



School District News

DON'T
FORGET

Schedule Changes

Effective November 29, 2021, changes will be taking place in the daily instructional schedule in an effort to address bus driver shortages by re-routing current transportation trips. Specifically, the following will be implemented beginning November 29:

1. Current K-5 transportation runs will be re-routed.
2. All K-5 students will be picked up and dropped off at their designated location at the same time.
3. Current staggered morning arrival times at both schools will be eliminated.
4. Alden Primary School student school day will shift to 9:05 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
5. There will be **NO** change to the Intermediate School start time. Arrival time will remain at 8:35 a.m. Student dismissal will shift to 3:15 p.m. (A 10-minute change).
6. There will be **NO** change to the Middle School start time. Arrival time will remain at 7:55 a.m. Student dismissal will shift to 2:20 p.m. (A 10-minute change).
7. There will be **NO** change to the High School start time. Arrival time will remain at 7:45 a.m. Student dismissal will shift to 2:10 p.m. (A 5-minute change).

Message From the Superintendent

I hope this letter finds you well and preparing for the upcoming holidays and New Year! Please take a few minutes to review the information in our winter newsletter as there are many highlights from the first three months of the school year, along with important information about upcoming events. In addition to this publication, you can find additional information on the District website at www.aldenschools.org or follow us on Twitter @AldenCSD.



Adam Stoltman
Superintendent of Schools

Through the first 10 weeks of the school year, our students have begun to experience things that have been put on hold since March of 2020. Due to the efforts of our entire staff and families, we have successfully held 100% in-person instruction with minimal individual quarantine disruptions. Excitement surrounded the return to traditional activities such as open houses, clubs, activities, fall athletics and homecoming festivities. While there are still regulations that must be followed, our staff and students have found creative ways to make sure the experiences, while looking a bit different from prior years, are still held.

As we turn our calendars to December, I would like to remind you of the procedures we follow when we delay or close our schools. Every attempt will be made to arrive at a decision as soon as possible to allow our families the appropriate time to plan. Announcements will be communicated via Twitter (@AldenCSD), automatically to all registered Robo-Call users, posted on our District website (www.aldenschools.org), and through our local television/radio

continued on page 3

Aquatic Center Grand Opening

On September 7, the Alden Central School District held a grand opening for the new Aquatic Center. The Alden Varsity Girls Swim team had the distinct honor of swimming the first lap in the new pool. The ribbon cutting was fittingly done by Elaine Grant, wife of Gary Grant. Gary was a long-time, highly respected swim coach for Alden CSD, who tragically passed away in 2012 from a bike accident while competing in one of his many triathlons. Grant was also a member of the Alden CSD Class of 1983 and was inducted to the Alden Athletic Wall of Fame posthumously in 2013.

The new Aquatic Center has already been enjoyed by not only ACS



continued on page 3

Distinguished Alumni Ceremony

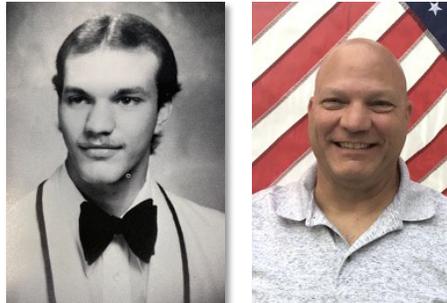
Congratulations to the Distinguished Alumni Class of 2021! Dr. Dana Wymer, Class of 1985; Mr. Nicholas Smith, Class of 1986; and Mr. Terry Arndt (posthumously), Class of 1971, were all inducted into the ACSD Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame on September 24.

Dr. Dana L. Wymer, DO, FAAP
Class of 1985



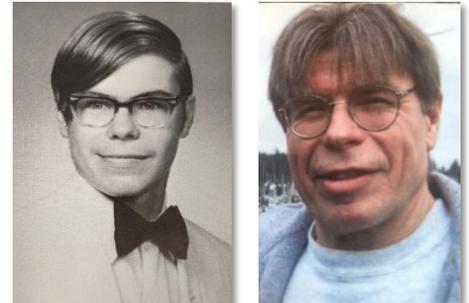
A 1985 graduate from Alden, Dana Wymer graduated from the University at Buffalo with a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture and a Master of Science in Engineering. She worked in engineering for 12 years before pursuing her medical degree. Wymer graduated from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her residency in combined internal medicine and pediatrics through Buffalo General Hospital, Children's Hospital of Buffalo, and ECMC. She served as chief resident in her fourth year. Wymer was active in the National Med-Peds Residents Association, during which she was instrumental in bringing and organizing the Northeast conference to Buffalo for the first time ever. She is Board certified in both internal medicine and pediatrics, and is the managing physician partner of Quaker Medical Associates in Orchard Park, N.Y. Additionally, she is a member of the American College of Physicians and the American Academy of Pediatrics. She serves on both the boards of the Optimum Physicians Alliance and the Primary Care Independent Physicians Association, which serve to promote quality in primary care. She has been married for 30 years to her husband, Michael, and has a 24-year-old son, Riley. When not at the office she enjoys traveling, biking, cross-country skiing, cooking, and music.

Mr. Nicholas M. Smith
Class of 1986



Nick Smith is a 1986 graduate of Alden High School. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and attended boot camp at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in North Chicago, IL. Upon completion of his training, he was assigned to the USS O'Bannon (DD-987) home ported in Charleston, S.C. While stationed aboard the O'Bannon, he completed a six-month Persian Gulf deployment and numerous other naval deployments throughout the world. During his military service, he was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Meritorious Service Medal. Upon completion of his military commitment, Smith enrolled at Buffalo State College, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Forensic Chemistry. In 1997, Smith was hired by the U.S. Secret Service as a special officer, and two years later was selected to become a protective support technician on the vice president's (VP) detail. During his time on the VP detail, Smith drove in motorcades and provided security for vice presidents Al Gore and Dick Cheney, and was also a driver for Mrs. Gore and Mrs. Cheney. During the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Smith was stationed at the White House and provided security for Vice President Cheney and his family. Desiring to return to his hometown, he joined U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the Port of Buffalo. In 2007, he became a firearms and less lethal device instructor that was responsible for conducting training for the officers stationed in the Port of Buffalo. Smith has completed five 100-mile charity bike rides for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and has participated in other community service events. He has two daughters, is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys local sporting events.

Mr. Terry D. Arndt
Class of 1971



In the summer of 1971, Terry Arndt took his first road trip. Arndt said he was going nowhere in particular, but just wanted to meet new people from different cultures and backgrounds. From the beginning, he was passionate about the diversity of people and places. All in all, he experienced 69 countries over the span of the next 13 years. Arndt's passions led him to the exploration of environmental sciences. In 1987, he started his prerequisite classes at the University of Buffalo. He later transferred to the University of Miami, where he received a double Bachelor of Science in Biology/ Marine Biology with a minor in Chemistry in 1992. Arndt started his 25-year career working with environmental companies in Miami right after graduation. In 1996, he landed his dream job out of Anchorage, AK. He received training through the National Marine Fisheries Service and worked for the federal government as a fisheries observer aboard boats in Alaskan waters. He was stationed aboard vessels that would go to sea for up to 90 days at a time. Every vessel was mandated to have an observer. Each boat had a permit for what was legal during that season, and the Observer needed to be certified for that type of permit. Arndt was one of very few who was triple certified, and Arndt was a protected species observer or marine mammal observer. In 2007, he began working with LGL Alaskan Research Associates. His occupation was to identify as many animals as possible and document their behavior. The boats had strict instructions to avoid interactions with animals; whether that meant going in another direction or waiting for the animals to move on. If the vessel ignored the

continued on page 3



Community Wide Seniors

Are you 65 or older and looking to get some exercise during the weekday?
You're in luck!

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m., the Alden Aquatic Center hosts Senior swim, where folks swim laps, do some water exercises and aerobics.

Come join us!

Please arrive around 9:15 a.m. Abby or the assistant lifeguard will open the doors promptly at 9:30 a.m. For any late arrivals, please call the number posted on the aquatic doors.



Aquatic Center Grand Opening

continued from page 1

students, but also by the Town of Alden Recreation Program and the Alden Senior Citizen Group, who utilizes it from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. each Tuesday and Thursday.

As a reminder, the Aquatic Center is just one phase of our Vision 20/20 Capital Project, which was approved by our voters in December 2017. Other renovations and improvements have also been completed in classrooms, corridors, roofs, track and fields, parking lots and in other areas at each of our buildings. Vision 20/20 also addressed our physical plant with improvements to electrical, boilers and HVAC systems that are more energy efficient and will ultimately lower utility costs in the future.

A time lapse video of the construction of the Aquatic Center can be found by visiting this link, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jdl3GG8EETQ&t=12s>, in your web browser.

Thank you for your continued support!



Message From the Superintendent

continued from page 1

networks. If the District is closed, all community education, recreation, extracurricular activities, and the YMCA program will also be canceled. In the event school is delayed two (2) hours, our buildings will open two (2) hours later than a regular school day. Parents and students can anticipate transportation pick-up two hours later, as well. After-school activities are permitted when school is delayed by two hours.

In closing, I wish you all a peaceful and safe holiday season. May you take time to relax and spend time with your loved ones. I look forward to seeing everyone back in 2022 and working with you to continue providing the K-12 students and families we serve with incredible education opportunities!

Sincerely,

Adam Stoltman
Superintendent of Schools

Distinguished Alumni Ceremony

continued from page 2

Observer's advice, they risked getting their permits revoked, shutting down all operations in that sea and costing them millions of dollars. Understandably, the observers were not always liked; they were given a secret code to send in with weekly reports, which they would then relay to the U.S. Coast Guard, if they felt their lives were in danger. Arndt's job was to ensure that all work was completed legally and ethically. From 1996 to 2006, he worked in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea aboard several of the vessels featured in The Discovery Channel's "The Deadliest Catch." In 2017, Arndt was forced into early retirement when he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig's disease. Throughout his life, he journaled all of his travels and his work as a marine biologist and at this time took the opportunity to write his biography "The Extraordinary Adventures of an Ordinary Guy." He passed away January 12, 2020. Some of Terry's Arndt's final words were "I've lived an amazing life."



Universal Pre-Kindergarten

Preschool Program for Alden School District Residents

The Alden Central School District is excited to continue offering our tuition-free Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program for the 2022-2023 School Year. The UPK program follows the District calendar and runs five days per week. Parent transportation is a requirement for participation in the program. The Alden CSD collaborates with community partners to provide eligible students with a quality, developmentally appropriate UPK experience. Important information regarding the UPK Program can be found on the District website by using the following link: www.aldenschools.org/upk.

Families interested in learning more about the UPK Program are invited to come to an Open House on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 from 6 p.m.-7 p.m. at Alden Primary School located at 11197 Broadway St., Alden, NY 14004.

To Be Eligible to Attend Universal Pre-Kindergarten:

- The child's family must reside in the Alden Central School District.
- Child must turn 4 years old on or by December 1, 2022.
- A completed registration packet and all required paperwork must be turned into our Central Registrar no later than Friday, February 1:

Mail completed packets to:

Attention: Central Registrar
Alden Central School District
13190 Park St.
Alden, NY 14004

Interested in Applying?

- Download from our District website at www.aldenschools.org/upk
OR
- Request an application by calling (716) 937-9116, Ext. 4200
OR
- Request an application by emailing your name, phone number, and address to dszymanski@aldenschools.org.

Join our mailing list to stay up-to-date on UPK information and requirements by visiting our webpage at www.aldenschools.org/upk.



Winter Weather School Bus Safety



It's November, which means that winter will soon be here, and construction season is over! The buses are ready, and the snow tires are on! Along with the holiday planning and preparations, will come the cold temperatures, snow, ice, and less daylight. This change in season means additional cold weather safety precautions for students who ride the school bus and the drivers that travel the same streets.

Cold Weather Safety Tips for Students and Parents:

1. **Dress appropriately for the weather.** Wear coats, hats, gloves and boots. Make sure your hats or face coverings don't obstruct vision, and boots can be easily walked in. Also, try to find outerwear that is brightly colored and reflective for better visibility to drivers.
2. **Allow extra time to get to the bus stop.** If the sidewalk or street is covered in snow and ice, students will need to walk more slowly to get to their stops. Students should put down their phones and look in the direction they are walking.
3. **Do not play rough at the bus stop.** Please stay off of snow piles and don't push or shove; doing so could cause students to fall on the ice and become injured.
4. **Cross 15 feet in front of the bus.** If it's snowing, the driver may have more trouble seeing students, so make sure to leave plenty of room.
5. **Use the handrail when getting on and off the bus.** The steps are likely to be slippery from snowy boots.
6. **Be weather aware.** Bad weather can lead to school cancellations, delays, or early dismissals. Make sure your school has your contact information so that you will be able to receive alerts, and always be sure to check the school website or local media when inclement weather is expected.

Cold Weather Safety Tips for Drivers:

1. **Slow down!** This is a good rule of thumb for any winter driving situation, but it's especially important when driving near school zones or buses. Driving on ice will mean less time to slow down and stop for students or other vehicles.
2. **Turn your headlights on.** It may be more difficult to see students in snowstorms or cloudy weather.
3. **Pay attention.** Again, it's another good rule for any season, but it's especially important in winter. Don't use your phone or change the radio, but keep your eyes on the road at all times. Students are unpredictable - especially in the winter. Remain alert for children who may be hidden or standing in or near the street at the bus stop due to the mounds of plowed snow.

Thank you for your patience during the Crittenden Road construction.



Primary School



Literacy Night

On October 1, many of our K-2 students and their parents returned during the evening for our first-ever Literacy Night at Alden Primary School. Upon their arrival, students were provided with a passport to visit 10 different literacy themed stations around the building. Stations included hands-on ELA activities, tips and suggestions for parents, reading tool giveaways, and free books to take home. Special guests from the Alden Ewell Free Library were also on hand to help students sign up for their very own library card. In addition to the 10 engaging and informative literacy stations, families could stop down to shop at the Scholastic Book Fair and enjoy a quick treat from the Pink Cow or Babz BBQ food trucks. Thank you to our Alden Primary PTO and all of the parent and staff volunteers who helped make the night a success.



Volunteer Training

Throughout the past year and a half, ongoing health and safety protocols have presented challenges for school volunteers. Despite these obstacles, Alden Primary School was happy to welcome a new group of volunteers to the District this fall. In total, more than 40 participants completed the application process and the required virtual training session. Thank you to the parents and family members who have received Board of Education approval to assist in our schools.



Safety Week

At the beginning of October, Alden Primary School took part in the Alden CSD's District-wide Safety Week with a variety of safety themed activities. In addition to practicing some of the required fire and emergency drills, the classes took part in several other special events.

Kindergarten Fire Safety

Kindergarten students got a chance to meet some real-life heroes from the Townline Volunteer Fire Department. Volunteers visited the Primary School to review fire safety rules and promote safe behaviors at home. Students got a chance to see the fire trucks up close, talk about the equipment, and ask questions to the firefighters.



School-Wide Read Aloud: "Not Everyone is Nice"

K-2 classrooms throughout the building read the story, "Not Everyone is Nice; Helping Children Learn Caution with Strangers" written by Frederick Almonti and Ann Tedesco, Ph.D., and illustrated by Erik DePrince and Jessica Volinski. In a child-friendly format, the story helps expose students to the dangers of interacting with strangers, even those who may initially appear kind and generous.



Growing Toward Goals at Alden Intermediate

Every month, school counselor Mrs. Grace Butler plans and implements classroom lessons for all the students at Alden Intermediate. These lessons are based on the NYSED Career Development & Occupational Studies Standards and cover a range of topics including goal setting, mindset, and perseverance. Students are always excited to welcome Mrs. Butler into their classroom.



Mrs. Butler plays a social emotional learning game with students in Mrs. Goodrich's class.

Intermediate School

Shaking it up in 4th Grade

Ms. Hebert's class learned about expository nonfiction texts with a book called "Shattering Earthquakes." The students learned about the 1989 San Francisco earthquake. The students even got to watch a video of Ms. Hebert's parents talking about their experience with this earthquake, a first-hand account into history.



Roadwork Complete

The construction on Crittenden Road is now complete, making Lyons Loop and the main entrance again accessible to families. Please note that morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups will continue to take place at the Middle School parking lot. Students should arrive at 8:35 a.m. and are dismissed at 3:15 p.m.



Middle School

Alden Bulldog Council Student Government

This year, the Alden Bulldog Council (ABC) is led by President Daniella Mancuso, Vice President Claire Whiteford, Treasurer Claire Estrada, Secretary Riley Wood and Public Relations Officer Caitlynn Tyczka. ABC meets once a month to work on a variety of projects. All students are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly meetings and activities.

Although we cannot do everything we have done in the past, we will try to do as much as we can even if an event must be modified. The officers have done a great job brainstorming and planning ways to keep some normalcy at the Middle School as well as finding ways to make our new normal work. We will continue to support local charities throughout the year by holding various events such as pajama/hat days, spirit weeks, Socktober, canned food drive, etc. Some events will suggest a monetary donation; a minimum of \$1 is suggested to participate. We are also planning on hosting our annual holiday themed competition, Holiday Follies. This is a series of "minute to win it" type games that promotes fun and friendly competition between the three grade levels. This will have to look different than it has in the past, but we will do our best to make it fun for the students.

Speaking of events, we were very excited to once again have the opportunity to participate in Socktober. Throughout the month of October, we accepted donations for (new) socks, hats, gloves, scarves and soap. All donations were to benefit The Buffalo City Mission. The homeroom that collected the most donations won breakfast.

We have had a few spirit days so far this year and it was so much fun to see the students participate in the various themed days. Some of the themes included Red/White/Blue or Buffalo Bills Day, Wear Orange Day for Unity Day, and Pajama Day.

In honor of National Principals Month (October), the students worked hard to show Mr. Smith how grateful they are for all he does at Alden Middle School. They filled out hundreds of cards with reasons they love our school and/or things they wanted to thank Mr. Smith for. They had a blast decorating his office with balloons and all the cards.

The ABC will also be working with younger grade levels (3-5) this year in some capacity. The students are always very excited to demonstrate what a good leader and role model looks like and have a little fun at the same time.

Lastly, we are also hoping to find a way to do our favorite major fundraiser "Delay The Day" again this year in late spring. All students are encouraged to bring in spare change to be counted in homeroom. The day is delayed until all change has been counted, and all the collected money is donated to charity. More information will soon follow.

A Message from the Guidance Office

For many students, returning to school this Fall was filled with excitement in anticipation of school activities and spending time with friends.

However, many students are facing a challenge and it isn't in math or writing. Instead, it is coping with the emotional pain of living through a pandemic.



Alden Middle School knows that our students are struggling with their mental health. We are having those important discussions with students about their emotions and well-being. As part of our monthly Character Education Lessons, we are incorporating mindfulness exercises and coping strategies. By focusing on whole school approaches to promote mental health and well-being, we are teaching our students how to use their strengths to develop resiliency and skills for learning and achievement. Don't be afraid to try some calming activities at home such as meditation, deep breathing, or drawing/coloring. If you are looking for more strategies or additional support, please reach out to your child's school counselor.

Students with last name A-K
Mrs. Bonczar, Ext. 2197
Kbonczar@aldenschools.org

Students with last name L-Z
Mrs. Gavigan, Ext. 2194
Jgavigan@aldenschools.org

Creativity Club in Full Swing

The members of Creativity Club at the Middle School are enjoying their time together and exploring the creative side of life. For our September meeting, Addie B. led our members in creating origami. She researched and found a piece that would be able to be made during our club time and instructed members how to create an origami bunny. Our October meeting involved exploring the Joe Panza Nature Trail, which was still decorated with lights from the Spook-tacular! Members were challenged to complete a color scavenger hunt. Lots of fun was had as members found secret gems hidden among the trees and on the ground. We are looking forward to other creative activities in the coming months, such as water color painting.



Science Department

Learning about the Scientific Method

The sixth-grade team was busy learning and applying the scientific method by creating their "egg helmets." Students explored how physical forces worked and the forces that help to keep heads safe inside various helmets. Students had to design and make a "helmet" that would safely deliver the egg to ground when dropped at various heights.

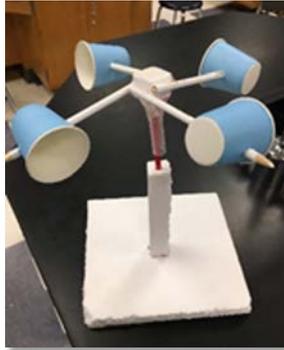
Exploring Mystery Bottles

Seventh-grade students explored a mystery bottle and worked together to try to explain their understanding of how this bottle worked. Students then investigated density by completing calculations on various types of materials. They then applied this knowledge to explain which material they thought would be best if they created a boat. Students also applied the scientific method by investigating the question "How can we make a paper airplane fly farther?" The students researched, built, and tested their hypothesis.



Creating Weather Devices

Eighth-grade science class has been studying weather and took some time to create and use DIY weather devices like thermometers, windsocks, weathervanes, anemometers and barometers. To our joy, many of them actually worked!



Living Environment 8

The eighth-grade living environment class has been studying some biochemistry and is testing for nutrients during lab.



Cell Studies

In October, the seventh-grade students studied cells by using some computer programs such as BrainPOP, Explore Learning, and CK-12. Their investigations began by taking advantage of the nice weather to create chalk cell drawings. They also created Cell Organelle "Wanted" posters to become familiar with the functions of each cell organelle. Finally, the students looked at the microscopic world as they did their investigations using the microscope.



Live Concerts are Back

The Alden Middle School Music Department is delighted to announce our live and in-person concert schedule for December. The Middle School concerts will take place the first full week in December. The Middle School bands and jazz band will perform at 7 p.m. on December 7 in the High School Auditorium. The Middle School chorus groups will perform at 7 p.m. on December 9 in the Intermediate Gymnasium. We are thrilled to be able to perform together and for a live audience. Please note that current CDC guidelines require that all audience members wear a mask to attend any indoor events. We look forward to seeing everyone in December.



High School

Bulldog Manufacturing

After a successful summer season, the employees are glad to be back to their normal five-day schedule. Employees, both old and new, have been working diligently to get the company prepared for its third year of production. This year, the team has been focusing not only on the current year



but also how to further the company in the coming years. This has led to the discussion of various ways to expand the company, including new areas within the metals manufacturing department.

The Bulldog Manufacturing team has not stopped there, though. On Thursday, October 21, the company held its "First

Annual Open House."

The event was a massive success! The Open House offered a chance for industry partners from the WNY area to get a peek into Bulldog Manufacturing and see what it's all about. Industry partners were able to speak to members from all five departments, get an in-depth tour of the Bulldog Manufacturing facilities, and even had a chance to get on television! Both Channel 7's Jeff Rusack and WACS News' Sophie Turton were at the event interviewing several attendees about their thoughts. As the event came to a close, partners from a variety of different industries spoke of how great the student-run company was for the WNY area and how to further this in not only Alden, but in other schools.

In other company news, Bulldog Manufacturing has been busy with its daily tasks. The team has finished a successful back-to-school water bottle sale and is running its largest holiday sale



yet. From cutting boards to wallets, the team made sure there was something special for everyone. Over on the metals manufacturing side, the team has been working hard on expanding their welding skills and creating special products for the company. This has led to the successful completion of trailer repairs, welding fabrication jobs, and lawn mower deck repairs.

The 2021-22 year for the Bulldog Manufacturing team is looking to be a successful one, and you don't want to miss out on the journey! To keep up with the team, be sure to follow them on Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook, and at bulldogmfg.aldenschools.org.

National Honor Society Induction

On October 26, 2021, 22 students were inducted into the Alden Chapter of the National Honor Society.



National Merit Scholarship Commended Student

Congratulations to Alden High School senior Bronwen Harris for being recognized as a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student.

Bronwen is one of 34,000 students being recognized nationally for her exceptional academic promise. This recognition is based on her PSAT scores from 2020.



Fall Athletics News



The fall of 2021 began with all sports starting as scheduled. We saw the success of six soccer teams, three volleyball teams, two football teams, two cross-country teams, one varsity swim team, one tennis team and one cheerleading squad. We celebrated the success of 57 seniors on each varsity team and continue to celebrate the successes as our varsity teams move into postseason play. This fall, we were able to host the Bulldog Stampede, which showcased runners from all over Western New York. The write-ups below are written by our coaches to highlight their programs and/or student athletes.

Golf

Coach: Paul Casillo

The Boys Alden Varsity Golf team finished the season with a 6-4 record in the ECIC Small School North Division. The team's six victories came against Maryvale, Tonawanda, and Depew with the losses coming from very close matches against Amherst and Iroquois.



The team was comprised of 15 players: seniors Grant Riddoch and Michael Sheehan; juniors Griffin Abbott, Nicolas DePaolis, Riley Streit, Jack Syracuse and John Weglarski; sophomores Carter Speranza, Enzo Riccione, Jack Rahuba, and Alexander Lysiak; freshman Nathan Jegierski, Steven Syracuse, and Austin Wirth; and eighth-grader Max Marzec.

Carter Speranza was our team's scoring leader, playing in the No. 1 position throughout the entire season. Carter earned Medalist in six out of the 10 matches and represented Alden at this year's ECIC Boys Golf League Individual Championship & Qualifier and ECICs at Diamond Hawk, where he finished 15th out of the top 70 players. Carter will represent Alden in the Section VI Championship in the spring 2022.

Other Medalists/Co-Medalists included two by Grant Riddoch, two by Nick DePaolis, and one by Enzo Riccione.

Awards were given out this year to the following players:

- Grant Riddoch - The Letterman Award was awarded to Riddoch for exhibiting leadership as the co-captain of the team and being a role model throughout the season.
- Carter Speranza - Most Valuable Player - Speranza was co-captain and had the best scoring average of all players for the season.
- Enzo Riccione - Rookie of the Year - Riccione is a first-year player and earned a spot in the eight and led all first-time team members with the best scoring average. Riccione also earned Co-Medalists in a home match versus Depew.
- Nick DePaolis - Most Improved - DePaolis played the best golf in his three years on the team. He improved throughout the season and took two Medalists against Depew and Maryvale.

Tennis

Coach: Zack Stone

The Alden Varsity Girls Tennis team finished the season with an overall game record of 6-2 and an overall match record of 29-11. The team defeated Tonawanda, Eden and Depew on the way to finishing second in ECIC IV.

The team was led by captains Ava Dimeo (sophomore), Kayla Becker (junior) and Grace Milks (junior). With no seniors on the team, the captains helped the young team throughout the season with development and its overall success.

This season was highlighted by the performances of Dimeo who, as a sophomore, finished with an undefeated record of 8-0, and Kayla Becker, with another standout year, received the Letterman Award for her performance and leadership on the court finishing with a record of 7-1 and was selected as an ECIC IV All-Star.



Girls Varsity Soccer

Coach: Joe Olaf

This year was highlighted by the stellar play by Freshman Bre Brunner in net for the Alden Varsity Girls Soccer team. She compiled three shutouts and a 92% save percentage in her first season. Seniors Caleigh Hoerner and Grace Sheehan led the way in scoring while senior Maryann Morrison was a brick wall on defense, often sweeping in to save the day. Juniors Nicolena Fazio, Megan Menzies and Emily Robertson played an integral role in helping the team contend for a divisional crown and earn a home sectional game. The team wishes the seniors the best of luck with their future endeavors.

Boys Varsity Soccer

Coach: Allen Turton

The Alden Varsity Boys Soccer team started their season with two tournament wins. First, they travelled to Holley for wins against Albion 3-1, and Holley 3-0. Next, our team joined with the Alden Girls Soccer program to host the First Annual Bulldog Soccer Tournament, sponsored by The Alden Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, on September 9 and 11. The boys won the Championship by beating Global Concepts, 5-0, and then Pembroke, 5-0.





The team headed into their final week of the regular season with a 12-3 overall record. Scoring leaders were Nathan T. (21 G, 9 A), Thomas S. (16 G, 10 A), Christian M. (6 G, 11A), Walker W. (4 G, 10 A), Kaden K. (6 G, 5 A), and Brenden G. (5 G, 10 A). Eighteen players on the roster have a goal or an assist. Goalkeepers Billy F. and Nate H. have combined for eight shutouts. Defensive standouts this season have been Jon T., Gregory W., Lucas S. and Joshua Y.

Team Captains Walker W., Nathan T., and Thomas S. have led the team through an impressive season. A very competitive ECIC IV had the Bulldogs in third place with an overall record of 13-4-1. The Section VI Class B2 had the team as No. 6 for the Section VI Playoffs where they beat No. 11 Newfane 6-0, and went on to face No. 3 Roy-Hart who won 1-0 in double overtime.

Cheerleading

Coach: Shannon Retzlaff

The Alden Varsity Cheerleading squad had a great 2021 fall season. The team had fun supporting the varsity football team and cheering on the sidelines. The squad's sideline skills improved greatly over the season to help promote team spirit! Some outstanding members of the team included Megan Z., Becca S., Holly H., Kelsey C., and Kara S. Their skills helped excel the team to new levels. Lexi T., Kassie K., and Izzy R. were also great leaders for our team. The squad had the opportunity to learn a new style of competitive cheerleading this season called "Gameday." The team is excited to test their new skills at upcoming "Gameday" competitions. They are sure to have an outstanding performance.



Varsity Boys Cross-Country

Coaches: Ed Carll and Jaime Wallace

The Alden Varsity Boys Cross-Country team finished the season with a 5-0 record in the ECIC IV. These five victories were against Maryvale/Cleve-Hill, Springville, Eden, Tonawanda and JFK. This fall, the team was able to capture its 12th straight divisional championship.

The team is comprised of 12 players: seniors Kyle U., Mark S., Tyler H. and Justin K.; juniors Matt S. and Matt C; sophomores Anthony K., Adam P. and Ryan R.; Eighth-graders Caleb, Evan, and Gage F.

Team Captains: Kyle U. and Mark S.

At Invitational's, Alden placed first in all but the Bulldog Stampede, where they placed second.

Awards were given out this year to the following players:

- Kyle U. - The Letterman Award was awarded to Kyle for exhibiting leadership and being a role model throughout the season. Kyle is dedicated to improving on a personal level, as well as pushing and supporting his teammates to do the same.
- Matt S. - Most Valuable Player - Running as Alden's second runner, Matt closed the gap between opponents to help keep Alden on top.
- Gage F. - Rookie of the Year - Gage is a first-year player and only in eighth grade. He worked hard this season and earned a spot in the top seven of a very competitive team.
- Adam P. - Most Improved - Adam was the perfect example of what hard work in the offseason does. His time and dedication helped him improve his times this season.

Varsity Girls Cross-Country

Coach: Ed Carll

The Alden Varsity Girls Cross-Country team finished the season with a 3-2 record in ECIC IV. The team's victories came against Maryvale/Cleve Hill, Tonawanda and JFK. The team lost two close ones to Springville and Eden.

The team is comprised of 10 players: seniors Lexie H., Ray T., Kailey W., Grace S. and Jenna K.; sophomores Hannah B. and Rebecca C.; freshmen Emily S., Sylvia W. and Sophia M.

Team Captains: Lexie H. and Ray T.



The team finished third this season in the ECIC IV and had a strong finish at the West Seneca Invitational by placing second.

Awards were given out this year to the following players:

- Lexie H. - The Letterman Award was awarded to Lexie for leading her team by example. Lexie worked hard to improve her own times in addition to being a great support system to the young runners coming up the line.
- Hannah B. - Most Valuable Player - Hannah has been a key participant in many of the meets throughout the season. She has been Alden's second place runner consistently and helped tremendously to secure the few victories in the division this season.

Fall Athletics News



- Emily S. - Rookie of the Year - Emily is a freshman and has earned her first Varsity letter this season. She has placed consistently in the top five each race and has improved her times from the beginning of the season.
- Sophia M. - Most Improved - Sophie has worked so hard and stayed dedicated throughout the season. This has resulted in Sophie improving her times significantly each race from the beginning of the season.

Varsity Volleyball



Coach: Victoria Link

This season the Alden Varsity Girls Volleyball team was named ECIC IV Champions. The girls accomplished this feat by going undefeated against every team in their league. The girls had a perfect season in league play, and outside of league play, the team had some tough competitions against Lake Shore, Eden, and East Aurora. The team finished their regular season with an 11-2 record. Going into the playoffs, the girls were tied for first place in Class C1. The girls had a great season and played hard in the playoffs.

Varsity Girls Swimming

Coaches: Liz Osucha and Ann Pelitera

The Alden Varsity Girls Swim team did something that no other girls swim team has done in Alden CSD history. The team went undefeated this season and were named Division III Champions. In our division, freshman Skyler King ranked No. 1 and Madeline Erhardt ranked No. 4. With the newly renovated pool, we added two new diving boards that allowed us to bring back our diving team. Kailey Gaffney and Izzy Czechowski were our divers for the season. Kailey made it to ECICs and placed second in the 11-dive event. The team placed second in the ECIC Division III Championship with wins in the 200-yard freestyle relay with a Sectional time of 1:51.84 and the 400-freestyle relay with a time of 4:14.49. These relays included Madeline Erhardt, Izzy King, Sheeane Defedericis and Skyler King. Eighth-grader Izzy King won the 100-breaststroke individual event with a 1:21.30. Congratulations go out to our seniors Kailey Gaffney, Aubrey Matthewson, Margaret Piechocki, Tori Gibbs, Rachel Grad and Kristina Wilson.

Varsity Football

Coaches: Kevin Shadle, Sean Klyczek, Kevin Baumann

Though their record did not show it, the Varsity Football team played with heart this season. Congratulations to our Senior Bulldogs Billy Arber, Robbie Engelhardt, Braden Fix, Patrick Kellner, Bobby Kersten (*Captain), Tyler Kersten (*Captain), Xander Phillips, and Dylan Zielinski (*Captain).

Looking towards next season, the Bulldogs return 21 players from this year's roster. Many of this year's sophomores gained valuable

playing time and experience, while the junior class added to their game experience.

Award winners for this season were as follows:

- Tyler Kersten - CO-MVP (74 carries, 368 yards rushing, 5.0 yards-per-carry average, 3 total TDs; 51 total tackles on defense)
- Alexander Wypij - CO-MVP (107 carries, 575 yards rushing, 5.4 yards-per-carry average) ; 63 total tackles on defense)
- Bobby Kersten - Letterman Winner
- Charles Beisiegel - Heart of a Bulldog Award
- Dylan Zielinski - Heart of a Bulldog Award

JV Girls Volleyball

Coach: Alana Winnert

The Alden JV Girls Volleyball team had a wonderful fall season. They were able to play incredibly well together, learned the 5-1 rotation to be ready to play when they get to the varsity level, and individualized their play to understand their specific positions of middle, outside, right side and setter. The girls communicated well with one another on and off the court, and this translated to being undefeated in their league with a record of 10-0 in league matches. The girls were also challenged this year by playing three teams outside of their league, including East Aurora, Lake Shore and Eden. Although they were unable to beat these teams in non-league play, they were able to have fun and, most importantly, learn and improve in their skills and experience. Coach Winnert is so proud of this JV team.

JV Girls Soccer

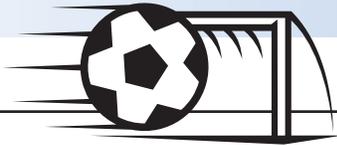
Coach: Tammy Whiteford

The Alden JV Girls Soccer team, was led by captains Cassie Kurek, Katie Messing and Jaclyn Principe, and had a season of growth and development. As the season progressed, the girls connected passes and put shots on net. Top goal scorers this season were Jaclyn Principe and Olivia Wery. Cassie Kurek, Anna Rogers, Marissa Loschiavo and Gwen Krieb played tough on defense to keep the ball out of the zone. Riley Schilling played aggressive in net and made some great saves in every game. Katie Messing had amazing crosses and was able to get the ball up to the offense to put them in scoring position. Skylar Domres, Mia Schwab, Adrianna Mangione and Megan Steblein also contributed to moving the ball and getting shots on net. The team could always count on eighth-graders Sienna Scheifla and Lydia Wrest to play any position, attack the ball, and move it forward. Thank you for a great season filled with hard work and laughter.





JV Boys Soccer



Coach: Jeff Long

The Alden JV Boys Soccer team finished the season with a very impressive record of 9-3. The team was led by captains Timothy Boucher, Quinn Grover, Jacob Klinski, Nate Long and Alex Nuwer. The highlight of the season was beating East Aurora three times. Powerful offense was led by Quinn Grover, Mason Mikula, Jack Meiler and Luke Sobieraj. Jacob Klinski, Joey Coia and Trey Grover gave a strong defensive effort throughout the season. Every game was controlled by midfielders Timothy Boucher, Ayden Daigler, Jack Doster, Scott Kraatz, Nate Long and Alex Nuwer. If the opponent was lucky enough to get past our team, they weren't getting by goalies Kalen Czelusta and Tri Nguyen. We made huge improvements since August. Coach Long is looking forward to seeing this team in the future.

7,8,9 Football

Coaches: Mike Matecki and Jon Andreessen

At the time this was submitted, the modified football currently had a record of 2-1-2. Each member of the team showed tremendous improvement over the last few weeks. Offensively, Mitchell Baker scored at least one touchdown in every game. Mason Urso, Nick Wypij, Ben Partell, and Matt Waiss each played major roles in the team's success. The offensive line dominated the line of scrimmage throughout the season and was led by Jon Koch and Reilly McGuire. Owen Golas converted numerous 2-point kicks and added to a solid offensive line. The unsung player of this team was Josh Kruk. Josh contributed on both sides of the line of scrimmage and maintained a positive attitude on and off the field. Kruk is a very skilled player and will continue to be a force as he continues to develop.

Modified Girls Volleyball

Coach: Tim Stone

The Girls on the Alden Modified Girls Volleyball team put in the work over the summer and it paid off with another excellent season. Alden finished the season with an 11-1 record and best in its division. Everyone understood the importance of serving and worked hard on that every day at practice. There was not one team who could match Alden's serving from top to bottom. It did not stop there; the team also focused on making three passes (bump, set, spike) whenever they had the chance. Alden only had two matches come down to the fifth and final game. Most of the time, the girls swept the first three games. The girls had a great attitude and did a nice job of encouraging their teammates in games and in practices. Good luck to the eighth-graders next year.



Modified Co-Ed Cross-Country

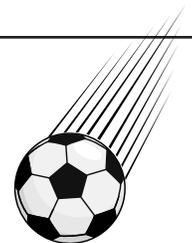
Coach: Mike Fazio

The Alden Modified Co-Ed Cross-Country team had a fantastic season. Every day, the team came to practice with a positive attitude and gave their best effort. As a result, they became stronger, faster, and improved their times in every race. Kaelyn D., Chloe G., Renee H., Allison S., Christian B., Michael C., Gabe H., Aiden J., Caleb L., Kirk P., and Aiden P., thank you for trying your best every day and making sacrifices to become the best runners you could.

Modified Girls Soccer

Coach: Tim Kasper

The highlight this season was the 2-1 overtime win versus Holland. The girls played and lost to Holland three times last season, but this year, they were able to pull out the victory in their first meeting. Seventh-grader Anya Holzman scored a goal in the first half on a breakaway goal. The Alden midfield controlled most of the play in the first half. At halftime, Alden held the one-goal lead due to the solid play of Claire Whiteford in net. Holland adjusted and came out strong in the second half. They had many quality chances that were turned aside by second-half goalkeeper Emily Lysiak. Eventually, Holland broke through with the tying goal and it continued the pressure for most of the second half. Alden did manage a few offensive pushes, but did not sustain time in the Holland end for more than a minute or so. Regulation ended at 1-1, so the teams went to the overtime period. Two 4-minute overtime periods were played and in the final 30 seconds of the first period, Holzman muscled through for the go-ahead and eventual game-winning goal. Holland fought back hard in the second overtime and had a great chance in the final seconds that Lysiak was able to swallow up, securing the win. The team is a good mix of seventh- and eighth-grade students. All the players were able to get good playing time and continued to improve their games.



Goals were scored this season by Anya Holzman, Reagan Russell and Ava Turnbull. Strong defensive play was present every game by Hailey Muff and Hailey Mederski. All three goalies, Kara Partell, Emily Lysiak and Claire Whiteford, had some spectacular saves through the year. Co-captains were Jessica Bauer and Claire Whiteford for the season.

Modified Boys Soccer

Coach: Tim Kronewetter

The Alden Modified Boys Soccer team played tough this season giving all their efforts with each game. The boys not only worked on their game, but teamwork and character throughout the season. All the players showed improvement as the season progressed.

Fall Athletics News

ACS Athletic Wall of Fame

On October 8, 2021, we were able to celebrate, in person, our Class of 2020 Athletic Wall of Fame Inductees. It was a pleasure to finally celebrate the athletic accomplishments of the following four inductees as well as their accomplishments post athletics. We would like to congratulate our inductees on this honor.

Rawle L. Gardner

Class of 1965

Rawle L. Gardner was a three-sport athlete playing football, basketball, and baseball from 1961-1965. Gardner was not only noted for his athletic ability, but also his leadership, as he was nominated a captain in all three sports. In football, he was selected to the Division III All Star Team and The Buffalo Evening News-Erie County Conference Division III All-Star Football Team. In basketball, Rawle led Alden to the Division III Championship and was selected to the Erie County Conference All-Star Cage Team. Cortland State University awarded Rawle Gardner a scholarship as a baseball catcher, which he had to turn down as he was drafted into the U.S. Army. In the Army, Gardner was a radioman in Vietnam and was honorably discharged. He had a passion for athletics and Alden, and he could often be found running passing and catching drills in his neighborhood. Rawle passed away November 24, 1974, but his legacy lives on.

Nancy (Kruszka) Bennett

Class of 1988

Nancy (Kruszka) Bennett demonstrated outstanding athletic skill as an Alden High School student-athlete. Her love of athletics can be seen to this day as a physical education teacher (Akron Central Schools) and a coach (Akron CSD and Alden CSD). Nancy's heart still bleeds blue and gold as she coaches the Alden Varsity Boys Swim team and is the assistant coach for the Alden Varsity Girls Track team. Her dedication to athletics is a trademark of hers, acting as the Section VI Cross-Country Girls chairperson.

The record book was rewritten by Kruszka's work on the track. Upon her graduation, Kruszka held three school records (200-meter dash, 4 x 100-meter relay, 4 x 400-meter relay) and tied one more (100-meter dash). She was chosen as an All-League selection in 1986, 1987, and 1988. In 1987, Nancy and her teammates placed second in the 4x400 at the Section VI championship in Niagara Falls. Her career continued in college and so did her accomplishments. She was named MVP at Erie Community College in 1989 and 1990, and competed at Nationals in the 200, 400, and the 4x400.

Her love for sports and teaching led Kruszka to the professional world as an educator and coach. Nancy's coaching accolades include coaching for the Buffalo State Bengals, where they earned a regional cross-country title and sent an individual to Nationals in the long and triple jump under Kruszka's leadership. Kruszka's career took her back to coaching high school athletics. As the Akron Tigers Cross-Country coach, her teams have earned six league and nine Sectional titles. Coach Bennett has had 12 individual runners make N.Y. State Championship appearances. Akron Cross-Country has made four state appearances under her leadership. Coach Bennett coached Akron Track and Field from 1998 to 2016, leading the team to six league and 10 Sectional titles. She has had two State Champions (400-meter hurdles and discus).

Coach Bennett returned to her alma mater in 2016 as the Girls Track and Field assistant coach, and Boys' Varsity Swimming coach. In 2019, Alden Varsity Swimming earned its first league title in decades and repeated the feat in 2020.

Jaime Wallace

Class 2010

Jaime Wallace was a three-sport athlete participating in bowling and specializing in cross-country, and track and field. Wallace set the bar high in cross-country and track and field, as an athlete and a team captain. Wallace was one of the few females to be named captain of Alden Cross-Country

and Track and Field for four seasons and also earned the Letterman Award in both sports for five seasons. Wallace competed in cross-country from 2005 through 2009 earning ECIC Division III First Team five times. She also was the 2005 Class B Sectional Champion, Class B State Medalist five times, a NYS Federation Qualifier five times and medaled twice. Wallace was also an All-Western NY First Team five times, an All-State Class B First Team two times, an All-State Class B Second Team three times and, in 2008, earned All-American status at Nationals. Jaime currently holds the school record on Alden's home cross-country course with a time of 17 minutes and 47 seconds. In track and field, Jaime currently holds the school record in the 2000-meter steeplechase with a time of 7:25:97 and earned All-American status in 2009 in the 2000-meter run and 3000-meter steeplechase at Nationals. Wallace also earned Section VI State Qualifier Honors for Division II in 2006. Wallace continued her athletic career at Canisius College running cross-country, indoor and outdoor track. Alden is honored to have Ms. Wallace volunteering for the past three seasons as an assistant cross-country coach.

Terry Zoeller

Class of 1964

Terry Zoeller graduated from Alden in 1964 where he lettered in football, wrestling, and track. In 1964, Terry earned the prestigious Bill Kelly award for best all-around athlete in Division III. Zoeller earned this award based on his athleticism, as well as his student leadership. In 1963, as co-captain, Zoeller's run gave the Bulldogs a 16-7 victory that earned the Bulldogs a share of the division championship. Zoeller also placed second at the All-Section VI Wrestling Tournament. Zoeller was offered several offers from local colleges to play football, but chose Iowa State University to pursue civil engineering. Zoeller firmly believed he was a student first and athlete second. An injury at Iowa State sidelined Zoeller, where he decided to move to the completion of his academic career to mechanical engineering at Indiana Institute of Technology.



Nominations are currently being accepted for the Class of 2022 and future Wall of Fame classes.



Alden Athletic Wall of Fame



Nomination Form

I would like to nominate:

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Graduation Year: _____

Or

Retirement Year: _____

Sports he/she participated in:

Sport _____ Years _____

Sport _____ Years _____

Sport _____ Years _____

Special recognition/outstanding achievement while at Alden? _____

Person completing form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Relationship to Nominee: _____

Please return form to:

Alden Central Schools, Attn: Sandy Gauthier
13190 Park Street
Alden, New York 14004



Board of Education:

Jill Hopcia, President
Michael Bennett, Vice President
Richard Karalus
Michael Karpie
Tanya Lords-Quinn
Paul Roll, Jr.
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Adam Stoltman, Superintendent

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Nurse's Note

A friendly reminder from your school nurses...

New York State Department of Health and Erie County Department of Health Guidelines are adjusted frequently. **Please contact your school nurse if:**

❖ **YOUR CHILD IS SYMPTOMATIC:**

Children who are displaying symptoms of a COVID-like illness must:

1. Remain home.
 2. Contact the nurse BEFORE taking your child for any COVID testing.
 3. If your child is placed on COVID protocol, there are **three** ways your child can return to school:
 - a. Provide a negative NAAT (PCR) test. Currently, we are unable to accept rapid tests from any other sites other than the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH)

OR

 - b. Provide a doctor's note with an alternative diagnosis
- OR**
- c. Stay out of school for 10 days starting from the day symptoms began.

❖ **YOUR CHILD IS A CLOSE CONTACT:**

If your child has been deemed a close contact of a positive COVID case either at home or at school and is not fully vaccinated, we ask that they remain home and that you please:

1. Contact the school nurse.
2. The Department of Health (DOH) will contact you to gather information on your child, such as any symptoms, vaccination status, etc.
3. The DOH will then provide a letter with your child's last day of quarantine notated.
4. You will need to provide this letter to the school nurse before your child can come back to school.

❖ Alden Primary School Nurse (716) 937-9116 ext. 6137
❖ Alden Intermediate / Middle School Nurse (716) 937-9116 ext. 3118
❖ Alden High School Nurse (716) 937-9116 ext. 4196

