academy have pushed through the obstacles only to work together in order to remove more obstacles. For the younger grades, parents and guardians of students in the Remote Academy are learning right along with their children. Google Classroom, Happy Numbers, CKLA and SuperKids, among others, are now household names and not just platforms teachers use to deliver instruction. Parents are navigating through logins and Zoom settings in order to help bring the classroom into their living rooms. Older students in the Academy are learning more of a sense of independence as they work through their curriculum. Some are finding the platform more helpful in order to work at their own pace. Students are taking initiative to connect with their teacher on the different platforms available.

Parent teacher conferences are not just twice per year. In order to bring clarity, parent teacher conferences are happening once or twice per day. The remote platform allows parents to connect more frequently in order to act as the liaison for their child. Connections between home and school are happening daily. Teachers are connecting with students through Zoom during their ELA, math, social studies, science and ELT times, along with weekly connection with special area teachers. Additionally, teachers hold morning meetings to discuss the objectives of the day and help guide the students through their routine. Teachers are also available twice per day as they make themselves accessible for morning and afternoon office hours. With these routines in place, we have seen the necessity for additional structure built into the day. It is reassuring to know that the academic crossroad will not be traveled alone in this unfamiliar direction.

Additionally, teachers, administrators and school social workers are making daily home visits in order to help troubleshoot technology issues or bring support to families. Teachers are delivering needed consumable materials so students can have a sense of normality in their day. Virtual classrooms and lockers are created so students have a school environment from the edge of their couch. Teachers have made visits to help the student and parent navigate through the “virtual” classrooms.

The pendulum is also swinging toward more collaboration than ever between teachers and their colleagues as they support one another. Without walls to divide them, teachers meet weekly and collaborate daily to help bring the best remote practices to their students. Moreover, the school district is providing more and more professional development to help teachers wade through the technology waters. Hardware and applications have been distributed and maintained for staff and students by our IT department led by Thomas Bunn. In order to bring a one-to-one ratio of devices to students was a major task and continues to be a vital one.

Celebrations are occurring all of the time in the remote world. Students are connecting before and after meetings. When engaged, students are connecting socially with guidance through Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons as well as academic conversations allowing for the extension of knowledge. Students are able to showcase themselves and their projects at their level of comfort. Programs such as Flipgrid give students the confidence to present content or share family histories. The platform allows for more students to gain confidence during presentations rather than presenting to a LIVE classroom. More doors are open for students as they are able to practice their presentation multiple times giving them a better understanding of the content.

Education during the COVID-19 Global Pandemic has not been an easy undertaking for all participants; however, the connections families are making with their teachers and their child(ren)'s academics have been inspirational. As the Remote Academy, we are proud of this community and all of the efforts being made to bring distance learning closer to home.

Featured Student Work - Veterans Day

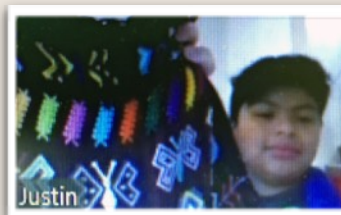


*Carter Walters
from Casey
Park with his
Veterans Day
flag activity!*



Text-to-Self Connection

By Jackie Aversa



“Reading comes alive when we recognize how the ideas in a text connect to our experiences.” In fifth grade we are currently analyzing *The Early American Civilizations*. Justin Gomez Hemingway gave a mini Zoom lesson on the Mayan Culture. Justin is a descendant of the Mayans. He has visited many of the locations that we explored on Google Earth. We benefited from his text-to-self presentation.

Picture: Justin's blanket from Guatemala



Mrs. Pesarchick's Fifth grade class at Herman Ave. earned a "Hat Day" for reaching the Food Drive Goal.

Students at Herman Ave collected canned goods for the Rescue Mission in November.

They surpassed the goal of 100, by collecting 321! Students could wear hats to school on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving break as a celebration of exceeding the goal!

Megan Gremli, Kindergarten Teacher

An Act of Kindness and Compassion

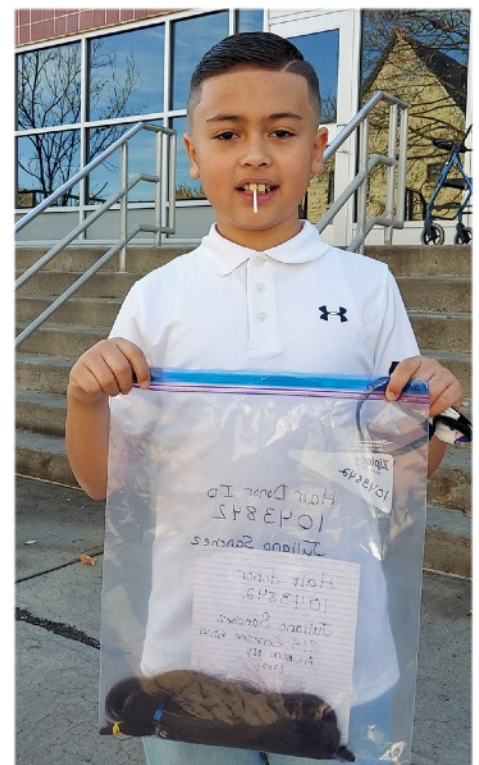


Juliano Sanchez has shown an act of kindness that would melt anyone's heart. Juliano, a 4th grade student at Casey Park, started to grow out his hair in 2017 in hopes that someday it would be long enough to cut and send it to Wigs for Kids. He set a goal and he was determined to stick with it.

This week he finally got his first hair cut in a very long time because his hair was long enough to donate - 14 inches.

He then went to the post office and paid to have his hair shipped to the Wigs for Kids organization. Here he is with his fresh new haircut and paying to send the hair out. He plans on growing his hair, so he can donate to kids again!

<https://www.wigsforkids.org>





Seasonal Events Planned at Genesee Elementary

As in previous years, skilled knitters in Auburn, including RSVP volunteers, created a hat, scarf and mittens for each student at Genesee.

Genesee families will be getting a letter informing them about the annual "Reindeer Sale" that will take place the week of December 7th. Check

the parent portal
www.auburnparentportal.org
for more information.



Students Learn About and With the World!

Anne Mlod & Jessica Rice



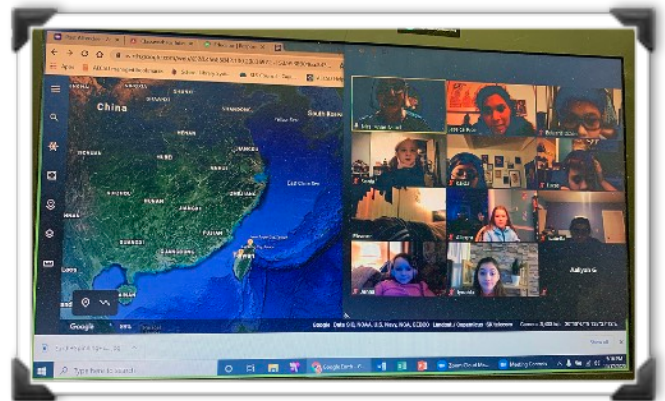
Genesee Librarian Anne Mlod and Herman Art Educator Jessica Rice have joined forces to offer a multi-age International Club that meets every Tuesday after school via

The students' first project is a Global Holiday Card Exchange with students from Taiwan, Moldova, Russia, and Belarus.

Auburn students created a video describing what makes Auburn special to share with the students in the other countries.

All of the students are creating holiday cards and writing about holiday traditions in their family.

We are excited to see the cards made by the students in our partner schools.



We're also looking forward to a videoconference in January so we can talk to the students who created the cards for us.

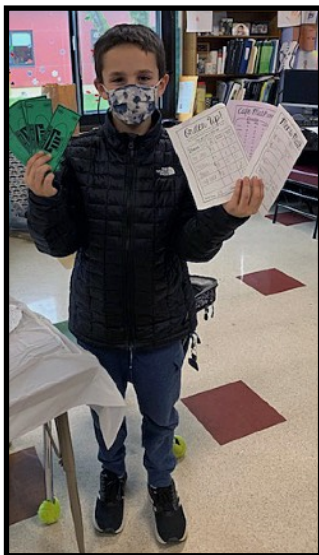
A Special Veterans Day at Casey Park



Jamie Edwards, a 2014 Auburn High School graduate, collaborated with Mrs. Kustyn's and Mrs. DelloStritto's classes for a Veterans Day Special. He met with students through a ZOOM meeting to discuss his education and current job in the Military. He is currently employed by the Air National Guard in the Cyber Transport Systems field as a Network Technician and works with remote drones.

Kiley Kustyn, Second Grade Teacher, Casey Park Elementary

Room Transformation Math Fun at Seward



Mrs. Kott's fourth grade class has wrapped up a multiplication unit with an engaging lesson where their classroom was transformed into a café. Students worked in pairs to respond to multiplication word problems disguised as candy wrappers, and they then had the opportunity to construct their own word problems. Mrs. Kott simulated a café style atmosphere complete with costumes where the students selected items from the menu to construct a problem and solve. Mrs. Kott incorporated this math review lesson with a treat for the students who earned many compliments.



The Importance of SRO's in our Schools



School Resource Officer Morgan Flickner joined many of Owasco's library classes this month to share a story and learn about the role of an SRO in our building. Students learned that Officer Flickner is in the building to help keep us safe and give them another adult to turn to if they need one. The students had many questions for Officer Flickner about being a police officer. They also learned that officer Flickner has some great dance moves and can sound just like a police siren. Thank you Officer Flickner for keeping us safe and showing us how approachable our SRO's are.

Christina Lupo, Owasco Librarian

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

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December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 For updated events please check the online calendar at our website: www.aecsd.education	1 School Picture Retake Day: Seward World AIDS Day	2 School Picture Retake Day: Seward School Picture Retake Day: Herman	3 School Picture Retake Day: Herman	 4 Elementary Report Cards	5
6 	7 School Picture Retake Day: Casey Park Group 1 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 School Picture Retake Day: Casey Park Group 2 Human Rights Day	9	10  Hanukkah (Begins at Sunset)	11 School Picture Day AHS Remote Students HS End Marking Period 2	12 
13 	14 School Picture Retake Day: AJHS	15 School Picture Retake Day: AJHS & AHS Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 7:00PM Bill of Rights Day	16 School Picture Retake Day: AHS	17 AHS Scholarship Night Virtual Event 6:00PM - 8:00PM	18  HS Report Cards	19
20 	21  First Day of Winter	22	23 Holiday Parties GO HOME EARLY DRILL (Students Released 15 Minutes Early)	24 NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess Christmas Eve	25  NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa
27	28 NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess	29  NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess Cold Moon	30 NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess	31 NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess New Year's Eve	<div> November 2020 <div> 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 </div> </div> <div> January 2021 <div> S M T W T F S 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 17 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 31 </div> </div>	

Grade 1 Students Engineering with Water

On Monday, November 23 and Tuesday, November 24 the grade 1 students at Seward Elementary School participated in a virtual field trip hosted by the Ithaca Science Center. The topic of the field trip was engineering with water. The students were provided an interactive setting where they responded to question prompts by the facilitators and were given materials to simulate how water travels. The students were fully engaged throughout their sessions!





Message from the Facilities Director

We owe the smooth start to this pandemic school year to the hard work of the men and women of our Facilities Department.

We know we are not operating under normal circumstances - our reopening was rife with challenges we've never encountered before. The word "outstanding" cannot fully describe the hard work and innovation that our Custodial, Warehouse, Grounds, and Maintenance Department employed in the effort to get our school buildings open for the new school year, sports fields ready, and buildings set up for social distancing so that we could welcome our students and staff back to safe and sanitized environments. The word "spectacular" is a more apt description! I would personally like to applaud all of the members of our district's Facilities Department and thank them for going above and beyond each and every day!

It has not been easy by any means for AECSD's faculty and staff during this pandemic, and I wanted to let everyone know that all the effort you've put forth is greatly appreciated and recognized. Keep up the great work and thank you for all you do every day to keep each other and our students safe!

Eric L. Francisco
Director of Facilities

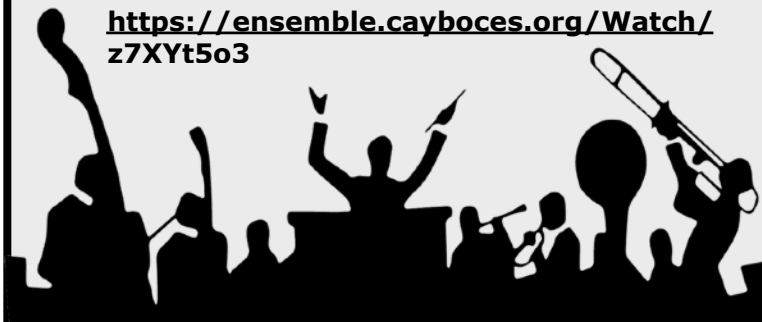
Music VIDEOS

Herman Avenue December Concert from Home: A Showcase of Talent:

<https://ensemble.cayboces.org/Watch/Tw36DbFo>

Seward School December Concert from Home: A Showcase of Talent:

<https://ensemble.cayboces.org/Watch/z7XYt5o3>



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.

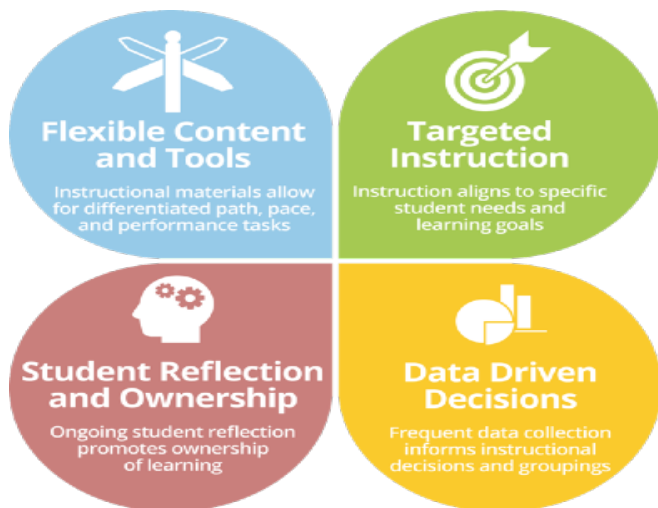
To send a report online:

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

PL Education Foundation Grant

Auburn Enlarged City School District has received a \$25,000 grant from the **Auburn Education Foundation** to support our **Personalized Learning Teacher Fellowship**. The Personalized Learning Fellowship supports Auburn ECSD teacher leaders with deepening their understanding of the Core Four Elements of Personalized Learning and implementing these elements in their classrooms. The Core Four are:



Throughout the fellowship, participants will build off of the best practices they are already implementing to design an experience for students that is centered around their strengths, needs, and interests. Fellows will further develop their skills and learn strategies to help them be champions of personalized learning across Auburn ECSD.

The PL Fellowship Competencies are:



NURTURE TRUST: Builds deep relationships and creates a psychologically safe environment that encourages vulnerability, risk-taking, and feedback.



KNOW YOURSELF: Understands how personal experiences, values, and strengths impact leadership philosophy, practices, and interactions.



CULTIVATE CURIOSITY: Seeks out and models way for self and others to constantly ask questions, learn, and share.



LISTEN DEEPLY: Asks questions and listens to learn, empathize, reflect, and illuminate insights.

The grant from the **Auburn Education Foundation** will allow the district to support teachers in their work by providing personalized learning materials and resources, family engagement materials to allow the work to continue remotely with students and additional technology to support flexible content, collaboration and ownership of learning. The district is very fortunate to have received this funding to be able to provide more support to our teachers who are dedicated to this work!



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

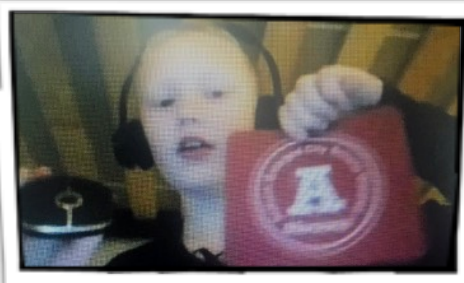
Check out #EveryStudentPresentAECSD on social media.



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.

Tech Bundles!



Each Elementary school hosted a Virtual Parent Engagement with Technology being the focus during the month of November. Families who participated and completed the survey at the end received a Tech Bundle. Below is the response

received from a student in Mrs. DelloStritto's 4th grade classroom: "I feel like a tech genius and a hacker. This stuff is amazing. This mouse is so helpful and it's like a teacher's." He was so excited to join Morning meeting and share his excitement with his teacher and the class. Needless to say, the Tech Bundles were a huge hit. Thanks to all who participated in these great Parent Engagement nights.

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**



**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.

A GO MAROONS!
Check the latest
Athletic Updates:
www.aecsd.education/

#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

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/>



December 2020
DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

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We Make a Difference!