

Afton Central School Elementary Newsletter

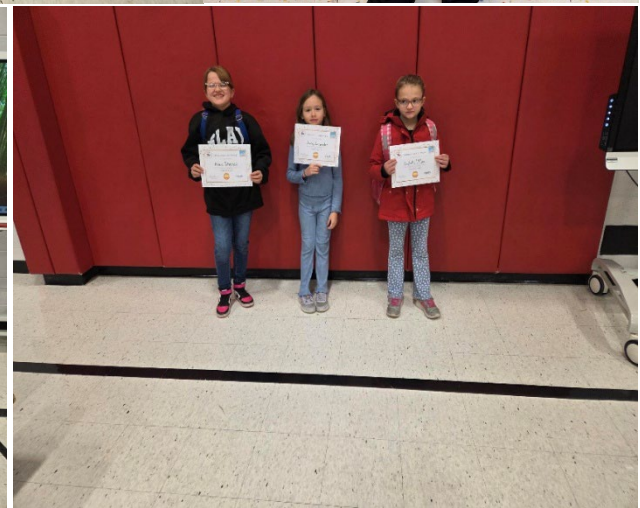
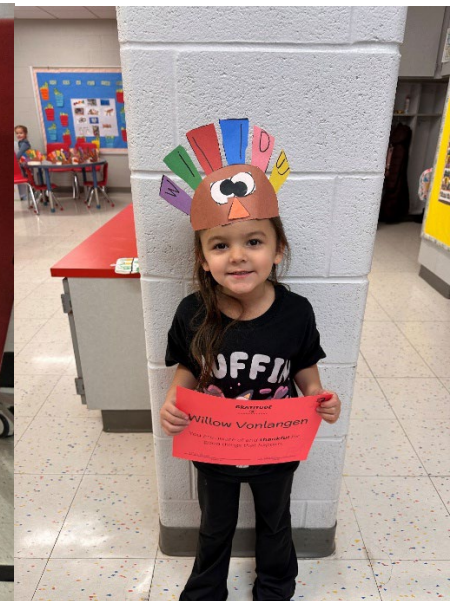
November 2025

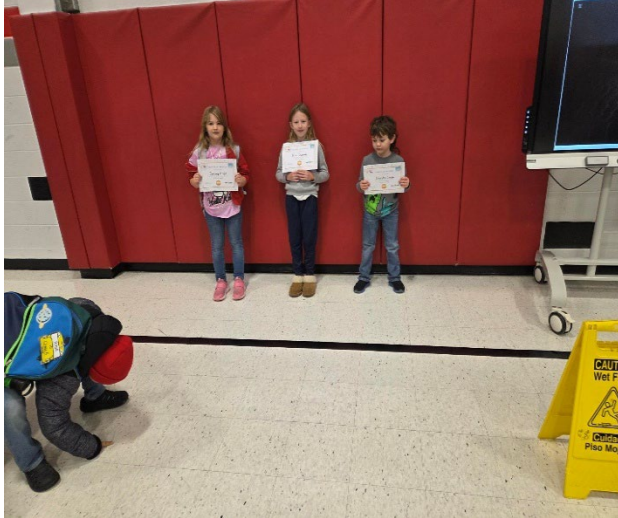


Important Information:

- There will be no school on Wednesday, November 26, 2025 through Friday, November 28, 2025 – Thanksgiving Recess.
- The next guest reader event will take place on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, from 8:20 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. If you are interested in reading to a class in the future, please email pwagner@aftoncsd.org
- The Penguin Patch will be held on Monday, December 8, 2025 through Friday, December 12, 2025, in room 6.
- BOE meeting, Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., in the Board Room.
- The next VIP lunch will be held on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. Forms are due back to the students teacher **no later than** the morning of December 8, 2025.
- Pre-K and kindergarten will be going on a field trip to the Roberson Museum on Friday, December 19, 2025.
- There is a half day for students on Tuesday, December 23, 2025. There will not be bagged lunches this day, students will be served a warm lunch before dismissing.

KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK





STUDENT SUPPORT

Kids And Electronic Devices

It used to be that kids consumed electronic media from two main sources: radio and television. And while kids still listen to the radio and watch TV, they are much more likely to be plugged in to a wide variety of technological platforms. And while there certainly are benefits to living an interconnected, plugged-in life, there are huge drawbacks, too. *So, what is a parent to do about all this?*

1. Find a Healthy Balance

Try to create a balance between the virtual world and the real world your kids live in. The best way to do that is to be acutely aware of what your kids are doing with technology and media and to develop media-use policies in your home that they will agree to and follow.

2. Taking Inventory

Take an inventory of all the devices your children have access to that can connect them to the Internet. Whether it's a smartphone, tablet, gaming console, computer, or laptop, make sure you know what your kids are using to enter the virtual world. Once you've compiled your list, you have an arsenal of privileges you can use when giving positive and negative consequences to your kids in response to their behavior. Take time, too, to inspect the apps your kids have on their phones and tablets. You need to know what your kids are using to keep them safe.

3. Teach Children How to Accept "No" for an Answer

Your children must understand that you are the authority in your home. So, for instance, when they ask to stay up another half hour to chat with friends on their phones on a school night, and you say "No," they need to be able to accept your answer. Accepting "No" for an Answer is a social skill your kids will use often, in many different settings (home, school, work), so it is important that you teach it and they learn it. Here are the steps you can practice with your kids:

- Look at the person. This shows you are paying attention.
- Say, "Okay." This lets the other person know you understand.
- Stay calm. This allows you to hear what the other person is saying.

These steps might seem simple or obvious. But in practice, using the skill of Accepting "No" for an Answer is a lot harder than it seems. Practicing this skill often with your kids will eventually help them master it and make it second nature for them.

Student Support Team

Angela, Kim, and Marie

RTI



Our academic MTSS (formerly RTI) providers: Trevor Beames, Kim Buckler and Peggy Wagner work closely with our classroom teachers, counselors, and administration to meet the needs of the whole child. As academic MTSS providers, they may help by:

- Pushing into the classrooms at different times of the day to help support math and reading.
- Taking groups of students to their rooms to do math or reading that works on a specific skill. This also allows for a quieter place to work and provides students with extra support in areas of need.

If your child needs to officially be entered into academic MTSS based on assessments or classroom data, you will be contacted by the classroom teacher.



PRE-K

In Pre-K the students have finished their intro to shapes unit and are continuing to practice the basic shapes in their new unit of intro to patterns. Numbers 1-5 continue to be a focus in math as well. The students are enjoying some practice with these concepts in our Thanksgiving math centers. In literacy we have been continuing to work on hearing beginning sounds, especially with the letters that have been taught so far Aa, Mm, Ss, Pp, Tt and Ii, rhyming and syllables. One of the highlights was making our turkey name headbands to wear to thanksgiving lunch. We would like to thank the cafeteria staff for a delicious meal. For science we enjoyed mystery science learn about scarecrows and turkeys. In social studies we have been talking about families and thanksgiving so what better way to celebrate both than by inviting families in for a story and craft time together. Thank you to all the families who were able to join us, and we look forward to another family time in the future. If you could please send in a family photo for your child to share and keep at school that would be great. Have a happy and healthy Thanksgiving. I am thankful for the opportunity to work with your child in Pre-K.

-The Pre-K Team





KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten has been having fun in the post-Halloween time. The children made special crafts for Veteran's Day and there was a parade during the Veteran's Day breakfast. In ELA, the kids have been focusing on letters A, M, P, T, & S. We have been reading and writing words that are spelled with these letters. The kids have also been learning various high-frequency words such as *like*, *we*, *the*, & *a*. During math time, our attention has been on sorting and classifying objects based on different attributes and comparing numbers 0-10. There has been great improvement in writing numbers, counting objects, and building numbers using ten-frames.

To get the kids revved up for Thanksgiving, we have been reading many holiday themed books and doing an array of Thanksgiving themed crafts and activities. We have been discussing the concept of gratitude/being thankful each day and learned about the meaning of the word *feast* and how it pertains to the upcoming holiday. The holiday season is always a very fun and exciting time to be in kindergarten!

-The Kindergarten Team



1ST GRADE

The first grade has been very busy this month. We completed our first unit of ELA and had a celebration of knowledge. We also celebrated our first math unit. In Social Studies we discussed the importance of Veterans day, the uniqueness of our families, and citizenship. We enjoyed a visit from the Utica Zoo; they brought in some very unique animals! We also had fun working on some different projects for Thanksgiving.

We are very thankful to be working with all our students and hope you enjoy time with your family and friends this break!

-The First Grade Team







2ND GRADE

Second graders had an exciting October/November! We wrapped up our science unit on *Habitats* by exploring how animals adapt to live in different environments from the chilly Arctic to the sunny desert. In math, we're diving into Module 3 learning about place value, counting, and comparing numbers to 1,000. Students are learning how hundreds, tens, and ones work together to build numbers and how to compare three-digit numbers using greater than, less than, and equal to signs. To celebrate Halloween, we joined the school parade in our creative costumes and enjoyed a fun classroom party filled with games, treats, and laughter. For Veteran's Day students learned about the brave men and women who serve and have served our country. To honor these heroes' students created a red, white, and blue heart to give to the Veterans at the Veteran's Day breakfast event. We are looking forward to more learning adventures in December.

-The Second Grade Team



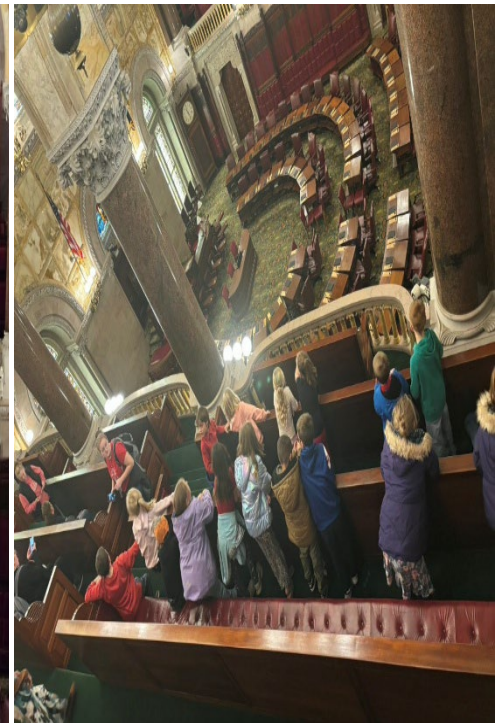




3RD GRADE

Third grade had a busy November! In Social Studies, we learned about being a good citizen, voting and the voting process. We did an actual mock election so the students could see how the process worked. The students voted on either having a pajama day/movie or ice cream sundaes. The majority vote was for pajamas and movie. We also went on a field trip to Albany, Capitol Building. Students got to see the different rooms where decisions are made and voted on. They also got to see the architecture of the building which they were amazed at! Just a reminder, if your student wants to participate in the reading incentive, bookmarks were sent home on Wednesday, November 19 with the QR code on the back. If you are not able to use the QR code, please contact us for paper reading logs. Finally, with the weather getting colder, students need to have warm clothing to go outside for recess. If you have any questions, please email either Mrs. Mayo or Mrs. Constable.

-The Third Grade Team





4TH GRADE

Fourth Grade has been busy this month! The students are really settling into our routine now, and things are running much smoother. We are starting to really get to their personalities; they are really great kids!

In Social Studies, we continued learning about the geography of NY, its' landforms, climate, and vegetation. We will be winding up the unit very soon with a fun cookie decorating activity! In math we are finishing up Module 1. We have been working on rounding/estimating, comparing and ordering, along with addition and subtraction of whole numbers with regrouping. We work on the concepts first, then use that knowledge and apply it to solving word problems. The students are really coming along with word problem skills! We also completed one of the NY State Science Tasks that students are required to perform prior to taking the state exam in 5th grade. We did the "Light It Up" task. Students had to follow instructions and make a working circuit. They worked really hard on this task! In ELA, we have been reading stories in Wonders about how our words and actions affect others. This also linked up well to Positivity Project, where we have been discussing the same thing in our lessons each morning. The kids have been doing well studying for their spelling tests. We are taking a pause with spelling until after Thanksgiving Break. After our Thanksgiving Break, we will be working on our first essay of the year. The kids also did a fantastic job with the veteran interviews and posterboard project. The posterboards were beautiful and a memorable tribute, so much so, a VFW asked to display them in their hall.

As we wrap up November, we want to wish you all a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving!! Remember, there is ALWAYS something to be grateful for!

-The Fourth Grade Team

5TH GRADE

Greetings 5th grade families! Wow, what a great month it has been! We were busy carving pumpkins for Halloween, and we went on our fall field trip to the Lackawanna Coal Mine! While in the mine we made connections to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which we have been studying in ELA and Social Studies. Ask your child to tell you about some of the violations to human rights that they learned about in the mine. In addition, we learned about the impact coal had on the Industrial Revolution in the United States. In math, we have been learning about patterns within numbers and continuing to work on word problems. When there is time at home, students should still be practicing their math facts, it will help them SO much with the concepts we are learning this year and beyond. In Science, we are preparing our hydroponics unit, where students will design a prototype that will germinate a seed without using soil. A lot to look forward to in the coming weeks!

-The Fifth Grade Team





12:1:1

This month the students worked on a Thanksgiving Day Parade PBL. Each student had to decide what the theme of their float was and how they were going to design it. The students learned how to use a budget for their supplies, created their own parade route, and wrote a persuasive writing piece to convince people to come see their float at the parade. At the end off the project the students were able to make a model of their float using different craft materials.

-The 12:1:1 Team

SPEECH

Hello families!

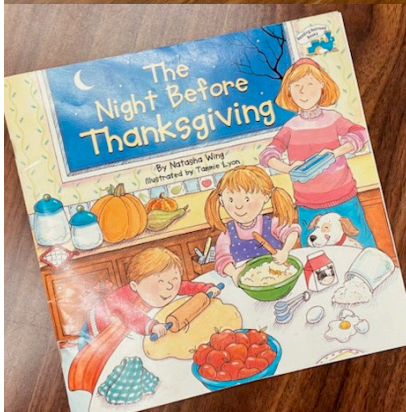
November is here and with it some crisp morning, early sunsets, and lots of fun activities. This month in speech we are using the change in seasons to spark language, sequencing, storytelling, and sound practice across settings. As the weather shifts and animals prepare for winter, "Gone Goose" has been a perfect story to help us talk about seasonal changes, use describing words and build inferencing skills. While developing their own goose craft students developed sentences to retell the story or practice their target sounds that they heard throughout the book.

The Night Before Thanksgiving is a festive favorite that continues to support sequencing and comprehension as we talk through each step of preparing for Thanksgiving students are able to work on sequencing, WH questions, making connections between their own family traditions and events within the book. We were also able to pair hands on learning with the book. A Thanksgiving gathering is a great opportunity to practice pragmatic skills and students did just that while requesting different food items for their Thanksgiving plates. We continue to build on our skills through stories, crafts, and fun structured language activities to foster the growth of students' speech/language development.

Wishing your family a warm and wonderful November!



Mrs. Parks TSSLD



EXTENDED STUDIES

POOL

In aquatics class this month PreK is working on their flutter kick using a kickboard. Kindergarten-2nd grade is now combining their arms and legs together for the front crawl. For this swim stroke they use the flutter kick, and their alternating arm action also known as long octopus' arms. PreK and Kindergarten are becoming more confident and independent in the water. Kindergarten-2nd graders are also working on their back float this month. A new skill for 3rd -5th grade is the front glide. The student holds on to the wall with one hand and pushes off the wall to make a sharpened pencil in the water. They try to glide with their face in the water for 3 seconds or more. The students are trying to transition from the front glide right into the front crawl without stopping. The students are doing a great job taking their time and really trying to pick it up. Don't forget about the community open swim on Tuesdays and Thursday nights.

Community open Swim

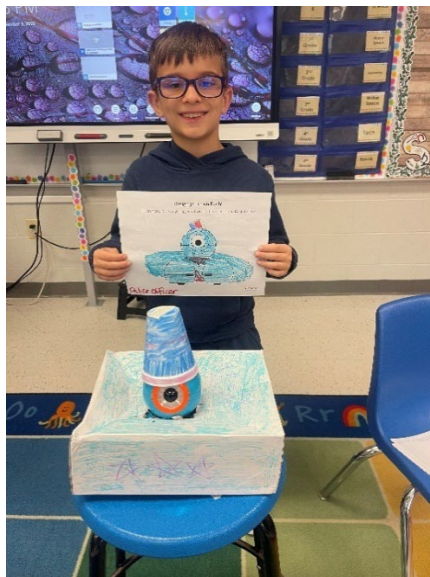
It is on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-7:30pm. The fee per session is \$2.00 per adult and \$1.00 per student. Children under 5 years of age are free. Everyone is welcome! Also, please note that small children (kindergarten and under) must have an adult in the water with them.

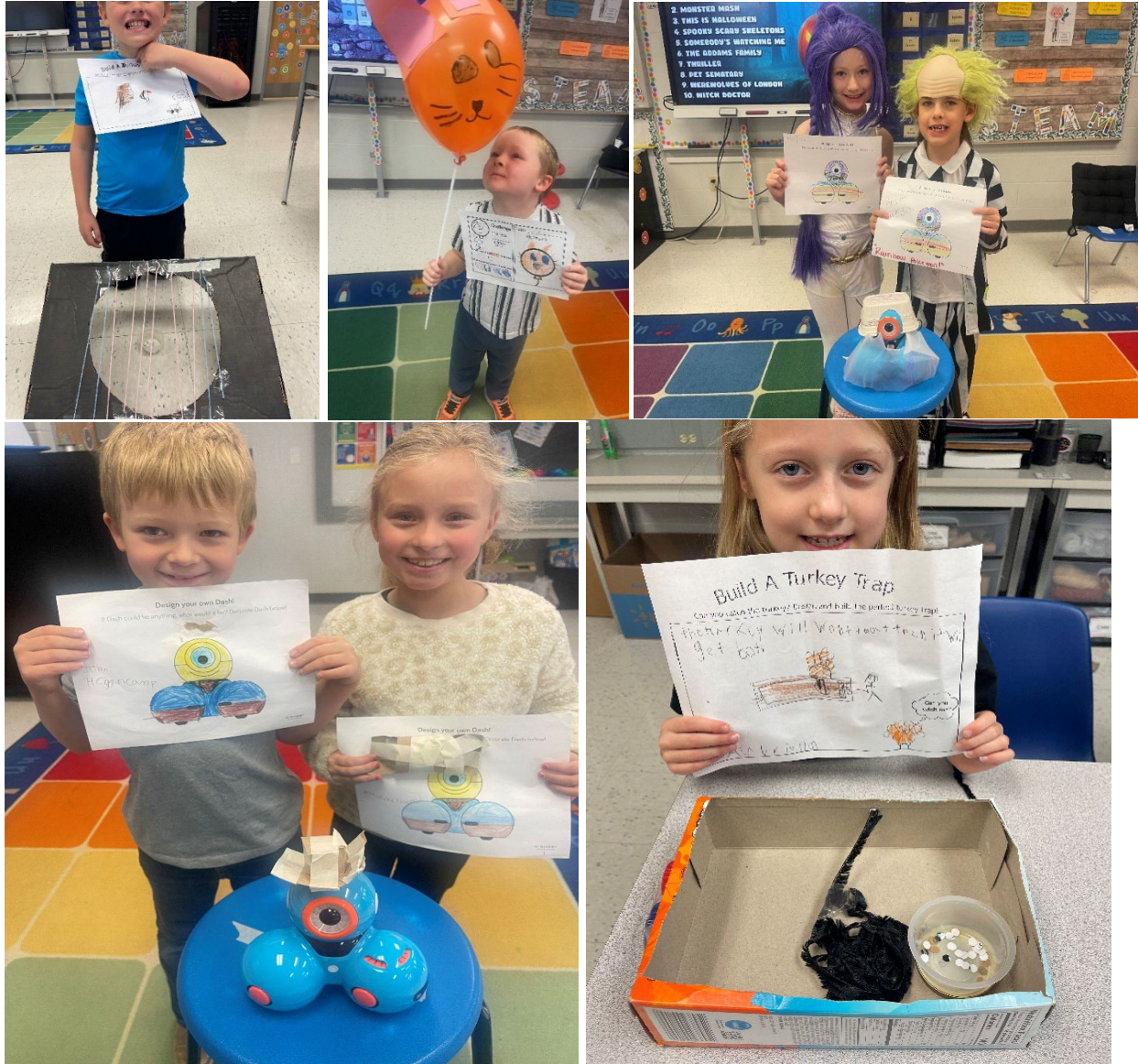
-Mrs. Sheldon

STEAM

Hello Families! This month students have been gearing up for thanksgiving, Pk and Kindergarten have been disguising turkeys and making a thanksgiving plate out of playdough for Miss L to eat! 1st grade is tackling the Macys Thanksgiving Day parade by designing and creating their own balloon. 2nd grade had been getting ready to trap and catch a turkey so Miss L can have turkey on thanksgiving! The did this by designing and creating a Trap to catch the turkey for Miss L. 3-5 is gearing up for robots and Drones! We have exciting things coming our way for the holidays!

-Ms. L





ART

Pre-K and kindergarten have been working on scissor skills and gluing. In Pre-K we created apple prints using real apples and then cut up paper apples to make a pie. We practiced tracing and cutting circles and used silly scissors to make our crust. In kindergarten we are making scissor salads that will spell out our names. We are practicing cutting straight, curved and diagonal lines to make our vegetables.

In 1st grade we learned about the Day of the Dead and used sponges to print marigolds. We practiced making different types of lines for our flowerpots and the rugs that sit on. We continued exploring printmaking but using bubble wrap to print flint corn.

In 2nd grade we create Yayoi Kusama inspired pumpkin sculptures and a space to display them while mixing primary colors to make all 3 secondary colors. We are working on Dancing Critters and creating mylar balloons for the rest of this month.

In 3rd grade we created our own monsters in the closet while exploring ways to draw texture. We also learned about Johnny Appleseed and created a folk inspired quilt with our geometric printing plates. We are learning about symmetry and balance as we create the trees that will be in the center of our paper quilt squares.

In 4th grade we are using line, texture and complementary colors to create 4 different monsters, and are learning about value while creating colorful lights using oil and chalk pastels. The 5th grade is learning about value while creating oil pastel candy canes.

Be on the lookout for your child's Artsonia ID paper. These are specific to each child and will allow you to activate their digital portfolios. These will follow them throughout their time in school, even if they leave Afton. Once the account is active, you do not need to activate it again, but you can invite others to follow your young art. You can even get their art turned into keepsakes and accessories!



PARENTS! Connect to Afton Elementary School using Artsonia to receive important updates on your child's art classroom activity.



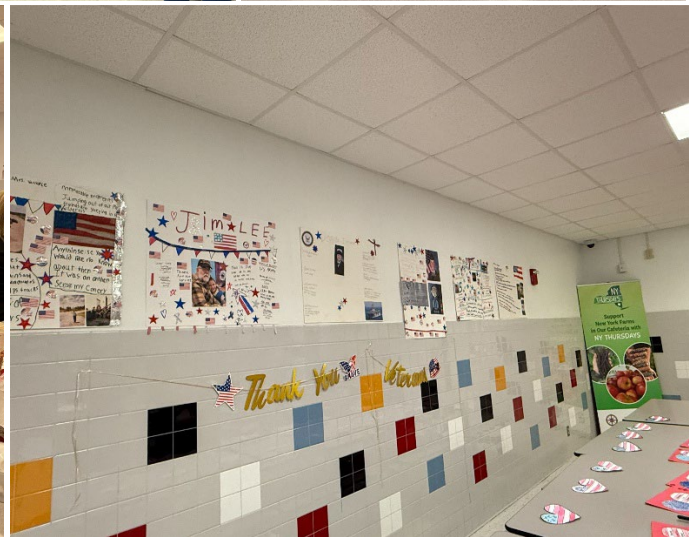
Use your camera to scan this code.

You can also browse to www.artsonia.com/parents and enter this Parent Code

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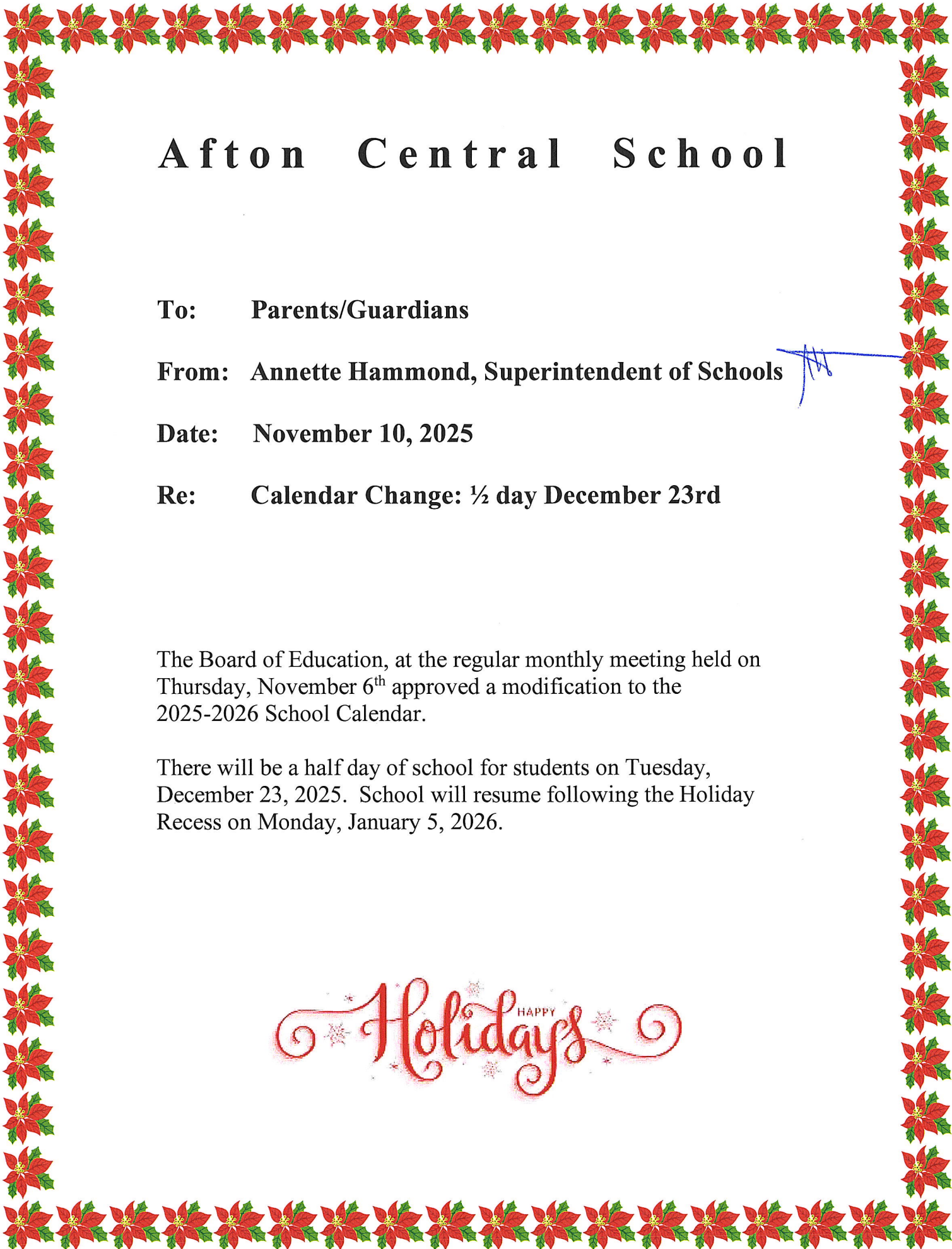
Veteran's Day Breakfast











Afton Central School

To: Parents/Guardians

From: Annette Hammond, Superintendent of Schools

Date: November 10, 2025

Re: Calendar Change: ½ day December 23rd

The Board of Education, at the regular monthly meeting held on Thursday, November 6th approved a modification to the 2025-2026 School Calendar.

There will be a half day of school for students on Tuesday, December 23, 2025. School will resume following the Holiday Recess on Monday, January 5, 2026.

HAPPY Holidays

A Whimsical in Christmas Afton

December 6th, 2025

VFW Main St

8:00-11:00 - Breakfast with St. Santa

HALos Hub Main St.

1:00-3:00 - Craft/ornament making, student fundraisers and school group activities

1:00-5:00 - Outside the Hub National Honor Society will be selling hot dogs, walking tacos, baked goods, hot chocolate and coffee to benefit scholarships for graduates.

2:00-3:00 - Photos with the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who.

3:30-5:00 - Photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

(Photos by professional photographer Renee Halbert)

First Baptist Church, Activity Building

12:00-5:00 - Visit many vendors for Holiday shopping and Cookie decoration !

2:00-4:00 - Polar Express rides: pick-up and drop off from parking lot

Afton Free Library free craft activity for kids

VFW

5:00 - Chamber will be offering hot dogs, popcorn and hot cocoa

5:30 - Pre-Parade will start by NBT bank

5:50 - Tree lighting ceremony

6:00 - Parade to start

NBT bank

Photos Santa And Mrs. Claus immediately following parade

First Baptist Church

Bonfire immediately following the parade!

Use your phone's camera to scan the
QR Code to visit our Facebook page!

