

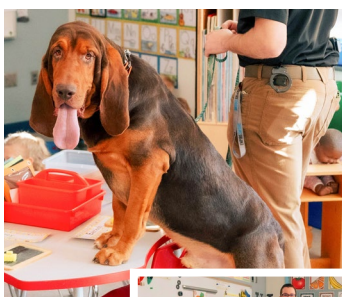


REBEL ALLIANCE

ALTMAR-PARISH-WILLIAMSTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

WINTER 2024

Whiskey the Search and Rescue Dog Visits APW UPK Students



Whiskey makes himself at home in Mrs. Ruffos' classroom as Investigator Holden talks to the class.



Altmar-Parish-Williamstown students in Mrs. Ruffos' UPK class were ecstatic when Whiskey the certified trailing bloodhound stopped by, accompanied by Investigator Dylan Holden and Deputy Emilie Mullin of the Oswego County Sheriff's Office.

Investigator Holden and Whiskey are volunteer members of the Oswego County Search and Rescue Team, using Whiskey's remarkable skills to search for missing people. The duo offers their services to multiple agencies such as fire departments, sheriff's offices, state police, forest rangers and city police departments.

Investigator Holden explained to the class why bloodhounds are such great search and rescue dogs. "The excess skin on their forehead covers their eyes

when they put their head down and allows for their sense of smell to take over," he said. "They also have extremely large ears which help guide the smells to their noses."

Whiskey sprung into action during a search and rescue demonstration where an older student hid on school grounds. The UPK class erupted into applause when the friendly bloodhound successfully tracked the student down using only the scent of her used T-shirt.

"Whiskey's capabilities are amazing," said Deputy Mullin. "He is great at his job and loves to work, especially when kids are involved."

If you would like to learn more about the Oswego County Search and Rescue Team along with Whiskey's invaluable services, visit www.oswegocountysar.org.

APW Future Business Leaders Celebrate Outstanding Achievements

Students from Altmar-Parish-Williamstown's Future Business Leaders of America Club have a lot to be proud of, with multiple regional and national awards, as well as several memberships in the NYS FBLA Honor Society.

Membership into the society requires an 85% or higher overall average, advisor recommendations, participation in the previous year's NYS FBLA competition and involvement in community service. Based on the above qualifications, APW students Julianna Britton, Brian Davis and Kendall Wheeler were all selected and inducted into the NYS FBLA Honor Society.

The cause for celebration continued when club members dominated the FBLA Regional Competition held at Bryant and Stratton College.

"Their performance at the event was truly exceptional,

with a total of six first place, two second place and three third-place awards," said District Superintendent Naomi Ryfun. "This is a testament to their hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence."

Brennon Culkin won first place in both Website Design and Social Media Strategies, Julianna Britton won first place in District 9 FBLA Brochure, Kendall Wheeler took first place in Word Processing and third place in Spreadsheet Applications, Leah Tanner won first place in Electronic Career Portfolio and took third place in both Job Interview and Marketing, Kenneth DuPont won first place in International Business, Aaron Hart won second place in Agribusiness and Adrianna Lopez took second place in Economics.

The club was also recognized on the national level for three awards: The Shaping Success Award, the Service Season Award and the CTE Celebration Award.

These awards position the students as contenders to win the Gold Champion Charter Award, which will be announced at a leadership conference in Orlando, Florida this June.

Next up for the club is advancement to the state FBLA competition in April, which will take place in Rochester.



APW FBLA members at the Bryant and Stratton Regional FBLA Competition.

ACADEMICS AT ITS BEST • PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE • WHERE STUDENTS COME FIRST

A message from the APW Superintendent



Dr. Naomi Ryfun
Superintendent

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

As we seek to continuously improve our school district, we need your help. You can make a significant impact by joining one of our committees, which help us carry out our mission and vision: to provide a competitive education for all learners and to prepare each student for their individual chosen path.

Here's a quick look at each committee and what it does:

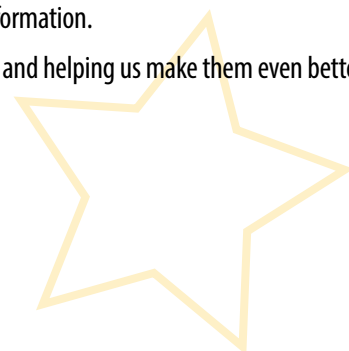
- 1. Athletic Committee:** This group works on enhancing and expanding athletic opportunities for all students at APW while maintaining a focus on doing well in school and on the field.
- 2. Excellence in Student Achievement Committee (ESA):** Members of this committee collaborate with stakeholders to increase academic opportunities and improve student performance.
- 3. Long-Range Planning:** This team looks at what our schools need for the future. They make plans for our facilities and our instructional programs to make sure we are prepared and thrive in the years ahead.

- 4. Finance Committee:** This group looks at our budget and determines how to best use it to reach our goals.
- 5. Wellness Committee:** Members of this team focus on student and staff health and well-being. They also promote nutritionally based menu options.
- 6. Policy Committee:** This group reviews and updates board policies to ensure alignment with state and federal regulations.

We'd love for you to join one of these committees if you're interested. Your help is really important for making our schools the best they can be. Our committees usually meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, unless otherwise posted. You can check the board calendar on the APW website or call us at (315) 625-5251 for more information.

Thank you for supporting our schools and helping us make them even better!

Warmly,
Dr. Naomi Ryfun
APW Superintendent of Schools



Innovative Composer Connects Virtually with APW Elementary Band Students

Thanks to modern technology, Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Elementary band students had the opportunity to perform a piece of music in the presence of its composer, Scratch Eden.

Eden is a self-proclaimed "theater nerd" from Western Tennessee who is a singer, songwriter, pianist, percussionist and composer of a diverse range of music for concert bands and musicals.

APW Elementary band teacher Michele Madden first discovered Eden through a band director's Facebook page, which led to the school acquiring one of his free musical arrangements titled "Frost Giants."

After months of practice the students attended a virtual meeting with the composer via Zoom, allowing the opportunity for Eden to provide valuable feedback on their performance of his composition.

"Playing music virtually is challenging," noted Madden. "Yet Eden was able to notice the band's attention to detail, good sound quality and balance of the ensemble."

Following the performance, Eden shared insights into the inspiration behind "Frost Giants" and explained his creative process while composing new music. He concluded the session by opening the floor to questions and generously

offering additional information to those intrigued by the art of composing.

This unique interaction between Scratch Eden and APW Elementary band students demonstrates the power of virtual connections in fostering musical education and creativity. The school looks forward to future collaborations to inspire the next generation of composers under Scratch Eden's guidance.



Under the supervision of APW Elementary Band Director Michele Madden, composer Scratch Eden virtually observes the performance of APW Elementary band students.

A Letter from the School Board President



Shawn Clark
President

Spring is in the air. This is one of my most favorite times of the year.

It is a reminder that no matter what has happened you can always start fresh and move forward.

The dark faded colors of winter start to turn to bright vibrant colors from flowers, grass and trees, reminding us to always look on the bright side of things and to focus on the good.

As I apply that thought to our school, I realize that there are so many good things happening.

The band and chorus rooms have been completely renovated and are almost ready to be occupied by our students again.

Our winter sports teams had high participation and great success in their seasons. Spring sports are underway.

We are excited to announce that our marching band will once again be out on the streets at parades and events this year.

Our strategic plan is in place and is working on a steady pace to help our students continue to improve year after year.

All of this is good and is what our students deserve. As we move through the end of the 2023-2024 school year, take time to see the vibrant colors that APW has to offer.

Shawn Clark
APW BOE President



APW National Honor Society Welcomes New Inductees

Twenty-two outstanding Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Junior-Senior High School students were recently sworn into the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society.

Current student leaders Jason Bobanick (NHS President), Bruce Flanagan (NHS Vice President), Daphne Fanning (NJHS President) and Rachel Spencer (NJHS Vice President) led the ceremonies held on Feb. 7, which celebrated the inductees' commitment to scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship and character.

District Superintendent Naomi Ryfun spoke to the students about the pillars of the organization in her address.

"Your commitment to academic excellence, your willingness to step out and lead and your acts of service all point to your character," she said. "It's how you think, feel and behave. It's who you are inside and out. Your character affects every person around you and leaves an imprint on those with whom you interact."

JSHS Principal Jennifer O'Malley and Assistant Principal Tim LaRose shared the esteemed honor of presenting each student with their official induction certificate.

The newly accepted members of APW NHS are Julianna Britton, Louisa Butterworth, Federico Falace, William Francisco, Rayann Gardner, Camden Haynes, Lily Higgins, Samantha Holcomb, Arayha Manor, Sawyer Oakes, Gabriella Scott, Leah Tanner and Breanna Wheeler.

APW NJHS members inducted included Priscilla Britton, Blake Johnson Jr., Rowan Lagowski, Cameron Maxwell, Brice McNabb, Liam Mumford, Ryker O'Hara, Brody Solazzo and Noah Spencer.



APW Principal Jennifer O'Malley and Assistant Principal Tim LaRose stand with the newest NHS members.



APW's newest NJHS members.

APW Conservation Club Once Again Attains Status as Ocean Guardian School

For the third year in a row, members of the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Conservation Club have completed the steps necessary to become an official National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ocean Guardian School.

As outlined on the NOAA website, designation as an Ocean Guardian School signifies a firm commitment to the protection and conservation of its local watersheds, the world's ocean and special ocean areas such as national marine sanctuaries. The school makes this commitment by proposing and then implementing a school or community-based conservation project.

This year, the students elected to focus their efforts on recycling and reducing single-use plastic waste. This included several beach and state park clean ups, plastic collection and the sale of sustainable products to reduce waste at school, community outreach, education and a public project introduction.

Under the guidance of advisor Jessica Halsey, Conservation Club members Rachel Spencer, Noah Spencer, Eben Alley and Annaleah Wejko introduced their project while sharing about the importance of ocean conservation during a recent APW Board of Education meeting.

"I am very proud of the Conservation Club officers," explained Halsey. "It can be very intimidating presenting in front of people, let alone their Board of Education. These students practiced extremely hard, did an outstanding job and clearly care about the future of our ocean."

The students were then presented with a brand-new NOAA Ocean Guardian School banner for the 2023-24 academic year, which will proudly be displayed in the hallways of the APW Junior-Senior High School.



The APW Conservation Club and members of administration show off the school's new NOAA Ocean Guardian School banner. From left to right: Principal Jennifer O'Malley, Rachel Spencer, Lucia Marshall-Crisalli, Eben Alley, Advisor Jessica Halsey, Annaleah Wejko, Assistant Principal Tim LaRose and Noah Spencer.

Introducing our New Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education: *Danielle Wheeler*



How long have you worked for APW?

This is my third year with the district.

How long have you worked in education?

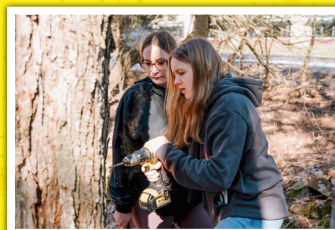
I have worked in education for 17 years. I have been a teaching assistant, teacher, instructional coach and assistant principal.

What is your main job description as the Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education?

I support students with their needs while making sure that they are successful in the pathway that they choose when they graduate high school. I work directly with school counselors, related service providers, social workers and teachers to ensure that this happens. I specifically focus on students with disabilities and take a very hands-on and collaborative approach to provide them with the best support.

What part of the job are you most excited about?

I am most excited to work with students, staff and families to do what's best for their child so that they become successful. Supporting the kids is my number one priority.



APW JSJS's new class, "Fur, Feathers and Flowers" has been busy tapping trees and boiling down sap to create delicious Maple Syrup!

APW Teachers Grow Ugly Beards to Support the School's Backpack Program

Four teachers from Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Junior-Senior High School participated in the second annual Ugly Beard contest, a competition meant to collect votes in the form of non-perishable items to contribute to the school's Backpack Program.

The APW JSHS Backpack program is an initiative aimed at providing food and essential supplies to students in need within the district community.

According to the school's principal, Jennifer O'Malley, who started the Ugly Beard Contest last year, the competition "is a shining example of how a little fun and creativity can go a long way in making a positive impact."

Teachers Nicholas DeFranco, Tyler Moran, Mark Krause and Aaron Ingersoll kicked off the competition on Thanksgiving Day, which gave them each a month to grow wild and untamed facial hair. Students and staff eagerly watched the evolution of the beards, increasing the number of donations with each of their votes.

"This year's competition not only brought laughs and festive cheer, but also managed to collect over 600 non-perishable items for the school's backpack program," said O'Malley. "The donated items will make a significant impact, ensuring that those facing challenges have access to essential resources during the holiday season and beyond."

The contest concluded after a month and the highly anticipated winner was announced at the school's Winter Pep Rally. Nicholas DeFranco was named the victor with more than 400 cans, leaving him with the both the title of "Ugliest Beard" and the satisfaction that his efforts contributed to a great cause.

"Although the holiday season is over and the beards are now trimmed, the warmth of the community's collective giving spirit undoubtedly lingers, reminding everyone that even the silliest traditions can bring about real change and support for those in need," said O'Malley.



Nicholas DeFranco, Tyler Moran, Mark Krause and Aaron Ingersoll pose to kick off the Ugly Beard contest.

What's New with the Rolling Rebels?

Rolling Rebel high school students made over 100 "love sack" corn bags to give to our transportation department for Valentine's Day! The bus drivers loved their gifts that were made from donated fabric and sewn by the students.



APW Junior-Senior High School Prepares for Total Solar Eclipse

Residents of Oswego County are in the direct path to witness a total solar eclipse on April 8 of this year, a phenomenon that hasn't happened since 1925, and Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Junior-Senior High School is getting ready for the event by providing educational opportunities for both students and the community.

A team from SUNY Oswego working with the Nationwide Eclipse Ballooning Project (NEBP) hosted a workshop for APW seventh graders recently. The NEBP acquires eclipse data and analysis through scientific helium-filled weather ballooning. Students listened to in-depth presentations about the project and engaged in hands-on activities.

APW JSHS is hosting Solar Eclipse Community Nights to teach the public about eclipse safety and to share eclipse activities. These were held on Feb. 29 and March 13 at 5:30 p.m. in room 113, with an upcoming event set for April 2 at 5:30 p.m. in the JSHS Cafeteria.

The district is giving staff and students a half day on April 8 to ensure their safety with the anticipated influx of travelers coming to the area. The partial solar eclipse will last about two and a half hours beginning at 2:09 p.m., with full totality occurring for a few minutes at 3:22 p.m.

To learn more about the NEBP you can visit their website at <https://eclipse.montana.edu/>, to learn more about the eclipse please visit <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/> and to learn more about the APW Solar Eclipse Community Nights, please contact the school at 315-625-5260.



APW seventh graders learn about the National Eclipse Ballooning Project as part of the school's effort to teach students and the community about the upcoming Solar Eclipse.

UPK Lottery 2024-2025

All children who will be four years of age on or before December 1, 2024 can participate in the UPK Lottery. Please complete the form on our website if you would like your child to be included in our UPK Lottery. We anticipate having full-day and half-day spots available that are funded through the New York State Universal Pre-K Grant.

The requirements to be able to sign up your UPK child in the lottery are as follows:

- The child must be living with a legal parent/guardian in the APW School District
- The child must turn four years old on or before December 1, 2024
- The child cannot be five years old or older on or before December 1, 2024

You must complete one form per child. Please complete the UPK Lottery Google Form by Friday, April 5, 2024. Fill out all sections and remember to click "Submit" in order for your lottery application to be received. The district is not responsible for entries not submitted.

If your child is selected for the UPK Program, you will receive an acceptance letter after April 29, 2024. The acceptance letter will contain instructions on how to complete the registration process, which will occur online after the receipt of the acceptance letter.

You ONLY have to fill out the UPK lottery form. No other paperwork is necessary at this time. Please complete the form once for each child you are entering into the lottery. Registration with the district will occur following the lottery and notification of selection.

Kindergarten Registration is Open!!



Get your child ready for a great year!

Register online at APWSchools.org or contact the District Registrar:

Susan Thorp – District Registrar

APWRegistration@apw.cnyric.org • (315) 625-5275

LOOKING TO RUN FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION?

BOE candidate packets are
now available at the
District Office.

***Petitions are due
April 22 by 5 p.m.***



APW Athletics Communications
128 likes · 162 followers

Message Like Search

APW Athletics Has a New Facebook Page

Run by our Athletic Director
George Emrich, this page keeps
you up to date on Rebel athletic
news, events, dates, games and more!



**SCAN
ME!**



REBEL READY



REBEL ALLIANCE



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Central School District

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Parish, NY 13131

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www.apwschools.org

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For Important Announcements, Annual Notifications, Events, Contact Information and other information,
visit the APW District website at www.APWSchools.org

APW CSD Seeks Taxpayer Approval for Land Purchase Adjacent to School

As the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District continues to plan for future growth and programming needs, it has identified the potential purchase of land adjacent to the school as a critical step. This purchase is contingent upon taxpayer approval with a proposition set to appear on the ballot on May 21, 2024.

According to Superintendent Naomi Ryfun, this initiative helps poise the district for future opportunities. "The proposed land acquisition presents an invaluable opportunity for our district to secure space for future growth and innovation," Ryfun said. "It will enable us to better serve our students and community with a wide range of educational activities and initiatives."

The potential purchase aligns with the district's long-term strategic goals and commitment to providing exceptional educational opportunities. Detailed discussions regarding specific programming needs and land usage will follow, should the proposition receive approval.

The proposed land acquisition is for a purchase price not to exceed \$295,000, plus any additional fees and transactional costs (closing costs) not to exceed a total cost of \$400,000. The plan is for the district to pay for the acquisition with voter authorization to withdraw and expend the said amount from the 2021 Construction Capital Reserve fund. This transaction is expected to have no tax impact on the taxpayers since funding from the reserves will be utilized.

Taxpayers are encouraged to stay informed about the proposition and participate in the upcoming vote on May 21, 2024, to shape the future of education in the district.

For more information, please contact Lorrie Burrows, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations or visit the district website at www.apwschools.org.

**WHERE THE
GOLDEN SUNSET
MELLOW
TINTS THE
WESTERN SKY,
PROUDLY STANDS
OUR ALMA MATER
A.P.W. HIGH.
SING THE CHORUS.
LIFT IT UPWARD
IN HER PRAISES VIE.
HAIL TO THEE,
OUR ALMA MATER,
A.P.W. HIGH**

The APW Central School District in accordance with the Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and does not discriminate on the basis of sex or handicap in the educational programs or activities it operates. This includes recruitment and employment of employees; pay and benefits; counseling services for students; access by students to educational programs, courses and activities. The District's Title IX Compliance Coordinator is Patrick Vrooman (639 Co. Rt. 22, Parish, NY 13131; 315-625-5275).