



the **MARROON** monthly

AUBURN ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 3

Auburn High School Teacher Named Master Teacher

New York State has named 214 master teachers to the New York State Master Teachers Program (NYSMTP), and **Auburn High School science teacher, Patrick Crawford**, is one of them.

The NYSMTP began in 2013 and has named 908 master teachers since its inception. New York State Master Teachers are innovators and leaders in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education.

Crawford, who teaches AP Biology and Biomedical Science, joins three other Auburn High School science teachers – Kathleen Austin, Judith Coye, and Janet Scheffler – currently in the program.

As part of the program, master teachers receive \$15,000 stipends each year over four years to use toward professional development and peer mentoring. They must participate in a minimum of 50 professional development hours each year.



"It is obviously an honor to be selected as a master teacher," Crawford said.

"I am looking forward to taking advantage of professional development opportunities that I have not been able to in the past, as well as the chance to collaborate with other teachers and learn from one another, all while promoting the STEM field."

Congratulations, Mr. Crawford!

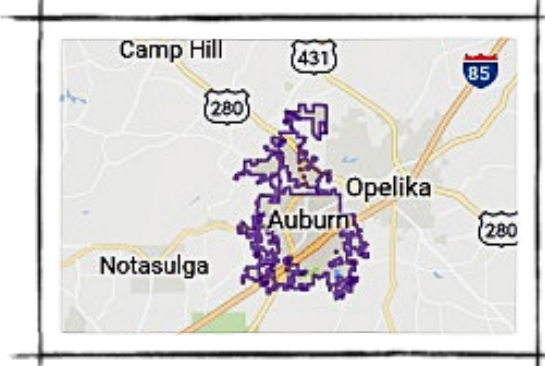


Literary Pumpkins

Students at Owasco Elementary School created Literary Pumpkins; pumpkins decorated like their favorite literary character or story.



Where in the World is Ms. Donaldson's Class?



That's what students in Mrs. Terry's kindergarten class at Genesee Elementary School were trying to find out when they participated in a "Mystery Skype" with Ms. Donaldson's kindergarten class. Mystery Skype is a global guessing game in which a class is partnered with another class but doesn't know the location of their partner class. Students have to use their critical thinking skills to develop questions that can only be answered with a "Yes" or "No" to narrow down the location of the other school. Mrs. Terry's students asked questions including "Is your state bordered by an ocean?" and "Does your state border Canada?" With help from their 6th grade helpers, Mrs. Terry's students had to figure out the answers to the questions posed by Ms. Donaldson's students (one of the easier ones was "Does the name of your state have two words?"). Eventually, both classes were able to guess the other's location; Mrs. Terry's students were excited to discover that Ms. Donaldson's class is located in Alabama...Auburn, Alabama! The two classes are now writing letters and sending packages to each other, and will skype again in the future to learn more about each other.



6th grade students Emma Beatty and Lashad Perry help Mrs. Terry's kindergarten class with their "Mystery Skype" in the Genesee library.



ON THE FARM FIELD TRIP

Science teachers (Grades 7-12) and 6th grade teachers came together to learn first-hand about modern farming. Solutions Manager, Crystina Brooks (and AHS grad!) provided us with an informative presentation about the diversity of career options available at Du Mond Farms in Union Springs. She explained the need for a variety of skills and degrees in their employees ranging from a high school diploma to a masters degree. Owner Todd Du Mond stopped in to answer any questions that we had. We were impressed with all of the technology and innovations we saw. Our trip concluded with a tour of the farm. 6th grade teachers hope to bring their students to the farm for a field trip as part of their career unit. Since agriculture is a major business in the Auburn area, we think it is important to expose our students to this career option.



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UPK offerings in the Auburn School District

By Kathy Rhodes, Vice President, Board of Education, Auburn Enlarged City School District

Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs provide opportunities for all three and four year olds to be enrolled in an exciting preschool program. These programs enable parents, childcare providers, preschool special education programs, nursery schools, community-based organizations, and other early childhood programs to work in collaboration with the Auburn Enlarged City School District to develop and implement high quality educational programs for resident three and four year olds.

Research indicates that quality pre-kindergarten experiences promote academic success and greater achievement in school, which is why the 3PK and UPK programs are integral components of the Auburn school district. Any Auburn resident who is three or four years of age on or before December 1 of the current school year is eligible to apply, and since the programs are state-funded, there is no cost for eligible children to attend.

Michelle Kolceski will be joining the district as the Director of Early Learning at the end of October. She is a tenured administrator and teacher with New York State certifications for Nursery – Grade 12 and a solid understanding of teaching and learning in literacy and mathematics. She has extensive instructional and supervisory experience at the Kindergarten foundational level, helping teachers implement rigorous educational standards, evaluate effectiveness of their instructional programs, and meet students where they are. In her previous position, much of her focus was spent on identifying learning gaps and providing early intervention, allowing for the strongest start for all students.

"I believe we must partner with families to foster a love of learning that builds upon a child's natural curiosity," Kolceski says.

"I look forward to working in the Auburn Enlarged City School District and am excited about the opportunities provided to students and families from 3PK and up!"

Amy Bryan is a UPK/Primary Instructional Coach, providing instructional, curricular, and assessment support to teachers in the five elementary school buildings in Auburn, as well as to the UPK and 3PK preschool teachers in the district's community preschool classrooms.

"I love getting to interact with young children on a daily basis and knowing that the support I can provide through the school district can assist a teacher in helping many more children than I would be able to help on my own in a single classroom," Bryan states.

Maribeth Delany is the special education teacher, Behavioral Specialist, and CPSE Chairperson for the 3PK, UPK, and Kindergarten programs. It is her responsibility as an educator and chairperson to ensure students are placed in the best educational settings with the best supportive services, especially for the special education students. This includes not only classroom services like special education, speech, OT, and PT, but also meeting regularly with teachers and parents and making sure that there is adequate communication between all parties involved in the students' education.

"What I enjoy most about what I do is interacting with students in the classroom," Delany says.

"It thrills me to see their love for learning, as well as their kindness and empathy for others, and I believe an inclusive preschool program allows these character traits to develop in our youngest students."



There are eight locations that offer 3PK and/or UPK programs:

Cayuga Community College
Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES
Cayuga-Seneca Community Action Agency
Early Childhood Center
E. John Gavras Center
Montessori School of the Finger Lakes
Westminster Nursery School
YMCA

Each location and program offers different features and is supported by district staff members.



To learn more about the Auburn school district's 3PK and UPK programs, visit

<http://district.auburn.cnyric.org/upk>
or contact Mary Cregg at
(315) 255-8825 or
mary_cregg@auburn.cnyric.org



Seward: Alaska Day

Seward students in grades 3 & 4 were treated to an engaging "Alaska Day" presentation from Seward House staff.



Z-Club's Ongoing Commitment to Making the World a Better Place

By Olivia Morgan & Ashley Reilly, Z-Club Publicity Committee



School has been in session for just over a month, but the Auburn High School Z-Club is already hard at work. We've already taken part in multiple community service activities, and have some pretty big plans for this upcoming academic year.

Z-Club members have already helped out at a number of community events, including, but not limited to: preparing and serving food for members of our community at the soup kitchen, volunteering at Harvest of Sound, and helping out at our second annual AHS Cross Country Invitational.

Something else our members have taken part in was the International "Petal It Forward" day, an event last month in which members of our club brighten someone's day by randomly delivering two bouquets of flowers to them. Recipients of the bouquets get to keep one for their enjoyment and "petal" the other one forward. This is in collaboration with Cosentino's Florist, who so generously donates the flowers to make this possible. Member's of Z-Club help to assemble bouquets of flowers which they then pass on to teachers in our school and members of our community. This event really highlights how big an impact you can have on someone's life just by letting them know they are appreciated. We have received such amazing feedback on this in the past, and are very excited to share the love again this year.

Z-Club members are also looking forward to our big community service projects we have just recently voted on, as well. For the past two years, the Auburn High School Z-Club has been internationally recognized for our three big projects that we tackle, which benefit our school, community, and the international world. Z-members get together in the summer to brainstorm ideas for the upcoming school year and then bring the ideas to the first meeting.

The project that Z-Club members voted on to enrich Auburn High School is to **build a playground** on the northern side of the school. This playground will be designed with the help of an architect, and built by our members. Z-members will be reaching out to our local businesses to see if they would like to aid us in this project by either donating supplies and/or their expertise. This playground/playspace will be used by the preschool students who are served by the child development program at Auburn High School. By participating in this project, members of Z-Club will have the opportunity to work with professionals in our community, collaborate and plan together, and experience true teamwork!

Many people internationally go through life without the basics, such as footwear, simply because they cannot afford it or don't have access to it. The members of Z-Club have decided to do something about it. The club's international community service project will be to create flip flops for those around the world who are lacking basic footwear. Members may also purchase a pair of flip flops and then personalize and/or decorate them.

Under the impeccable guidance of **Mrs. Julie Liccion**, the club is ecstatic to be taking on our new projects this year in hopes that we will continue to change the lives of people who are not as fortunate as we are.



Z-Club member Emily Mead putting up domestic violence awareness ribbons.

Like last year, the Auburn High School Z-Club took part in raising awareness for domestic violence. Since October is **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, members of Z-Club were out hanging purple ribbons in the windows of local businesses in order to make members of our community aware of the terrible situations thousands of people worldwide face everyday, some even here in our own community. We also do this to reach out to those people in our community facing domestic abuse to tell them that they are not alone and to give them opportunities to get help. In addition, Z-Club members delivered domestic violence literature packets to local health care facilities and doctor's offices. These packets were assembled by the Cayuga Seneca Action Agency Program. Z-Club often partners with local organizations that help our community, and this is a tradition that we hope to keep for years to come.

As our community project, Z-Club will be putting together care bags for victims of domestic violence within Auburn. We will once again be working with the **Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency** to fill multiple bags with toiletries that victims need when they leave their abusive relationship - items that they will not have time to grab as they are getting away. This will offer those suffering in our community security knowing that if they choose to run away from their abusive situation they will have some of the essentials; it will also serve to help Z-Club's members gain a greater understanding of the struggles that some of our community members face.

The Auburn Enlarged City School District has been facing significant budget shortfalls year after year due to major flaws with the New York State Foundation Aid formula and its lack of funding.

Join the fight to eliminate the Income Wealth Index “floor” of .65 so ALL public schools can achieve equitable educational funding!

If the “floor” of .65 were eliminated, Auburn and 150 other school districts across the state would see a net benefit in the amount of Foundation Aid they receive.

#FixAndFundIt

Please help spread the message:

SEND!

Post cards addressed to Governor Cuomo are available at the Harriet Tubman Administration Building at 78 Thornton Avenue and the main offices of each school. A directory of NYS officials is available at: district.auburn.cnyric.org/Budget

SIGN!

A petition requesting the Governor take immediate action to fix and fully fund the Foundation Aid formula for public schools is available to download at district.auburn.cnyric.org/Budget. Ask your family, friends, neighbors, and any other district resident you know to sign the petition.

SHARE!

Use our hashtag - #FixAndFundIt - on social media.



Our students deserve fair and equitable funding. They need everyone on board to spread this message. The more the governor and other lawmakers hear the message, the more likely they are to listen and act!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!



Missing just a few days of school a month can hurt a child's math and reading skills or even their chance of graduating. Please help us reduce chronic absence. Find our more at:

www.everystudentpresent.org/parents

Check out
#EveryStudentPresentAECSD
on social media.

SCHOOL TAX INFORMATION

**2nd installment due:
December 5, 2017**

**Last day the collector will
accept taxes is:
December 5, 2017**

**Questions about your bill?
Call 315-255-8806
or e-mail:**

Sandra_VanGiesen@auburn.cnyric.org

**You can also look up your
bill online at:**

www.taxlookup.net

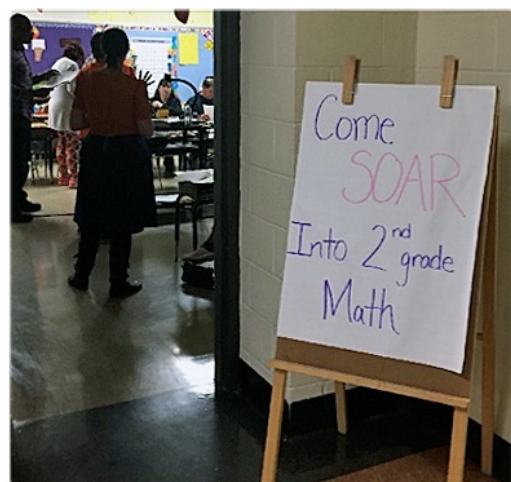
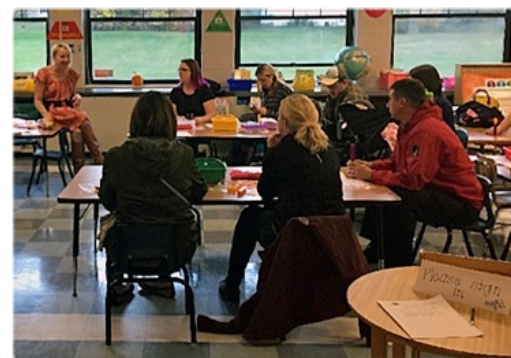
SOAR into LEARNING

By Jean Zimmer, Herman Avenue Elementary Math Teacher

"How do I...?" "What happens when...?" These were phrases often heard on Wednesday, October 25th at Herman Avenue's SOAR Night. Mathematics can be a confusing subject but when family and school staff come together, answers to the how and what become more apparent. One parent said the event helps the parents understand what their kids are doing each day.

At every grade level, there was much information and discussion. Some people had the opportunity to create parent accounts for the online Math program. Others practiced using some new Math words, like "subitizing." Some discovered how to count "the Math way," or the use of what is being taught for real-world application. More than one parent said they were glad to obtain online access to be able to better help their child with homework. Most of the conversation was about helping the children have better Math sense, which is critical in the 21st Century.

While parents were "doing Math," the children were entertained by a movie in our newly detailed auditorium. PTO volunteers and Herman Avenue staff members helped everything to run smoothly with both the movie and a light dinner afterward. Many thanks to all who gave of their time, from cutting carrots and celery to organizing pizza for the crowd. Our school is a better place with the partnership between family and school.



Fire Safety Day at Casey Park

Fire Safety and Prevention Days are held at all elementary schools during October. Casey Park's was held on October 12. We thank the firefighters @AuburnFire4110 for teaching us, showing us, and putting a smile on all of our faces.



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.

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>iversity framework ne ected atlantic east ce ntal friends plan non ired global world ma ection warming com e africa success com m idea partners staff a continental progres</p>	<p>1 AHS Winter Sports Physicals, Boys 2:20PM Winter Tryouts: Modified Boys Basketball AJHS PTO Mtg. 6:00PM</p>	<p>2 AHS Winter Sports Physicals, Girls 2:20PM Genesee PTP Mtg. 6:00PM AJHS Title 1 Parent Mtg. 5:00PM Parent Teacher Conferences AJHS 5:30-8:00PM</p>	<p>3 Herman MGR Playhouse Gr. 3 Magic Paintbrush JHS Area-All State @ Cortland HS Report Cards</p>	<p>4 SAT Exam AHS 7:45AM JHS Area-All State @ Cortland Hall of Fame Induction Dinner, Springside 6PM</p>
<p>5 Daylight Saving Time Ends</p>	<p>6 FIRST School Picture Retake Day @ AHS Herman Book Fair Week 11/6-11/9 Winter Tryouts: JVV Sports District Parent Council Mtg. 6:30PM @ Tubman</p>	<p>7 Herman Book Family Night 6:00-8:00PM Election Day</p>	<p>8 Herman Book Family Night 6:00-8:00PM Casey Park CPTO Meeting 6:30PM</p>	<p>9 Owasco Veteran's Day Assembly K-8 Marking Period 1 Ends</p>	<p>10 Veterans Day NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 National Native American Heritage Month</p>	<p>13 FULL OPT Meeting Owasco 6:30PM Library American Education Week</p>	<p>14 Board of Education Mtg. AHS Library @ 7:00PM</p>	<p>15 Herman PTO Mtg. 4:00PM Library Seward Community Cafe 5:00-7:00PM America Recycles Day</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 CCMEA All County @ Southern Cayuga Elementary & JHS Report Cards Seward Circus Day</p>	<p>18 CCMEA All County @ Southern Cayuga</p>
<p>19 Gettysburg Address Anniversary National Family Week</p>	<p>20 LAST Herman MGR Playhouse Gr. 5 Emilia PTA Meeting Seward 6:00PM</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>23 Thanksgiving Day NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>24 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>25 </p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27 Cyber Monday</p>	<p>28 NEW</p>	<p>29 School Picture Retake Day Casey Park, Herman, Owasco AM only, Seward 9AM AHS Fall Choral Classic @ AHS 7PM</p>	<p>30 School Picture Retake Day Genesee Shop 'Til You Drop Fundraiser @ Owasco AHS Drama Club Show 7PM @ Auburn Pub.Theater</p>	<p>October 2017 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</p>	<p>December 2017 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</p>



On October 24th Auburn High School seniors from Mr. Moskov's Advanced Government class attended Cayuga County Student Government Day.



Auburn Enlarged City School District
Harriet Tubman Administration Building
78 Thornton Avenue
Auburn, NY 13021

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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 (315-255-4125). 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, 2017, with income not exceeding \$86,000.

STAR provides qualifying households with up to a \$65,500 exemption on the full value of their property. Qualifying residents owning a home with a full value of \$100,000 will recognize an estimated \$1,158 in Enhanced STAR tax savings in 2017-2018.



November 2017
DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the
AUBURN ENLARGED CITY
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We Make a Difference!