



Tiger News

www.alexandriaschools.org

Alexandria Students Get On the Job Training

The students at Lester D. Wilson (LDW) Elementary School and Alexandria Middle School (AMS) have been getting "on the job training" by producing the schools' morning shows on their internal TV stations.

At LDW, the show is called *LDW Live* and is run by computer teacher Mr. Meyers and classroom aide Mrs. Lightner. Also helping out is the ever popular puppets "Lester", "D.", and bean bag dog, "Wilson", who presents the 3rd grade Math Tip of the Week.



LDW Live anchors (from left) Lester, "D" & Wilson.

Every third grader has an opportunity to deliver the morning news, joke of the day, weather, birthdays & pledge of allegiance.

At AMS the show is called *WAMS14* and is run by teachers, Miss Harrigan & Mr. Scollan.

Seventh and eighth grade students are required to fill out a job application and may be hired as a newscaster or weather-person.

Fifth and sixth grade students may also apply for a variety of sup-



Students broadcast the results of AMS Mock Election.

port positions like operating the camera, sound, operating the teleprompter or writing the script. All of the positions are rotated monthly to give more students the opportunity to be involved with the production of the show.

Going forward, Mr. Scollan & Miss Harrigan hope to redesign the set and utilize *WAMS14* more to broadcast special events and school wide programs.

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Find it on our Website:

- AMS & LDW Monthly Newsletters (click on each school, Announcements)
- Sports Schedules & Directions to Games (click on AMS, Sports)
- Superintendent Chat dates & presentations (Announcements, scroll down)

Community Input Sought on School Budget

The Alexandria Township School District is seeking input on the school budget from community members who DO NOT currently have children in the school district.

Tell us what you think!!

The online survey can be accessed through our homepage at

www.alexandriaschools.org.

Since a parent survey was already conducted, we ask that only community members take part in this sur-

vey.

If you have any questions about this survey you may contact Denise Fichner, Instructional Technology & Communications Specialist by email or phone:

fichner@alexandriaschools.org
996-6811 ext 247

Accepting Preschool Registration

The Alexandria Township School District is once again proud to offer a **full day integrated preschool program** for the 2009-2010 school year. The program is designed to bring students with special needs and typically developing preschoolers together in an integrated, nurturing, and language enriched environment.

Our integrated preschool provides a highly structured environment where a research based curriculum focuses on language, literacy, creative representa-

tion, initiative and social relations, movement, music, classification, number, space, and time.

Our first year is off to an outstanding start and we are very excited about next year.

If you are interested in enrolling, please call the following number so that your name can be placed on a list.

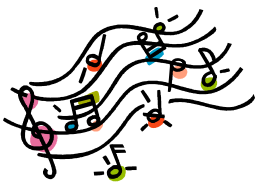
The preschool is open to children ages 3 and 4. In addition, **free tuition and**



transportation will be provided for income eligible students.

Please call as soon as possible if you feel you may qualify for free tuition. The number to call is 996-6812 ext. 202.

AMS & LDW Named Model Schools



Alexandria Middle School and Lester D. Wilson Elementary School were

listed as the only Hunterdon schools (along with Lambertville ESC) as "Model Schools" by the New Jersey Arts Education Partnership in TEMPO Magazine.

The definition of a model is a school that scored in the top 10% of the New

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Jersey Arts Education Census Project and is teaching all four arts disciplines: dance, music, theatre and the visual arts.

The purpose of the "Model Schools" recognition program is to determine the

attributes shared by model schools and establish a network of schools to serve as mentors for others.

AMS Students Vote in Mock Election

On Election Day, middle school students in grades 4-8 participated in a Mock Election with help from 8th grade Social Studies teacher Mr. Scollan and his 8th grade students. Art teacher Mrs. Winchatz also assisted in creating the patriotic voting booth.

In addition to civics lessons on voting procedures and current events sur-

rounding the presidential election, students analyzed the voting results by graphing the results based on grade level, gender and staff. They also made comparison of the Mock Election results to the presidential election results.

The Election results were then broadcasted live over the school's internal TV station.



8th graders help a 6th grade student cast his vote.

"The students did a great job running the whole thing, all I did was facilitate. It was a great experience for the whole school!" said Mr. Scollan.

Free Computer Class Offered to Seniors

A free, computer class is being offered to Alexandria Township Senior Citizens.

TOPIC: *Creating Holiday Cards*

Participants will use Microsoft Publisher to create personalized holiday cards or postcards. Participants will leave with a set (or more) of printed cards and the template to use at home. Peer Leaders will be on hand to assist

and share their knowledge. We will accommodate all levels from beginner to advanced computer users!

WHEN: Tuesday, December 2nd

TIME: 8:30-9:00 Coffee & Bagels
9:00-11:00 Class in the Computer Lab
Please call Lisa at 908-996-6811 ext 254 to sign up by November 28th.



Peer Leaders Serve Their School & Community

The Peer Leaders at Alexandria Middle School have been active in their school & community since the beginning of school.

Here are some highlights:

- *Peer Leaders on Tour* assist the teachers at LDW with special projects & centers.
- *Pre-K Peer Leaders on Tour* showed their Pre-K friends how to

make pumpkin prints using pasta shells, read Halloween stories and played with shaving cream and Play-doh.

- 7th & 8th grade Peer Leaders helped run the AMS book fair by hanging posters, helping students pick out age appropriate books, restocking shelves and handling purchases at the cashiers table. They will be headed into the fourth

grade classrooms this month to read dozens of interesting stories and tales.

- *Future Assistant/Student Teachers* have been involved in helping the 4th graders with their Morning Meetings and Math Centers as well as participating in lunch groups to provide positive social interaction and helping students adjust to our school community.

Parent Partnership Continues to Grow

The Alexandria Partnership for Student Success continues to meet and develop strategies for engaging families and the community in ways that support student achievement and success.

One of the parenting goals that has been implemented already is student-led teacher conferences in the fourth grade.

The conferences were centered around the student's writing portfolio which included three student-chosen writing pieces as well as parent, student and teacher reflection sheets.

The response from parents has been very positive and the students enjoyed being able to showcase their hard work and be in charge of their conference.

The Partnership looks forward to implementing other strategies to achieve the goals in the areas of Learning at Home, Volunteering & Communication.

"The response from parents has been very positive..."

Superintendent Report to the Schools & Community

We are approximately a quarter of the way into the 2008 school year. At this point, I would once again like to take this opportunity to update the community on the progress we continue to make. In August of 2007, I presented a set of nine district goals to the Board of Education. These goals were based on data that was gathered through surveys, discussions and review of state mandated documents. Each goal is supported by a four year strategic action plan which serves as the "roadmap" to the final destination. We are in year two of this strategic action plan. What follows is an update on the actions taken thus far during this school year towards the completion of these goals.

The first goal is **by June 30, 2011 the Alexandria Township School District will have research-based, guaranteed, viable, curriculum documents for each New Jersey Core Content Standard.** Building upon the successful creation of mission statements for each Core Content area, curriculum committees have revised the objectives in current curriculum guides. In addition, each committee has determined which objectives are essential and approximately how long it will take to teach students the objectives deemed essential for all students to learn.

Goal number two is **by June 30, 2011 teachers and administrators in the Alexandria Township School District will consistently and effectively use a research-based, flexible, common instructional model that meets the diverse needs of students.** Building on last year's training on the Principles of Learning every staff member has been trained in using teaching approaches that address the information processing strengths of each hemisphere of the brain. This has included specific instruction on teaching vocabulary and having students take written notes.

"Each goal is supported by a four year strategic action plan which serves as the "roadmap" to the final destination."

Goal number three is **by June 30, 2011 the Alexandria Township School District will effectively utilize a research-based pre-referral intervention process.** During the summer months each of the buildings pre-referral intervention teams were provided with two days of in-depth training on a new pre-referral intervention process. During the staff development sessions at the beginning of the year, staff members were provided with information on this new process as well as instruction on roles and responsibilities.

Goal number four is **by June 30, 2011 teachers and administrators in the Alexandria Township School District will effectively utilize research-based methods for team teaching in in-class support programs.** Also provided during the summer months were two days of staff training on how to effectively team teach. As follow-up to these training sessions, those attending the summer training are meeting on a monthly basis in order to celebrate, reflect and problem-solve.

Goal number five is **by June 30, 2011 the Alexandria Township School District will have a cohesive, effective district leadership team.** Our leadership team continues to meet on a weekly basis. In addition to discussion of important issues facing the school district, we continue to develop shared knowledge on relevant professional topics.

The sixth goal is **by June 30, 2011 the Alexandria Township School District will implement a crisis response plan addressing the mitigation, prevention, response and recovery of potential school crises.** Our crisis plan has been updated to reflect the changes that come with a new school year.

Superintendent Report to the Schools & Community

Every classroom is currently equipped with all of the supplies they will need to fulfill the actions described in the crisis plan. New staff members as well as substitute teachers have been trained in how to respond should a crisis occur. Lastly, district and school crisis teams continue to meet with the task of practicing how we would respond should a crisis occur.

Goal number seven is by **June 30, 2011 the Alexandria Township School District will have a series of self-contained special education programs for multiply disabled students that are capable of providing a free and appropriate education within the school district.** Under the direction of Jennifer Bills, Supervisor of Student Services, a committee will be formed to develop a plan for achieving this goal. The intent is to have a cohesive and systematic program in place by the fall of 2009.

The eighth goal is by **June 30, 2011 the Alexandria Township School District will have a reading intervention model (K-3) that prevents, identifies and remediates students "at-risk" for reading failure.** Reading Specialist, Clelia Esposito and Joy Dominic, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction, were able to attend summer training on the administration of DIBELS literacy assessment. Recently they have completed their evaluations and are compiling the data. They will be sharing this information with teaching teams and the rest of the administrative team as soon as it is finalized.

Lastly, goal nine is by **June 30, 2011 administrators and teachers in the Alexandria Township School District will employ methods for instructional observation and evaluation which promote professional growth and ensure accountability for instructional quality.** We have started the process of implementing the district's new observation and evaluation program. The committee that participated in the development of this document will continue to meet in order to make any revisions to the process.

In addition to our work towards the nine district goals, we have accomplished several more important tasks. We have started an integrated preschool program that includes staff member's children as well as children from the community. Our fourth grade team is piloting a student led parent-teacher conference model. Our Master Teacher Institute is off to a fantastic start and is receiving rave reviews. In the primary grades our counseling staff is working cooperatively with classroom teachers to implement a bullying prevention program. A select group of teachers continue to work towards the mastery of the structural approach to cooperative learning. These are just a few of the many positive changes occurring in the Alexandria Public Schools.

"These are just a few of the many positive changes occurring in the Alexandria Public Schools."

These changes would not be possible if it were not for the professionalism and commitment of the staff. I am proud to be the formal leader of a school system so dedicated to rising up to meet the challenges associated with preparing students to thrive in the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Matthew Jennings

Matthew Jennings, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Alexandria Township

Developing Safe and Civil Schools

Our district is participating in the Developing Safe and Civil Schools Project (DSACS), designed to help improve academic performance, social-emotional growth, and non-violent conflict resolution in our students.

The Developing Safe and Civil Schools project at Rutgers University (DSACS) is a consultative service that our district will be utilizing to assist with training selected staff in developing our Bullying Prevention and Character Education Programs at AMS and LDW.

There is off site training and on site consultative services provided.

A survey of school climate will be done for staff, students, and parents with the results utilized to develop our Character Ed and Bullying Prevention Programs.

The **parent survey** will be conducted online and will be available for parents to complete through Edline from November 10th—November 30th. Once you log in



to Edline you will see a link to the survey under "News". You will only be able to view the survey when using your parent account.

Students will complete the survey during the week of November 10th. More information about the survey and "opting out" directions have been posted on Edline & the Announcements section of our website at www.alexandriaschools.org.

REBEL2 Club Promotes a Healthy Lifestyle

REBEL 2 is a club for 6th-8th grade students. REBEL 2 is a statewide anti-tobacco middle school movement in which students learn to educate their peers and New Jersey's elementary school students to make healthy lifestyle choices.

Alexandria Middle School's guidance counselor, Mrs. Stoskus, and school nurse, Mrs. Fuchs, supervise club activities that are funded through a grant from Hunterdon Prevention Resources.

"The money that is collected by REBEL2 will be donated to the American Cancer Society."

The Alexandria REBEL2 group will be collecting change during lunch periods to support *The American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout*. This national event encourages people to smoke less or stop on that day. The Great American Smokeout began in 1976 in California when almost one million smokers quit for one day with

help from the American Cancer Society.

The money that is collected by REBEL2 will be donated to the American Cancer Society. Collection canisters will also be placed in the main office and in the teachers' lounge for parents and staff to participate in the collection.

REBEL2

LDW Art Teacher Receives Award

Ursula Accumanno, Art teacher at LDW was awarded the Art Educators of New Jersey (AENJ), Elementary Division Award for 2008.

Mrs. Accumanno has also taken a leadership role with the organization and was elected Vice President of AENJ that has over 1,400 members throughout NJ.

This past summer, Mrs. Accumanno was awarded a scholar-

ship by Arts Horizons to attend the Artist Teacher Institute (aTi) and spent two weeks at Rutgers in Camden doing nothing but Art! As a result of this workshop, her Art was exhibited at the LeRoy Neiman Gallery in NYC.

Way to go Mrs. Accumanno!



Curriculum Corner

By Joy Dominic, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction

In addition to continuing our district-wide curriculum revision and literacy assessment & remediation at LDW, these are just a few highlights in the area of curriculum.

MATH

Roberta Rim, Math Consultant from Rutgers Center for Mathematics, Science, and Computer Education conducted a Professional Development Workshop for our LDW teachers on developing number sense in the primary

grades and utilizing hands-on activities for students in Pre-K through grade 1. She has also provided the opportunity for curriculum articulation.

This month, Ms. Rim will focus on grades 2 through 8 and conduct professional

development activities for the respective teachers.

AMS

Teachers attended workshops on "developing **number sense** in the primary grades and utilizing **hands-on activities**..."

Eighth grade teachers in every subject area attended a regional articulation at Delaware Valley High School. The teachers were given the opportunity to discuss our programs, as well as programs from the other sending districts in order

to determine the needs for our students when they enter high school. They will meet again in January, and April. This has proved to be very valuable for all involved.

Statewide Testing

The Spring 2009 NJ Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) for grades 3 through 8 will be administered on the following dates:

- ⇒ Grade 3 May 4, 2009—May 7, 2009
- ⇒ Grade 4 May 4, 2009—May 8, 2009
- ⇒ Grade 5/6
May 11, 2009—May 14, 2009
- ⇒ Grade 7/8
April 27, 2009—April 30, 2009

**Alexandria
Township Schools**

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*Honoring Our Past,
Creating Our Future*

Please update your bookmarks
to reflect our new web address:
www.alexandriaschools.org

Contact Us:

Staff of Alexandria Schools: refer to Staff Directory on our website

AMS: David E. Pawlowski, Principal 908-996-6811

LDW: Sandra Kacedon, Principal 908-996-6812

District: Dr. Matthew Jennings, Superintendent 908-996-6811 ext 202

Special Education: Jennifer Bills, Supervisor of Student Services 908-996-6811 ext 254

Transportation/Facility Use/Buildings & Grounds:

Barbara E. Prowker, School Business Administrator 908-996-6811 ext 222

Curriculum: Joy Dominic, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction
908-996-6811 ext 251

Technology/Communications: Denise Fichner 908-996-6811 ext 247

Dates to Remember

November

11/14 End of 1st Marking Period
11/20 Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM
11/21 Superintendent Chat (Bullying Prevention/Open Discussion) 10-11 AM
11/26 Early Dismissal
11/27 Thanksgiving- No School
11/28 No School

December

12/2 Seniors Computer Class (8:30-11:00)
12/9 Kindergarten Concert 10:00 AM
12/11 LDW Concert gr 1-3, 7:00 PM
12/17 AMS Winter Concert 7:00 PM
12/18 Superintendent Chat (Technology/Open Discussion) 6:30-7:30 PM
12/18 Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM
12/19 Progress Reports Mailed Home (AMS)
12/23 Early Dismissal
12/24-1/2 Winter Recess