



# *the* **MAROON** *monthly*



AUBURN ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 6

## **Free Meals for Every Student!**

Here's something to smile about: every student can enjoy free, nutritious school meals every day! Even if your child usually packs a lunch, they're always welcome to join us in the cafeteria. It's an easy way to make sure every student stays full, focused, and energized for learning.

Each lunch offers plenty of choices! Students select at least three of the five meal components: milk, protein, grains, fruits, and vegetables. This flexible, student-friendly approach supports healthy eating, encourages independence, and helps reduce food waste.

We encourage families and staff to remind students that they are always welcome to use the lunch line, even if they bring their own lunch.



**Whether your child enjoys school meals every day or prefers favorites from home, this program is a wonderful benefit available to all students, at no cost to families.**

**[Breakfast & Lunch Menus](#)**

*Have questions? Our team is happy to help! Please reach out to the Food Service Manager, Deb David, at 315-255-8335.*



Your child's teacher may request classroom party supplies for Valentine's Day. Please be assured that any activities planned will accommodate students' allergies and dietary restrictions. Each classroom is unique, so celebrations may look a little different from one class to another.

If your child is preparing to share Valentines with classmates, we kindly encourage families to choose non-food items. This helps ensure that all students can participate and allows us to be considerate of food allergies and dietary needs.

Popular non-food ideas include:

- Stickers
- Pencils or crayons
- Bookmarks
- Small toys or games

Please note that our school lunch menu on Friday, February 13, will feature Valentine's Day-themed items that meet all nutritional guidelines, so students will still be able to enjoy a festive meal during the school day.





**Mrs. Goldmann's 5th grade class at Genesee Elementary is proud to celebrate reaching 10 days of 100% attendance!**

Every day all students were present, we added popcorn to our "Poppin' with Attendance" chart, which kept everyone excited and motivated. We started this goal in late November and, through consistency and teamwork, reached it by early January. This accomplishment shows how committed our students are to coming to school every day and helping meet both our classroom goal and our school-wide attendance goal. To celebrate all their hard work, the class enjoyed a build-your-own popcorn party and a movie, making it a fun well-earned reward.

We couldn't be more proud of this group!

*Jordynn Goldmann*

Click on the link below to learn more about how  
Auburn schools are using  
[Creative ideas to help boost attendance](#)





## Instrument Petting Zoo



Shout-out to our amazing 6th graders, Arabelle and Breanne! They volunteered at the district's Instrument Petting Zoo, where they proudly showcased their instruments and helped younger students learn more about band and orchestra. Their enthusiasm inspired future musicians who are thinking about joining next year. We're so proud of them!

Ms. Packard,  
Casey Park Band & Orchestra Teacher



## Ancient Roman Aqueducts

As part of our Ancient Rome unit, 3rd graders at **Genesee Elementary** worked with Ms. Calarco to build aqueducts. Students tested their designs by running water through them using gravity, learning how Romans transported water long distances.

Mackensy Martens, 3rd Grade Teacher



"I Hear My School Singing"

By: Mrs. Miles' Fourth Graders

Tapping of the wintery boots on  
the hard floor

Little kids sound like flutes

Water from the water fountain  
dripping

People talking like a trombone

Tapping shoes on the floor like  
a trombone

Mrs. Miles drawing on the  
chalkboard like a triangle

Walking on the floor  
like a drum

Kids talking like a flute and a bell  
Laughing like a violin

Talking and shouting like bells

Snowballs hitting people like a  
drum

Boots hitting the ground like  
drums

Kids in the hallway are violas  
with a bow

Kids sketching like a violin

Footsteps from kids like a  
trumpet

Pencils drawing like a flute

Bigger kids walking sounds  
like a snare drum

Angry adults stomping like  
drums

The cafeteria's full of birds  
chirping

Snowballs on the playground  
like drums

Teachers clapping their hands  
in a beat like good music

A good rhythm













A really good one

Fourth grade poets completed the CKLA Unit 3 Poetry Unit by creating a whole class poem, *I Hear My School Singing*. Students used similes and metaphors of musical instruments to describe the everyday sounds they hear in school. Students anonymously added their line to the poem and then the class enjoyed reading their creation together! Great job, Seward Stinger Poets!

Colleen Miles, Ed. D., Elementary Educator  
Seward Elementary School



# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 <i>February Artwork L-R: Delilah Hares, Genesee Gr. 5 Joseph Leszczynski Owasco Gr. 1</i>		<b>UPK NOW OPEN!</b> <i>Open Enrollment for AECSD 2026-2027 Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program</i>	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	 For updated events please check the online calendar at our website: <a href="http://www.aecsd.education">www.aecsd.education</a>	March 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
 1 Snow Moon	2 National School Counseling Week District Parent Council Mtg. 6:30PM @ Casey Park Groundhog Day	3	4 AJHS PTO Mtg. 6:00 PM	5	6 Elementary Report Cards	7
8 National African American History Month	9	10 Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 7:00 PM	11 District Cup Stacking Contest @ Seward 3:30 PM	12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday National PTA Founders Day	13	14 ACT Test 7:45 AM @ AHS  Valentine's Day
15 	16 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Winter Break Week  Presidents' Day	17 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Mardi Gras Lunar New Year (Year of the Horse)	18 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Ash Wednesday Ramadan Begins at sundown	19 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> 	20 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> 	21 
22 National Children's Dental Health Month	23	24 Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 6:00 PM	25	26	27	28 

## Sound and Sound Waves Project

After learning about sound and sound waves, 4th graders at Genesee got together with our librarian, Ms. Calarco, to tackle a fun project-based learning activity. Student teams received a "budget" to "purchase" a variety of materials. The challenge? To soundproof a shoebox. Students used their knowledge of sound waves to block sound coming from a portable speaker. They were evaluated using a decibel reader. Students had to use teamwork and critical thinking to develop the best strategy to reduce the decibel level outside the box. We had a wonderful time collaborating with Ms. Calarco on this PBL!

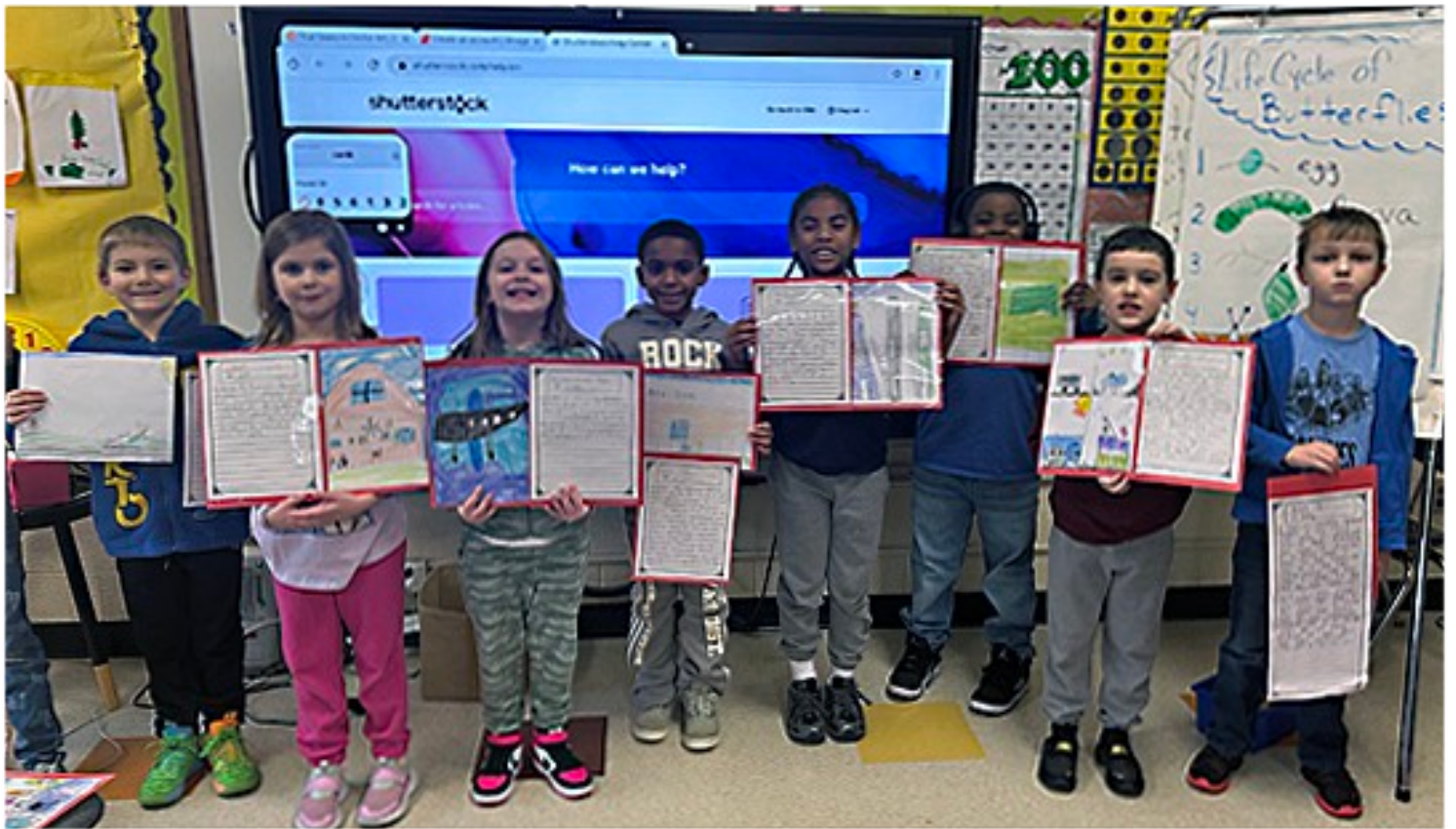


## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

- On January 12, our new teachers and mentors participated in a specialized session with Michelle Kolceski, our Director of Early Learning and ENL, and Susan Deacon, an administrative intern, on building welcoming and affirming classroom communities. The focus remained on ensuring our English Language Learners feel supported, valued, and included from day one.
- While the district was closed on January 19 to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the learning began much earlier. Leading up to the holiday, students across all buildings engaged in meaningful lessons and activities centered on Dr. King's legacy of service and civil rights.
- As we enter February, our schools are proud to recognize Black History Month. Throughout the month, each building will celebrate the achievements and history of Black Americans through various educational programs and creative school-wide activities.
- The Student United Way club recently hosted guest speaker Attorney Ally Colvin (Carbonaro, Carbonaro & Brune, P.C.). Ms. Colvin shared her professional journey with the group, detailing the path to becoming an attorney and the impactful work she is currently doing within our community.

*Karen DiVietro*

*Executive Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction*



**Seward second graders worked hard on personal narratives and used all the steps in the writing process to produce beautiful final copies!**



# Seymour Library

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

Visit [www.seymourlibrary.org](http://www.seymourlibrary.org) for updates on programming & events.

February is Library Lovers' Month, and Seymour Library invites you to join us for programs all month long, including STEAM Saturday and Winter Break activities!

## Share Your Library Love!

**FEBRUARY IS  
LIBRARY LOVERS' MONTH.**

What's your  
library love  
story?



Nothing says love like a Post-it! This February, we're celebrating all the ways our library touches hearts! We're inviting you to grab a heart-shaped Post-it and leave us a love note on our walls.

## LEGO Club: Rosie Revere Engineer

**Monday, February 9 at 5 pm**

Explore your creativity with LEGO challenges and games during the library's new LEGO Club! Accept our *Rosie Revere, Engineer* Helicopter Challenge. Listen to the story, then design and build your own LEGO helicopter. For ages 6 and up, but all ages are welcome.

## Saturday STEAM: Build a Mailbox Challenge

**Saturday, February 14 at 1 pm**

This month, listen to a Valentine story, then build your very own mailbox for receiving Valentines. The catch, you only have a select number of materials, AND your mailbox must open and shut! For ages 6-12, but all ages are welcome.

## WINTER BREAK IN THE FAMILY SPACE!

**February 16 thru 20, drop in all day**

Come to the Family Space during Winter Break for crafts, STEM activities, and more! Each day, we will have activities available for all ages to explore and discover

## Family Movie Night

**Friday, February 20 at 6 pm**

Throw on the cozy, comfy clothes, gather the family, and join us for a special after-hours movie screening. Snacks will be provided.

## FOR TEENS! (ages 12+)

**Teen Fun Night: Anti-Valentine's Day Party!**

**Friday, February 13 at 6 pm**



What better day for an Anti-Valentine's Day Party than Friday the 13th! Enjoy "stinky snacks," anti-love songs, and crafts! Pizza will also be provided. Designed for teens (age 12+).

## Book Nooks

**Wednesday, February 18 at 1 pm**

Make a miniature diorama designed to fit on your bookshelf. Pick a scene from your favorite book or create something straight out of your imagination.

## Magic the Gathering for Teens

**Friday, February 27 at 4:30 pm**

Learn how to play Magic the Gathering! This program is designed for beginners.

Visit [www.seymourlibrary.org](http://www.seymourlibrary.org) to view the complete list of library events. No registration is required for these free programs and events!

And be sure to stop by for our February scavenger hunt! Find all the penguins and solve the riddle to win a prize!

# Reminder



## Spring Grant Window Is OPEN!

Apply on line thru March 2nd.

## CONGRATS TO OUR 2026 Auburn Alumni Hall of Distinction Inductees!

### Terry Clifford:

A trailblazing local area broadcaster, trusted community voice, and champion for local causes

### Tom Ganey:

A respected financial leader, trusted advisor, and dedicated champion of community growth and youth sports

### Mary Elizabeth Gentile (Missy):

A visionary artist who has used creativity as a force for connection, healing, and inspiration

### Tim Hanley:

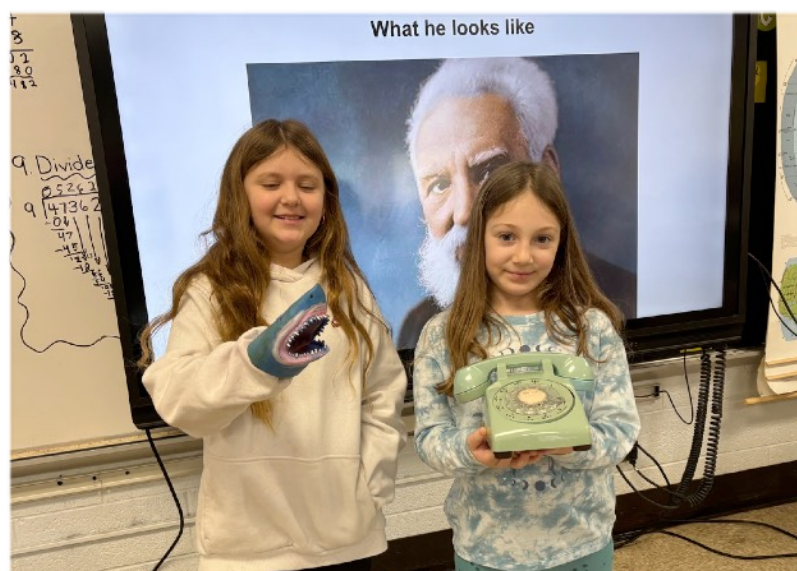
A devoted community leader, hospitality professional, and tireless advocate for cancer support and survivor care

### Jessica Scott Smith:

A pioneering sports business leader whose work advancing equity, innovation, and strategic growth in professional athletics has set new standards in the industry

### Jeff Harter:

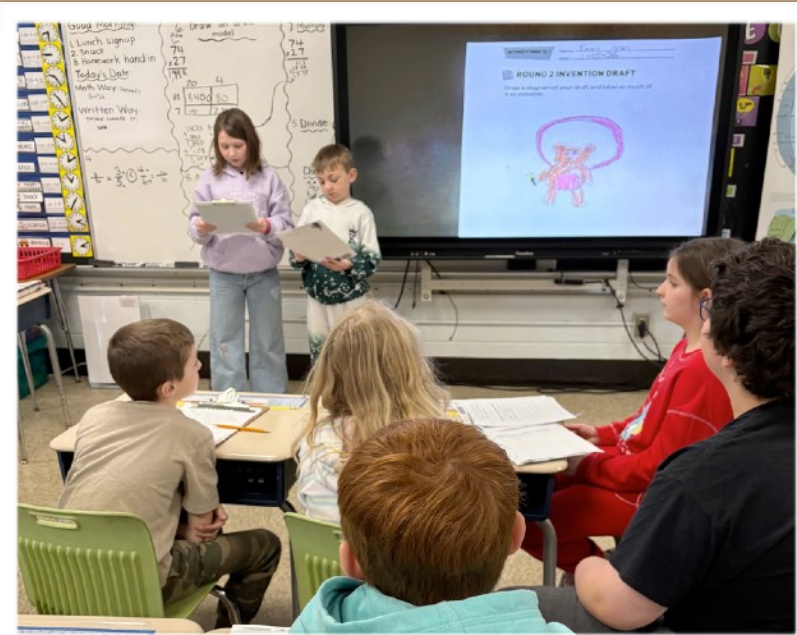
A visionary animator, illustrator, educator, and creative leader whose work spans major feature animation, award-winning children's books, and mentorship of future artists



*Sharky the Shark is checking out the presentations!*

## Fourth Grade Shark Tank!

Seward Elementary Fourth Graders concluded their Eureka! Inventors unit by creating and pitching their unique inventions. Fellow classmates listened to their friend's pitches and gave feedback about the invention and their presentation. The inventions included a Super Comfy Wide Seat Wheelchair, Jet Pack With Silly String Projectile, Food Dye Detector and Eliminator, Self-Cleaning and Self-Storing Ice Skate Shoes, Stuffy Art Supply Holder, and a Tube Guy Bakery Pie Holder. Aurora Giangreco also presented an individual project about Alexander Graham Bell. Keep an eye out for these incredible inventions in the future!



Colleen Miles, Ed. D., Elementary Educator  
Seward Elementary School



**Auburn Education Foundation**  
Discover the Opportunities



## Beginning Monday, February 2, 2026

### Open Enrollment for Auburn Enlarged City School District's 2026-2027 Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program

The Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program is an integral component of our district and includes a UPK program for our 4-year-old learners and a 3PK program for 3-year-olds. Together, these programs offer comprehensive educational services to Auburn School District residents who will be 3 or 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2026, and are available at no cost for eligible children.



Site	Program	Full/Half Day	Contact
Cayuga Community College-81 Wall Street	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	315-253-5304

A list of our Universal Pre-Kindergarten program locations (sites) below contains information regarding which sites offer 3PK and/or UPK full-day programs. Parents/guardians 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. **Spaces are limited.**

### Parents/guardians can register their child online and upload the supporting documentation on/after February 2nd.

The 3PK and UPK 2026-2027 online student registration will be open beginning February 2, 2026. Please register your student using the online enrollment form located at the link on the Auburn Enlarged City School District website, [www.aecsd.eduation](http://www.aecsd.eduation), under Student Registration.

Parents/guardians who prefer to submit their student's registration in person may pick up a 2026-2027 registration packet at any of the UPK sites listed above and also at any Auburn Elementary School or our Administrative Offices. **Registration packets will be available for pick up the week of January 26th.**

Completed applications should be submitted to your child's current Pre-Kindergarten site or to the Harriet Tubman Administrative Offices at 78 Thornton Ave.





## 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](https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR_ECig_ParentTipSheet_508.pdf)

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



**auburnecsd**



Instagram



### 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](http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/nsor/index.htm) whereby you can search for Level 2 and Level 3 sex offenders.



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

**Check out #EveryStudentPresentAECSD on social media.**



## Friday Dance Parties at Genesee Elementary!

Every Friday morning at Genesee, families and students are welcomed to school with music, smiles, and a little dancing. Our **#OnFridaysWeDance** arrival dance parties happen right outside our doors while everyone waits for the day to begin, turning arrival time into a moment of connection, energy, and school pride. These celebrations are about more than just fun. They help create a positive culture and reinforce the importance of being here every day. When our Lions show up, we make sure they feel it, and you can catch the joy each week on our Genesee social media pages.

*Tommy Honors, Assistant Principal*



### FRBRUARY 2026 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the  
**AUBURN ENLARGED CITY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
[www.aecsd.education](http://www.aecsd.education)

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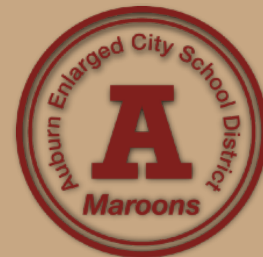
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**To report Child Abuse call the Statewide Toll Free Telephone Number:  
1-800-342-3720 or visit: <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps/>  
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