



the **MAROON** *monthly*

AUBURN ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 7



Celebrating 100 Days of School

Casey Park students had a blast celebrating the 100th day of school! The day kicked off with students walking through colorful streamers as they entered the building. To add to the excitement, the 100th student to enter each door was surprised with a small goodie bag. Many students got into the spirit of the day by dressing up as 100-year-olds, adding extra fun to the festivities. It was a day full of smiles, surprises, and celebration!

AHS Band, Orchestra, & Choirs present

MAGIC KINGDOM MUSIC

A Music in Our Schools Month Celebration

Wednesday, March 5th
7 PM

Auburn High School
250 Lake Ave

AUBURN JUNIOR HIGH
presents

Seussical™

March 14 & 15, 2025
7pm
March 16, 2025
2pm

Auburn Junior High School
191 Franklin Street

This year the students at Auburn Junior High School are presenting the Broadway musical **Seussical**.

This musical is based on the works of Dr. Seuss. But it isn't just a string of his stories set to music. And it isn't just one of his stories. In fact, it is a full-length book musical, with a story which weaves together his most famous tales and characters in unexpected ways. The Seuss collection of books includes hundreds of wondrous characters, creatures, places and things. *Seussical* incorporates elements from at least 15 of his books, as well as many of his best-loved and most familiar characters. Many of these characters never met one another before but they do in this musical. In the course of the evening, some will fall in love, some will have desperate adventures and some will save the world. And they all travel everywhere from the Jungle of Nool to McEligott's Pool to Palm Beach. Along the way we learn the importance of helping a friend, not giving up, in keeping a promise, in the value and dignity of others, and the pure power of the imagination.

Heading the cast of over 30 characters are **Payton Marsh** as the Cat in the Hat, **Aliana Symonds** as Jojo, **Maxwell Houghton** as Horton the Elephant and **Xena Rathbun** as Gertrude McFuzz. Adding to the story are Mayzie La Bird played by **Adelaide Ryan**, Sour Kangaroo played by **Elizabeth Ciampaglia**, **Seamus Palmer** as the Mayor of Whoville, and **Lydia Wasilenko** as his wife, Mrs. Mayor.



AUTHOR EVENT WITH MATTHEW MCELLIGOTT



Auburn

Enlarged City School District

invites all AECSD parents and guardians to attend a

Parent/Guardian University

Wednesday,

March 19, 2025

5-7 p.m.

Auburn Junior High School



Break-Out Sessions:

- ELA Session
- Math Session
- Mental Health Session
- STEM Session



for our next
Parent/Guardian
University too!
June 5, 2025

Learn about the
opportunities available
to your student!
Ask questions and stay
informed!

RSVPs are encouraged!

Amy Mahunik
315.255.8805
amymahunik@aecsd.education



It's all GREEK to 6th graders at Casey Park

Here are some of the Casey Park 6th graders' Greek Projects they did for this Social Studies Unit. Students got to choose out of a list the project they would present to the class on. They also had to do research on their Greek project they picked.

Shannon DelloStritto, 6th Grade Teacher



Toothpaste Eruption from Spider hole with Big Pepsi, Fanta, 7up, Monster, Cola and ...



News from Seward Elementary

After viewing the YouTube video “Elephant Toothpaste” at home, Seward Elementary third grader **Julianna Weaver** wrote a personal response essay about her concerns for the beach habitat where it was filmed. Julianna then showed the video to her classmates and led a thoughtful discussion about their responses to it. The class concluded that responsible media use means not only watching for entertainment but also looking for videos that make their screen time quality time. **Excellent work, Julianna!**



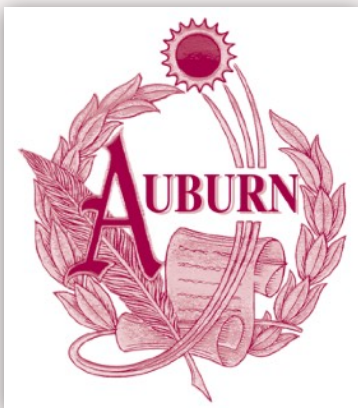
Seward Elementary 6th graders listened to **Mrs. Walker** (Genesee Elementary staff) speak during Black History Month. The district is very lucky to have such an invaluable first hand resource available to students. Julian Brandstetter and Nolan Wride wrote about the experience below.

“Mrs. Walker is a very smart and independent person. She likes to teach others about Martin Luther King Jr. How he is about having equal rights and what she had to go through to get them. Also, it is such a wonderful thing to learn especially because she was there first person listening to Martin Luther King Jr speak. She attended the March on Washington for equal rights taking time to show support for equal rights. It just shows how great of a person she is for taking time out of her day to teach us a little more things about her experiences and perspectives.”



Mrs. Hesse’s students are practicing reading skills by learning to read high frequency words with a game called “Swat it!” The teacher calls out a word and the students must use their speed to locate the high frequency word. Whoever “swats” it first keeps it. The object of the game is to have the most words in the end.

Pictured are Third graders Harper Swanson and Onolee Baker



AUBURN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

New Inductees for the Alumni Hall of Distinction Class of 2025

Auburn Education Foundation proudly announces members of the Auburn Alumni Hall of Distinction Class of 2025. The Hall of Distinction was established in 2012 to recognize, honor and celebrate graduates who have distinguished themselves through outstanding academic, professional, personal and/or civic achievements.

- **Melody Brooks (AHS 1976)** formed New Perspectives Theatre Company, a multi-racial ensemble dedicated to using theater as an agent for positive social change.
- **Bernie Simmons (AHS 1976)**, a well-known and respected local restaurateur generously gives back to the community through his support of local events and causes.
- **John Bisognano, MD, PhD (AHS 1977)**, a Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine and Interim Chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at Michigan University specializes in severe and refractory hypertension.
- **Gina Gera (AHS 1988)** began her career as a part-time worker in the Auburn Wegmans store and is presently the Senior V.P. of Operations for the Syracuse Division of Wegmans overseeing more than 4,000 employees.
- **Nicole Murley (AHS 1997)** serves as Senior Counsel to the Inspector General of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and has been awarded the Civil Division John W. Douglas Award for Pro Bono Service.

These individuals will be honored at an hors d'oeuvres and dessert reception (cash bar available), **Friday, May 16, 2025, at the Hilton Garden Inn**. The ceremony begins at 7:00 PM and tickets will soon be available on the Auburn Education Foundation website: auburneducationfoundation.org

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

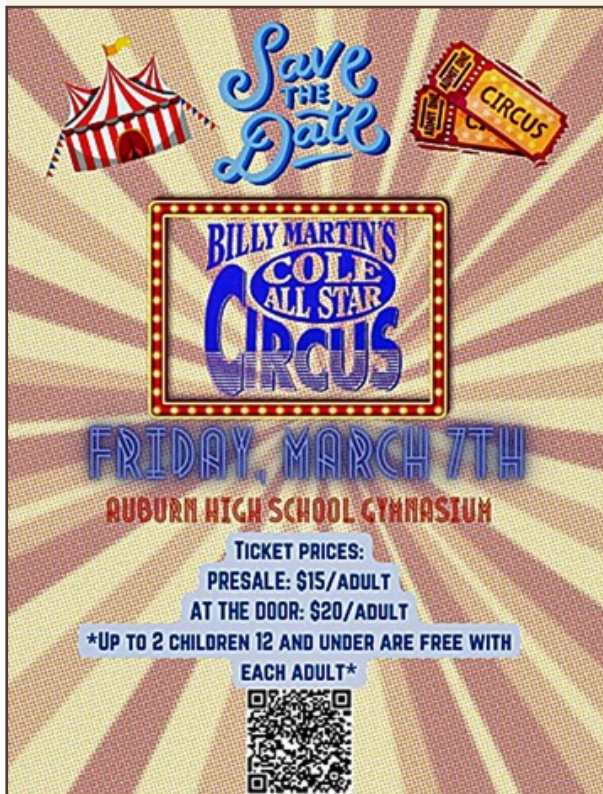
- On February 3, Dr. Renee Burgess presented on DEI at the District Parent Council meeting along with three students from AHS who participated in a student panel discussion.
- On February 10, five members of the NAACP read to students at Genesee Elementary in celebration of Black History Month and National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID).
- On February 10, the Executive Director of Special Education, Babette Valentine, and the Special Education Coordinator, Aliza Querns presented information on 504 plans and Individualized Education Plans to the mentors and mentees in the district.
- On February 14, students at AHS had an opportunity to attend an information session to learn more about the Filmmakers for the Future program starting in March.
- All school buildings will be highlighting and celebrating Women's History during the month of March.

Dr. Renee Burgess

Annual Family and Student Survey

Family Engagement Survey

It is that time of year for the administration of our annual stakeholder surveys shared with our students in grades 3-12, our staff and our families. This survey is administered each year and the school district uses this information to assist with making decisions and setting goals for the school district. The survey assesses your school experience in the Auburn Enlarged City School District by identifying areas of strength and areas that could be improved. The students will be provided time in school to complete their student surveys and here you will find the link above.



Save the Date


BILLY MARTIN'S
COLE
ALL STAR
CIRCUS

FRIDAY, MARCH 7TH

AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

TICKET PRICES:
PRESALE: \$15/ADULT
AT THE DOOR: \$20/ADULT

UP TO 2 CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER ARE FREE WITH EACH ADULT



Families of 3rd Grade Students (and older) are invited to attend:

AUBURN'S INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO

Interested in playing an instrument, but not sure which one is the right fit?

Do you have questions about Auburn's Music Program?

When and where do you get an instrument?

All of these questions and more can be answered at the Instrument Petting Zoo! Please join Auburn's music department for a fun and informational evening about the joys of learning how to play an instrument. Even if there is a student/sibling in the program already, come try out the different instruments we have to offer.

Instruments available to try include:

Flute

Cello

And MORE!

Trombone

Bass

Date: Tuesday March 11th

Time: 6:00-7:30 PM

Where: Auburn High School

250 Lake Avenue

Prizes will be provided by the Auburn High School Tri-M Music Honor Society



Digital Access Survey - New York State

Digital Access Survey

Collecting accurate data regarding digital resource access for our New York students will greatly help educators to better serve their students and families. In order to accomplish this, the **New York State Education Department** is asking parents and guardians to complete this Digital Access Survey (for each student in the family) in grades **Kindergarten – Grade 12**. This survey will provide information on student access to devices and internet access in their places of residence. To assist us in this process, please answer each question below and follow any additional instructions provided for submitting or returning the survey.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

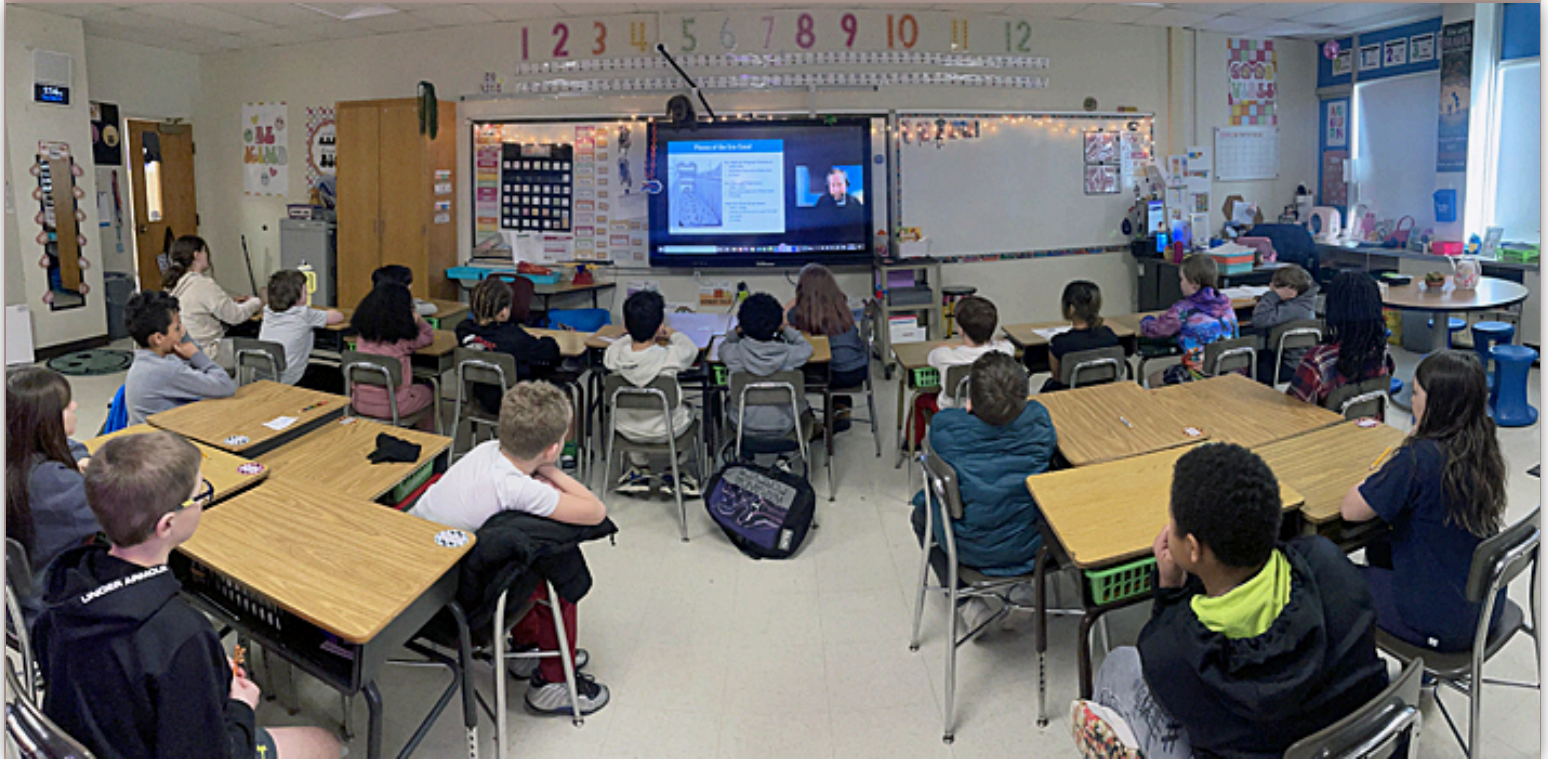
March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 <i>March Artwork Juelz Decker Casey Park Gr. 3</i>	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	April 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		 <i>March Artwork Lillah Reynolds, AJHS Gr 8</i>	1 Ramadan Begins at sundown AEF Spring Grant Applications Due
2 Women's History Month (www.nwhp.org) Read Across America Day	3 World Wildlife Day	4 Mardi Gras	5 AHS MIOSM Concert Magic Kingdom Music 7:00pm @ AHS AJHS PTO Mtg. 6:00PM Ash Wednesday	 6	7 Bill Martin's Cole Circus @AHS 6:30PM	8  International Women's Day
9  Daylight Saving Time Begins	10  <i>Harriet Tubman Day</i> District Parent Council Mtg. 6:30PM @ Tubman	11 AHS Sports Physicals 1:00-3:00PM <i>Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 7:00PM</i>	12 AHS Sports Physicals 1:00-3:00PM Community Author Visit Matthew McElligott @AHS 6:30-8:00 pm	13 Genesee Family Night 4:30-6:30 PM	 14 NO SCHOOL <i>Staff Development Day</i> AJHS Musical 7:00PM AHS End Marking Period 4 Worm Moon	15  AJHS Musical "Seussical" 7:00PM
16 AJHS Musical "Seussical" 2:00PM Music in Our Schools Month	 17 JV/Varsity Sports Spring Tryouts Marking Period 5 Begins AHS	18 Parent/Guardian University 5:00 - 7:00PM @ AJHS	19 Parent/Guardian University 5:00 - 7:00PM @ AJHS	20 First Day of Spring	21 All-County Orchestra AHS Report Cards	 22 All-County Orchestra World Water Day
23	24	25 AJHS Mod. Spring Sports Physicals Boys 2:20PM Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences 5:30-7:30PM <i>Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 6:00PM</i>	26 AJHS Mod. Spring Sports Physicals Girls 2:20PM AHS Parent/Teacher Conferences 5:30-8:00PM	27 AJHS MIOSM Concert 7:00pm @ AJHS	28 American Red Cross Month (www.redcross.org)	 29
30 Eid al-Fitr	31 Indoor Percussion Champi- onship @ Gates Chili HS					



Miss Pysnack's 4th grade class at Casey Park worked together and found 100 Hershey kisses hidden around the room for 100 days of 4th grade! They then divided 100 by the amount of students to figure out how many kisses each student could enjoy equally in celebration of the 100th day of school.

Low Bridge, Everybody Down - Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal



Fourth grade students at Casey Park participated in an engaging Zoom session on The Grand Canal: **Celebrating the Erie Canal's Bicentennial**. The virtual event explored the rich history and impact of the Erie Canal, a vital waterway that transformed trade and transportation in the United States. Students learned about the canal's construction, its cultural significance, and its role in connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. Through interactive discussions and activities, they gained a deeper understanding of its lasting influence on the development of New York and the nation.

Hailey Pysnack, 4th Grade Teacher, Casey Park

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?

54 LESSONS
MISSED EACH
YEAR

9 days in total or
1 week & 4 days

95%

108 LESSONS
MISSED EACH
YEAR

18 days in total or
3 weeks & 3 days

90%

162 LESSONS
MISSED EACH
YEAR

27 days in total or
5 weeks & 2 days

85%

80%

216 LESSONS
MISSED EACH
YEAR

36 days in total or
7 weeks & 1 day

*figures based on 180 days of school

Seymour Library

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

March on to Seymour Library for Family Fun, Discovery & More!

Seymour Library has something for everyone this March! From educational programs to hands-on activities, we're here to inspire curiosity and fun. Plus, we're thrilled to introduce new programs just for teens!

Stop by to check out books, Discovery Kits, Learning Backpacks, video games, and more—it's all FREE! Don't have a library card? No problem! Signing up is easy, and you don't need a card to attend our FREE programs. Worried about late returns? We're a fine-free library!

STEAM Saturday: Barn Owls Saturday, March 8 at 11 am



Explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and/or Math at this monthly program. This month, learn about barn owls, dissect an owl pellet and make an owl craft! Designed for ages 6-12, but all ages are welcome.

Family Fun Night: Friday, March 14 from 6 pm to 7:00 pm



Families are invited to join us for a special art focused storytime, followed by art and craft activities for the whole family! There will be paint involved, please wear play clothes or bring a smock!

NEW TEEN PROGRAMS!

Trivia Night

Friday, March 14 from 4 pm to 5:30 pm



Join us for teen trivia night! Participate in groups of 3 or less, or compete on your own to test your general knowledge of pop culture, history, science, and more. The team that scores the most points will win a prize. Pizza will be provided! **Designed for teens (age 12+).**

Collage Night

Wednesday, March 19 from 4 pm to 5:30 pm



Explore the art of layering materials to create unique pieces of art. Whether you are an experienced artist or just looking for something fun to do, drop in and get creative! Supplies will be provided, but you are also welcome to bring your own. **Designed for teens (age 12+).**

This is just a glimpse of the exciting events happening in March! No registration required—just drop in and enjoy!

Visit www.seymourlibrary.org for a full list of programs.

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>

NOW OPEN!

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 now register their child online and upload the supporting documentation.

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.AESCD.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.

Need more information about the 2025-2026 Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program?

Please contact Mary White 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



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



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.



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.



Experiencing Live Theater

The REV Theatre Company performed *The Fisherman and His Wife* for Casey Park's Kindergarten, First, and Second Graders. Students had the opportunity to participate in the performance with gestures and sounds as the play told a tale of greed. Students loved the interactive experience the REV brought to us!

The REV Theatre Company puts on this production at all five elementary schools.

Mrs. Gutelius, 2nd Grade Teacher

GO MAROONS!

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

www.aecsd.education



March 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

We Make a Difference!