



*the*  
**MAROON**  
*monthly*

AUBURN ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 5

*Happy New Year!*

Dear Families,

I hope this message finds you rested, refreshed, and ready for the new year! On behalf of our entire district team, I want to welcome you back as we begin the 2025 school year. We are excited to see our students return to their classrooms and continue learning, growing, and achieving.

As we move into January, I want to emphasize the importance of **consistent attendance**. Attending school every day plays a vital role in your child's success, both academically and socially. Research shows that regular attendance improves students' performance, builds good habits for the future, and strengthens connections with teachers and peers. Every day matters, and we are here to support families in ensuring students can be present and engaged.

At this time of year, **weather-related delays and cancellations** are always a possibility. Our district spans over 37 miles of rural and town roads. There may be times when you look out your window and see clear roads, but the outskirts of our towns have not been plowed. The priority is the safety of all students and staff, so please prepare for any potential weather disruptions. In the event of inclement weather, we will notify families through multiple channels, including phone calls, emails, our district website, and social media. If you have not already done so, please make sure your contact information is up to date with your child's school.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and dedication to your child's education. Together, we will make 2025 productive and successful. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to your school's main office or our Auburn team.

Wishing you a safe, healthy, and happy start to the new year!

Warm regards,

*Misty L. Slavic, Ed.D.*  
 Superintendent of Schools

Kindergartners at Herman Ave had a blast making gingerbread houses with loved ones.



# DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

- During the month of December, our school buildings learned about and celebrated holidays around the world and Human Rights Day.
- On December 2, Dr. Burgess visited and read the book, *The Big Book About Being Big* to Ms. Bouley's kindergarten class at Owasco Elementary.
- On December 3, Auburn Elementary teachers engaged in a professional learning series led by LEDbetter, focusing on effective writing strategies to support all students, with an emphasis on English Language Learners.
- On December 10, City Councilwomen, Dr. Rhoda Overstreet-Wilson, Ginny Kent, and Christina Calarco spoke to Mrs. Oliver-Carr's Women's Studies class at Auburn High School.
- On December 13, Dr. Burgess conducted Priority #3 walk-throughs in each of our seven buildings
- On December 13, Brittany Lane, the Lead Park Ranger at the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park (National Park Service), spoke to Mrs. Oliver-Carr's Women's Studies class at Auburn High School.
- On December 17, Book Buddies took place at Genesee Elementary School.
- Our next Parent/Guardian University is scheduled for March 19, 2025, from 5-7 pm at Auburn Junior High School. A flyer will be shared via ParentSquare after the first of the year.
- AECSD has been recognized by the New York State Education Department as a My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Community.

*Dr. Renee Burgess, DEI Executive Director*

## Holidays Around the World

In Ms. Foos' and Mrs. Emmart's second grade classes, the students spent time learning about Holidays around the World. Students created suitcases and glued stamps for each country on the suitcase. Then, they filled out a passport with important information about the countries they learned about. For each country, students viewed a slideshow of pictures and read facts about the holidays and how they celebrate. Each student then completed a "travel brochure" to write the facts they learned.

In Ms. Foos' room, traditional treats were included for Germany, Israel, and France so the students particularly enjoyed those countries. Students learned about a Christmas witch in Italy, St. Lucia and a gnome in Sweden, La Pere in France, and how to play The Dreidel Game for Hanukkah. In the end, they were able to find similarities and differences of other cultures compared to how they celebrate Christmas in America.



## WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME WITH ILLNESS

It can be hard to know when to send children to school if they tell you that they do not feel well. Usually, the best place for them is in school, but there are some times when keeping them home to rest or call for an appointment with your health care provider is recommended.

### **Please keep your child home and/or contact your child's doctor for:**

- Fever greater than 100.4° (taken by mouth)
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Severe sore throat along with fever and feeling ill for more than 48 hours, or after exposure to Strep throat infection
- Honey-crusted sores around the nose or mouth or rash on other body parts
- Large amounts of mucous (liquid) from their nose, with face pain or headache
- Severe ear pain or fluid coming from the ear
- Severe headache, especially with fever

If your child has a fever, it is not a good idea to give them medicine like Tylenol or Advil and send them to school because as soon as the medicine wears off, the fever may return and you will be called to come and pick up your child.

**Please keep children home for 24 hours after the fever ends or they have completed 24 hours of medication if prescribed by your health care provider.**

If you find your child is frequently asking to stay home from school, if they are falling behind or appear anxious about school, or if there does not appear to be any physical symptoms, contact your school nurse and your health care provider to discuss your concerns.

Remind children to throw away used tissues, cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze, keep their hands away from their face, and to wash hands often with soap and warm water will help keep everyone healthier.

*Caren Radell, School Nurse Supervisor*

### **News from Genesee**

### **Cooking Class with Mrs. Calarco**



Miss Westover's and Mr. Wrixon's second grade class partnered with Mrs. Calarco, the librarian, to create a savory and a sweet snack. The students have shown a wonderful enthusiasm for cooking, as evidenced by their engagement with cookbooks in the library. They have taken the initiative to explore various recipes. Their willingness to check out cookbooks shows their dedication to learning and trying new things. The students have shown remarkable skills in the kitchen, successfully cooking walking tacos and monkey bread. They excelled at time management, they measured ingredients accurately and collaborated effectively with their peers throughout the cooking process.

*Brittany Westover*

## News from Casey Park



Exciting news from Casey Park! Our **Bulldog Boutique** is officially up and running, thanks to the hard work of our 6th Grade Team and students. Now, Casey Park students can use their Bulldog Bucks to choose an item from the boutique. Each week, our 6th grade students visit classrooms to assist other in counting their Bulldog Bucks, exploring available items, and selecting their prize. Bulldog Bucks are earned by demonstrating “pawsitive” behaviors throughout the school. A huge thank you to our 6th graders for making this initiative a success!



Casey Park hosted a festive and fun-filled **Family Engagement Night in December**, featuring a variety of exciting activities for students and families to enjoy. Attendees participated in reindeer games, bingo, musical chairs, a holiday-themed “Would You Rather?” game, a reindeer toss, and a dreidel game. In addition, children were able to get their face painted and families had the opportunity to create

ornaments and Christmas cards, all while sipping on warm cocoa and enjoying delicious treats provided by our PTO. Live music by Perform 4 Purpose added to the festive atmosphere, making it a truly memorable evening for everyone.

### Casey Park Food Drive Teaches Generosity and Appreciation

For the month of November, we challenged our students to collect 400 non-perishable food items. Each day, students brought in food, and the second graders kept a count and solved addition and subtraction equations to keep track of our number. During our assembly at the end of November, the second graders were able to share that we surpassed our goal and we were able to donate 600 food items. Two local businesses, KLM Services and Kilos Gym, heard about our food drive and made cash donations.

*Casey Park 2nd Grade Team*



We are excited to share that our students and staff collectively raised over \$600 for the **Sleep in Heavenly Peace** fundraiser. These donations will help provide beds for children in our community. Thank you to everyone who contributed!



Third grade elves delivered “**Silver Packages**” to teachers throughout Casey Park, after reading *Silver Packages* by Cynthia Ryland. The students wanted to provide a little holiday magic and say thank you to teachers for all of their hard work and dedication to the students of Casey Park.

*Brandy Burns Hadfield*

Sixth grade students at Casey Park made cards and ornaments to donate to a local nursing home. Students made cards with warm messages. They also used modge podge to make some little wooden ornaments.

*Kiley Kustyn, Sixth Grade Teacher*

# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Elliot Ridgeway, Gr. 1	December 2024 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	February 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	1 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> New Year's Holiday	2 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Holiday Recess	3 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Holiday Recess	4
5 FIRST <b>School Resumes</b> District Parent Council Mtg. 6:30PM @ Tubman	6	7 GPTP 5:00pm	8 AJHS Title 1 Parent Meeting 5:30pm AJHS PTO Meeting 6:00pm	9	10	11
12 FULL World Religion Day	13 Wolf Moon	14 AJHS Sports Physicals 1:00-2:30PM Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 7:00PM	15 AJHS Sports Physicals 1:00-2:30PM	16	17	18
19	20  Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	21 LAST <b>Sports Tryouts:</b> Modified Boys & Girls Swim Modified Girls Basketball Modified Boys Wrestling Regents Exams	22 8th Grade Parent Night AHS @6:30PM Regents Exams	23 Regents Exams	24 <b>End of First Semester</b> <b>AHS End Marking Period 3</b> <b>K-8 Marking Period 2 Ends</b> Regents Exams	25 FIRST For updated events please check the online calendar at our website: <a href="http://www.aecsd.education">www.aecsd.education</a>
26 	27	28 Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 6:00PM	29 NEW <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Lunar New Year (Year of the Snake)	30	31 12:00PM Early Release Elementary Half Day <b>AHS Report Cards</b> <b>AJHS Report Cards</b>	 Hailey Pinchak, AJHS Gr. 8



The kindergarteners at Seward embraced an outdoor math lesson, relishing the season's first snowfall while practicing shape drawing. Using rulers instead of pencils, students engaged in discussions about the sides and corners of various shapes, enhancing their understanding through tactile and visual exploration.

# Seymour Library

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

Join us for programs in January at Seymour Library that promise to make learning fun – from Pokémon Club to storytimes and much more! The library will be offering new STEAM-based programs, plus we have new challenges for our LEGO Club, and a fun Family Movie Night!

## Saturday STEAM: Snow Scoop Building Challenge Saturday, January 11 at 11 am



Explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and/or Math at this monthly program. This month, use supplied materials to build a *Snow Scoop*, then test out your design by scooping “snow.” Designed for ages 6 and up, but all ages are welcome. No registration required.

## Family Fun Night: Movie Night Friday, January 17 at 4 pm



Spend a cozy evening at Seymour Library and join us for a screening of the film adaptation of the popular children’s book, *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown. Snacks and water will be provided for the movie, allergies will be considered and the library will provide allergen-free alternatives. No registration required for this free program.

Want to read the book before the movie? Copies of *The Wild Robot* are available to borrow with your library card!

## LEGO Club

### Monday, January 13 at 4 pm



Explore your creativity with LEGO challenges and games during the library’s new LEGO Club! Accept a building challenge or design your own creation from your imagination. The library will provide all the LEGO bricks. Designed for ages 6 and up, but all ages are welcome. Registration is not required.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Storytime with The Friends of Seymour Library Saturday, February 1 at 11 am



Celebrate “Take Your Child to the Library Day” with the Friends of Seymour Library. Join us for a storytime, yummy treats, and a book giveaway! Designed for ages 2 to 5, but all ages are welcome. **No registration is required. Book giveaway while supplies last.**

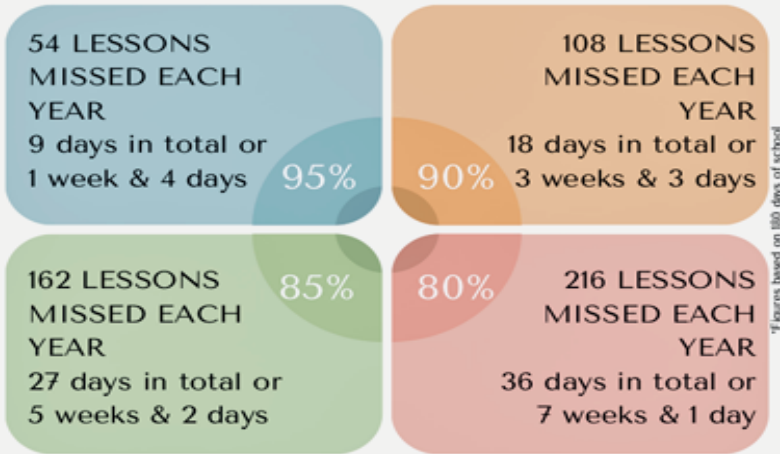
Visit [www.seymourlibrary.org](http://www.seymourlibrary.org) to view the complete list of library events.

## Closed Date for January:

Seymour Library will be **closed on Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.**

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

A daily absence percentage of 90% or less, or missing 18 or more days of school for any reason including excused absences and suspensions, is considered chronic absenteeism. When students are chronically absent, it can translate into having difficulty reading by the third grade, difficulty achieving in middle school, and difficulty graduating from high school. What does your attendance figure actually mean?



## Colleen Miles is having a doubly delightful school year at Seward!

First, she is hosting her former first grade student, senior Isabella Bouma, as a year-long practicum student. Then, she was contacted by senior Timeya Currier for a job shadowing opportunity. The best part is: that Timeya and Isabella were in the same first-grade class at Casey Park Elementary! Mrs. Miles is thrilled to have her former little ones back as seniors and getting ready for careers in education! Isabella plans to begin her college journey at Cayuga Community College. Timeya, although undecided about her college choice, was recently awarded a full scholarship to SUNY Oswego. She is pictured with the class below.

Best wishes to both seniors - your first-grade teacher is incredibly proud of you!



**National Suicide Prevention**  
Call or text 988

**988**

24/7 Free and confidential support for people in distress  
<https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/crisis/988.html>

## News from Herman Ave.



With the help of Mrs. Crosby, the 4th graders applied their knowledge of the Middle Ages to design medieval castles. Students used the knowledge they gained from this Amplify unit to write descriptive paragraphs and practiced the engine by design process as they built their own medieval castles.

*Meg Messina, 4th Grade Teacher*



**First Grade Class picture with Roo during a visit with Dr. Slavic in Shannon Newby's classroom.**



**Building Bridges  
Kindergarten math in Geri Marginsky's Classroom**



## Beginning February 1, 2025

### Open Enrollment for Auburn Enlarged City School District's 2025-2026 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, 2025, 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 1st.**

The 3PK and UPK 2024-2025 online student registration will be open beginning February 1, 2025. Please register your student using the online enrollment form located at the link on the Auburn Enlarged City School District website, [www.AECSO.education](http://www.AECSO.education), under Student Registration.

Parents/guardians who prefer to submit their student's registration in person may pick up a 2025-2026 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 20th.**

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

**REMINDER: We cannot accept any completed registration packets prior to February 1st**



**Need more information about the 2025-2026 Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program?  
Please contact Hanan Zaman at 315-255-8825 or Michelle Kolceski at 315-255-8613**



## 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)

## Follow us on Facebook!



- <https://www.facebook.com/AuburnECSD>
- <https://www.facebook.com/AuburnJrHS>
- <https://www.facebook.com/caseyparkelementary>
- <https://www.facebook.com/geneseeschool>
- <https://www.facebook.com/OwascoElementary>
- <https://www.facebook.com/HermanAveElementary>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sewardelementary>

## #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](http://fixandfundit.org)



## 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.



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, 2025, with income not exceeding \$107,300 for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

## GO MAROONS!

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

[www.aecsd.education](http://www.aecsd.education)



January 2025  
DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Eli Hernandez, President  
Danielle Wood, Vice President  
Matteo Bartolotta  
CJ Calarco  
Melissa Deyneka  
Daniel Lovell  
Noel Romeo  
Freddie Wilson III  
Jim Van Arsdale

SUPERINTENDENT  
OF SCHOOLS  
Dr. Misty Slavic

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

**We Make a Difference!**