

the MAROON monthly



AUBURN ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 4

Weather Reminder for Families

Dear Auburn Families,

As we move into the colder months, we would like to remind everyone that weather conditions in Central New York can change rapidly and sometimes without much notice. The Auburn Enlarged City School District covers more than 37 square miles, including both city streets and rural roads. While conditions may appear safe in one part of the district, other areas can experience snow, ice, or drifting that make travel unsafe.

Our top priority is always the safety of our students and staff. Decisions about delays or school closures are made with careful consideration of road conditions across the entire district.

If a **weather-related delay or cancellation** is necessary, notifications will be shared as soon as possible through the following official district communication channels:

- ◆ **District Website:** www.aecsd.education
- ◆ **District Facebook Page:** Auburn Enlarged City School District
- ◆ **ParentSquare:** Direct notifications will be sent to all registered users

Please note that while local news stations such as **CNY Central** and **Channel 9** are also notified, there may be a delay before they post the information. For the most accurate and timely updates, please check the district website, Facebook page, or ParentSquare first.

We appreciate your continued patience and understanding as we navigate the unpredictable weather in Central New York together. Please **ensure your contact information is up to date** in ParentSquare so that you receive notifications promptly.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep all students safe.

Sincerely,

Auburn Enlarged City School District

Class of '26 Valedictorian



Madeline Wolfgang and Andrew Bennett

Madeline Wolfgang was a fifth grader at Herman Avenue Elementary School when Auburn High School Class of 2019 Valedictorian Zachary Moore visited her classroom.

Moore's visit inspired her to believe that maybe, one day, she too could be valedictorian. Seven years later, Wolfgang has achieved that goal – she has been named Auburn High School's valedictorian for the Class of 2026, with Andrew Bennett earning salutatorian honors. "I was incredibly excited (when she was told), this is a huge honor, and it's been something I've been working towards for years," Wolfgang said. "I remember in fifth grade when the valedictorian came to our classroom. That's when I really wanted to be able to be in that position, so from that moment on, this was a goal."

"Madeline is brilliant," said Auburn High School Principal Brian Morgan. "She puts forth tremendous effort in pursuit of her academic goals and is motivated to get the most she can out of her classroom experiences."

Wolfgang said she plans to attend college on a pre-med track, studying biology or a similar major. Her top three college choices are Cornell, Johns Hopkins, and Boston College. She's involved in multiple school activities, including the National Honor Society, the SADD Club, Z Club, and plays clarinet. She played varsity soccer and participated in a state athletic association leadership conference last spring.

"I was proud to hear that she was selected (for the conference), because, on top of what we see in soccer, she is also a top student," said Karen Foos, Maroons girls' varsity soccer coach. "It shows that she is a well-rounded student athlete and deserves to be recognized."

Bennett expressed his happiness with being named salutatorian.

"I was pretty excited," he said. "I was a little disappointed not to be No. 1, but overall, I was very happy with where I stood. It is a big accomplishment. I'm really proud of myself for the work I put in."

Bennett, a member of the National Honor Society, is involved in multiple activities, including History Club, Newspaper Club, and Literary Magazine Club. He's a player on the soccer, swimming, and track and field teams. He's earned the rank of Eagle Scout as a Boy Scout and is a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster.

Bennett plans to study civil or environmental engineering in college. His top choices are Georgia Tech, MIT, and Cornell.

"Andrew is incredibly well-rounded," Morgan said. "He is a gifted student with an outgoing personality and excellent communication skills."

Bennett said being motivated helped him achieve the honor of being named salutatorian.

"It takes a lot of effort. You've got to really be focusing on getting it the whole time," Bennett said. "You can't just be putting work off; you've got to be doing it, and you've got to always be involved in classes. You can't just be sitting there doing nothing."

Salutatorian

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 District Parent Council Mtg. 6:30 PM @ Tubman	2 School Picture Retake Day: Casey Park & Herman Ave School Tax 2nd Installment Due AJHS Chorus Concert 7:00 PM @ AJHS	3 School Picture Retake Day: Genesee	4 School Picture Retake Day: Owasco Casey Park Winter Concert 6:00 PM @ AJHS Cold Moon	5 School Picture Retake Day: Seward Elementary Report Cards AHS Report Cards	6
	7 Herman Ave Winter Concert 6:00pm @ AJHS AHS Scholarship Night 6:30 PM @ AHS Library	8 Human Rights Day Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 7:00 PM	9 AHS Band Concert 7:00 PM @ AHS	10 AJHS Band Concert 7:00 PM @ AJHS	11	12  ACT Test 7:45 AM @ AHS
	14 Hanukkah (Begins at Sunset)	15 Seward Winter Concert Instrument/Choral 6:00 PM @ AHS Bill of Rights Day	16 Owasco Winter Concert 6:00 PM @ AHS	17 AJHS Sports Physicals Boys 1:00-2:30 PM AJHS Orchestra Concert 7:00 PM @ AJHS	18 AJHS Sports Physicals Girls 1:00-2:30 PM Genesee Winter Concert 6:00 PM @ AJHS	19 Holiday Parties GO HOME EARLY DRILL (Students Released 15 Minutes Early)
	21 First Day of Winter	22 NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess	23 NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess	24 NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess	25 NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess	26 NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess
28	29 NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess	30 NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess	31 NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess New Year's Eve		November 2025 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	January 2026 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

6th grade students at Casey Park were challenged to a recycle and reuse project!

The challenge was to create something that was less than \$2 or free items around their house. Besides naming their creation, they also presented to their classmates. Some projects were a pet tornado, lava lamp, crayon art, firecracker, art museum, airplane, activity table, etc. *Shannon DelloStritto*



The Fall Sports Season has come to a close, and as we transition into the winter sports season, there was a lot to celebrate from the past few months. Our boys' cross-country team won the team league and Section 3 championship, and finished in 4th place at the NYSPHSAA championships in Queensbury. At the sectional meet, **Ryan Maher** was the individual champion in Class A, and was followed by teammate Owen Gasper in 2nd place. At the state meet, Maher had a second-place finish. On the girls' side of cross-country, **Kyleen Brady** finished 2nd place at the sectional meet and finished 10th at the state meet. She was the top Section 3 finisher at states. Ryan Maher and Kyleen Brady also won the sportsmanship award for section 3.

Johntae Smith and **Anthony Mancuso** had the opportunity to participate in the Arcaro Senior All-Star football game in November, and **Smith earned MVP of the game**, scoring two rushing touchdowns and returning an interception for a touchdown.

We also held a National Letter of Intent signing day ceremony for six of our student-athletes who will be continuing their athletic careers at the **Division I level**.

Adalyn Bouley - University of Albany (Lacrosse)

Kyleen Brady - Boston College (Cross-Country, Track & Field)

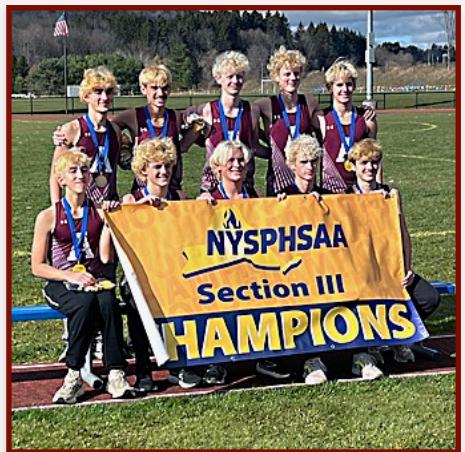
Reese DeRosa - Lafayette College (Track & Field)

Owen Gasper - Binghamton University (Cross-Country, Track & Field)

Ryan Maher - University of Massachusetts (Cross-Country, Track & Field)

Matthew Smith - Hobart College (Lacrosse)

Steve Komanecky, Director of Health, Physical Education, & Athletics



Seward Music and Technology Share Center Stage

6th grade students at Seward Elementary School have been putting their musical knowledge to work and learning how to program the Root Coding Robots in a collaborative project. 6th grade students created original compositions in their online curriculum resource, Quaver, and then replicated their electronic compositions into hand-written sheet music. Students then met in the library to program the Root Coding Robots with their original compositions and put on a robot recital. *Brianne Neabel, Library Media*



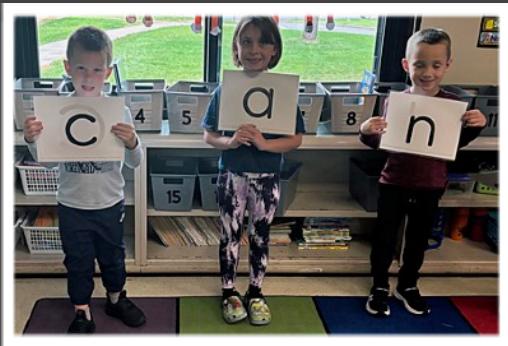
A Day in the Life of a Medieval 4th Grade Student

Fourth-grade students at **Seward Elementary** recently stepped back in time to explore the wonders of the Middle Ages through an engaging and hands-on “**Medieval Days**” event. This unique experience blended lessons from English Language Arts (ELA), STEM, and Art to create a memorable and immersive learning experience.

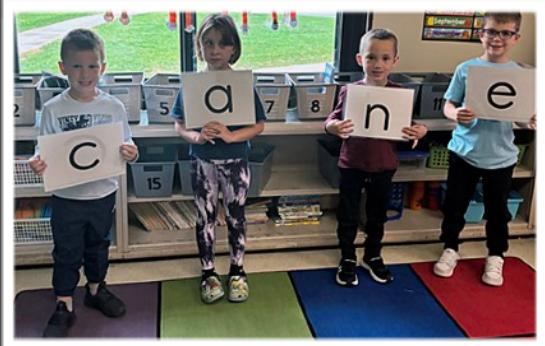
As part of their ELA curriculum, students have been reading about the Middle Ages—discovering the history, culture, social structure, art, and innovations of the era. To deepen their understanding, teachers organized a series of interactive activities that allowed students to experience what they had learned in creative and practical ways.

Highlights of the event included **designing castles, building working catapults, and crafting vibrant stained-glass windows**. Students also enjoyed a lively **Medieval minstrel show** presented by Dr. Miles’ class, complete with jugglers, acrobats, jesters, and more.

This rich cross-curricular experience brought history to life while strengthening important skills such as teamwork, creativity, and critical thinking. “Medieval Days” celebrated the hard work of both students and staff and created a memorable learning experience for all.



S
E
W
A
R
D



First graders are learning how to word chain. We are working on “magic e” the kids know that the ‘e’ at the end tells the vowel to SAY YOUR NAME! These are the different word chains we made in class. The students are doing a fantastic job with this new skill! Lisa Mizro

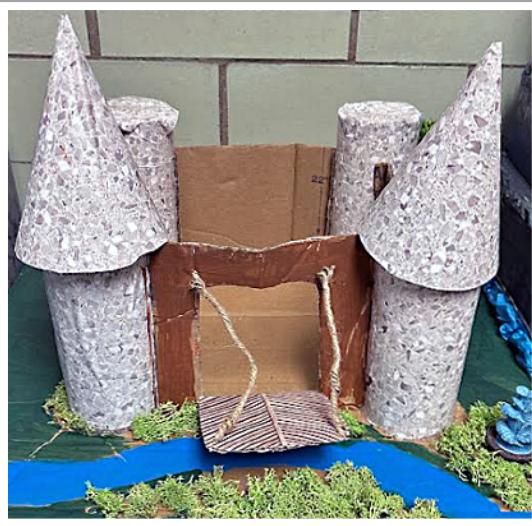


Students in Mrs. Gremlis 4th grade class at Herman Ave wrote letters to Veterans at The Commons. They also decorated flags that were displayed there. This is part of an ongoing connection between our class and residents at The Commons.



The **second graders at Genesee Elementary School** have been learning about Ancient Greece. One of their learning goals for this unit was "Students will describe the **Olympic Games of Ancient Greece** and explain how they have influenced the present". Some information that students learned is the Olympic Games were held every four years at the site of Olympia, an Olympic champion received a wreath of laurel leaves to wear atop their head. Today Olympic Games are held every two years in the winter and summer. To wrap up this unit, students participated in their very own Olympic Games. The games students participated in were relay races, an obstacle course and a javelin throw. During the games, students demonstrated good sportsmanship, teamwork and perseverance.

Brittany Westover



Genesee students made model castles to accompany their learning of the Middle Ages in our CKLA ELA curriculum.

After learning about the Middle Ages in CKLA, our 4th grade students took their learning into their own hands to make some awesome replicas of castles. We were very impressed with how much time and effort they put into researching and building a model castle! **Way to go, 4th graders!** *Holly Signor*



Medieval Castles Take Over 4th Grade at Casey Park!



Miss Pysnack's 4th graders wrapped up their unit on the Middle Ages with a creative hands-on project-building their very own castles! Students showcased everything they learned about medieval life, architecture, and defense design. From tall towers to drawbridges and moats, each castle was unique and full of imagination. It was the perfect way to bring history to life and end the unit with a royal touch!

- Miss Hailey Pysnack



CONGRATS TO OUR GRANT WINNERS!

Mindfulness Room Additions:

Ronald Gorney @Seward Elementary



Tonies for Teachers Part 2:

Laura Falzarano @Seward Elementary

Postcard Pen Pals:

Laura Pesarchick @Herman Elementary

Let's Get Cooking!

Victoria Calarco @Genesee Elementary

Warm Heads, Warm Hearts:

Kasha Fletcher, Amanda Bova, Danielle O'Shea @Auburn Jr. High School

Resiliency and Regulation Room:

Casey Carey-Dixon, Kristen Weiss, Lauren Dottolo, Margaret Smith @Auburn High School



Piano Lab Project:

Mary Howard, Steven Howard, Sarah Reynolds, and Justina Taylor @all Elementary Schools

Come Fly With Me:

Shelly Connors @Auburn Jr. High School



Compliment/Conversation Cart:

Megan Greml @Herman Avenue

The Wellness Closet:

Venecia DeRoose & Molly Gage @Auburn Jr. High

Next Grant Cycle is Spring 2026!



HAVE A
MAGICAL
HOLIDAY

YOGA Classes at Auburn Junior High

Mrs. Newton's health classes had the opportunity to learn and practice yoga in class this week. Thanks to AEF for the grant to purchase yoga equipment. Teaching yoga to middle school students offers numerous benefits that can positively impact their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. At this critical stage of development, yoga helps students improve flexibility, strength, and coordination, promoting better posture and body awareness. Additionally, it offers a constructive outlet for stress relief, helping young learners manage the pressures of school, social challenges, and personal growth. The mindfulness techniques embedded in yoga foster emotional regulation, reducing anxiety and encouraging a calm, focused mindset.



Our own Mrs. Vitale had an opportunity to join one of our classes. NAMASTE!

Teaching Hands-only CPR

Kristi Newton, 8th Grade Health Teacher

Teaching hands-only CPR to middle school students offers numerous benefits. First, it provides them with a life-saving skill that could make a critical difference in an emergency situation, such as when a person goes into cardiac arrest. Since hands-only CPR is simple to learn and doesn't require mouth-to-mouth contact, it removes some of the hesitation or fear that might prevent a student from helping in an emergency. By teaching middle schoolers this skill, we empower them to respond confidently and quickly if they ever encounter a cardiac emergency. Furthermore, learning CPR can instill a sense of responsibility and community in students, encouraging them to look out for the well-being of others.



Health education provides an opportunity to foster an awareness of health and wellness that could benefit them both now and in the future.

Auburn Enlarged City School District

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Please be aware that if your child is sent home from school due to illness then it may be appropriate to keep them home for at least the next day or maybe longer depending upon the illness. The following guidelines should be followed:

You should not have your child return to school if he/she has:

- Fever in the past 24 hours
- Vomiting and Diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Bad cold, with runny nose or bad cough
- Any illness that has kept your child awake during the night
- Any rash, unless your child has been seen by your doctor and your doctor has written a note stating that your child may attend school.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

*Lonna Vrooman,
School Nurse Supervisor*

SCHOOL TAX INFORMATION

(*Please note change in payment location)

**2nd installment due:
December 2, 2025**

**Last day the collector will accept taxes
is December 2, 2025**

**Questions about your bill?
Call 315-255-8836**

**or e-mail:
LisaCamardo@aecsd.education**

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

***Locations to pay in person:
Lyons National Bank (LNB)**

**9 Dill St. & 311 Grant Ave, Auburn, NY
(Please include a telephone number on your check)**

**Address to mail payments:
AECSD Tax Collector
P.O. Box 193
Geneva, NY 14456**

(Please include a telephone number on your check)

diversity, equity & inclusion

- Our Student Ambassadors recently led our formal DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Walkthroughs. They provided tours of their schools, highlighting all the ways our buildings actively foster a sense of belonging for every student. Their unique perspectives are invaluable in helping us celebrate and enhance the inclusive climate across our district.
- The Student United Way (SUW) is focusing on community action this month:
- Snack Stockings: SUW members shopped to fill "snack stockings" for both fellow students and families supported by the Salvation Army.
- Holiday Toy Drive: In cooperation with Community Action Programs, SUW will be holding a Holiday Toy Drive. Please support their efforts by dropping off new, unwrapped toys during their drive-through event:
 - ★ Date: Saturday, December 6th
 - ★ Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
 - ★ Location: High School Drop-Off Loop
- Please remember to pick up an extra toy for those in need while you are doing your holiday shopping! Your generosity directly supports families in our community.

Seymour Library

Seymour Library | 176-178 Genesee Street | Auburn, NY | 315.252.2571

Visit www.seymourlibrary.org for updates on programming & events.

Tales with Trevor

Wednesday, December 10 at 4 pm

Join us at this doggy storytime with a special guest, Trevor the library dog! Trevor is a patient and friendly dog who loves to be pet and enjoys a good story. Bring a favorite book from home or borrow a library book and practice reading aloud to Trevor.

Saturday STEAM: The Gingerbread Man

Saturday, December 13 at 1 pm

Explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and/or Math at this monthly program. This month, listen to the book *The Gingerbread Man*, then accept TWO challenges to try to keep the gingerbread man safe from the fox! Designed for ages 6-12, but all ages are welcome.

LEGO Club: The Gingerbread Baby

Monday, December 15 at 5 pm

Explore your creativity with stories and LEGO challenges during the library's LEGO Club! Accept our The Gingerbread Baby: Gingerbread House Challenge. Listen to the story, then design and build your own gingerbread house to trap the gingerbread baby.

Pokémon Club

Wednesday, December 17, from 4 pm to 6 pm (drop in)

Each month we will complete different Pokémon activities. Designed for ages 7 and up, but all ages are welcome!

Drop-In STEAM

Monday, December 22 from 9 am to 1 pm

Tuesday, December 23 from 9 am to 1 pm

School's out, but there is educational fun to be had at the library! Drop in and explore all things STEAM! STEAM stations will be set up in the Family Space and will include Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math activities.

Drop-In Crafts

Monday, December 29 from 9 am to 1 pm

Tuesday, December 30 from 9 am to 1 pm

Are the kiddos getting restless? Drop in and create some winter-themed crafts with us! Craft activities will be set up in the Family Space while supplies last.

No registration is required for any of these programs!

Busy schedule? Taking a road trip for the holidays? For our families on the go, Seymour Library offers a vast collection of books, graphic novels, games, DVDs, Discover Kits, learning backpacks, playaways, and more! You can also use your library card to access digital content on Hoopla, Kanopy, and Libby!

December Holiday Hours

Thursday, December 24: Closed

Friday, December 25: Closed

Wednesday, December 31: Closes at 2 pm

Thursday, January 1: Closed

Visit www.seymourlibrary.org for updates on programming & events.



Student Government Day

12th Grade students from Mr. Matt Moskov's Government class attended the annual Cayuga County Student Government Day on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.

Front row L-R: Reese Mallory, Hallie Gleason, Marissa Pesarchick, Emma Corey, Marisa Gabak, Ella Losani, Adayln Bouley

Back row L-R: Malik Williams, Angelo Calarco, Matthew Smith, Anthony Mancuso, Johntae Smith, Carson Bona, Mr. Matt Moskov



**Talk to your teen about
VAPING**
**Click below to read the
US Surgeon General's
Tip Sheet for Parents:**

https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR_ECig_ParentTipSheet_508.pdf



Follow us on Facebook!

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<https://www.facebook.com/HermanAveElementary>
<https://www.facebook.com/WilliamHSewardElementary>



GO MAROONS!

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



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.

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.

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



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

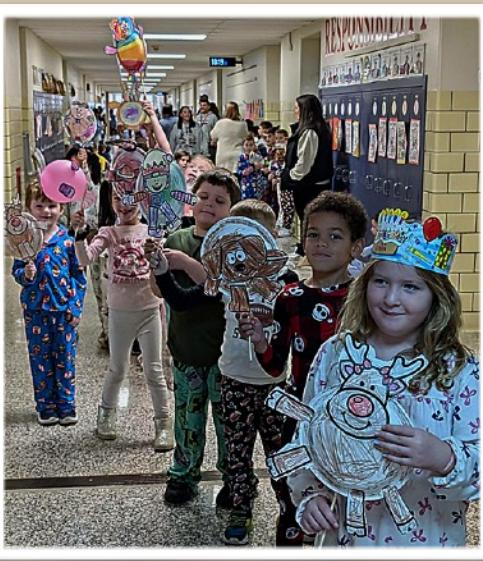
Check out #EveryStudentPresentAECSD on social media.

Unity Day

@ Genesee

Owasco's Thanksgiving Parade!

Owasco Elementary School held its annual **Balloons over Broadway** parade as students marched through the hallways in the style of the Thanksgiving parade in NYC. Students were able to dress casually for a donation to help: [Sleep in Heavenly Peace](#)



Our 1st graders in Mrs. Anderson's class and 6th graders from Mrs. Duffy-Cuddy's, Miss Casper's, and Ms. Henery's classes came together in October to celebrate Unity Day by practicing their community circle skills! The 6th graders showed wonderful leadership as they helped guide the 1st graders through their very first circles—modeling kindness, respect, and active listening. It was amazing to see our oldest students mentoring our youngest as everyone worked together to build connection and community. What a perfect way to show that Genesee Lions lead with unity!



DECEMBER 2025 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

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SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK

Michelle Major

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Deborah J. Leone

To report Child Abuse call the Statewide Toll Free Telephone Number:
1-800-342-3720 or visit: <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps/>
The New York State Office of Children and Family Services