

Afton Central School

Elementary Newsletter

May 2026



Important Information:

- BOE meeting, Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the Board Room.
- Due to state testing, there will be no guest readers for the month of May.
- Our next Bright Knight's Ceremony will be held on Friday, May 1, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
- NYS Math testing for grades 4-5 will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, and Wednesday, May 6, 2026. The testing will begin at 9:00 a.m.
- NYS Science testing for grades 5 will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. The testing will begin at 9:00 a.m.
- NYS Math testing for grade 3 will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, and Thursday, May 14, 2026. The testing will begin at 9:00 a.m.
- First grade will be going on a field trip to the Ross Park Zoo on Friday, May 15, 2026.
- Third grade will be going on a field trip to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo on Friday, May 22, 2026.
- There will be no school on Monday, May 25, 2026 – Memorial Day.
- Fifth grade will be going on a field trip to Animal Adventure on Tuesday, May 26, 2026.
- The final Bright Knight's Ceremony will be held on Friday, May 29, 2026.
- The final elementary guest reader event of the school year will take place on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 8:15 a.m.
- There will be a half day for students on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 – Staff development day.
- The fourth quarter ends on Tuesday, June 16, 2026.
- Grades PK through 5 and all elementary staff will be going to Chenango Valley State Park on Thursday, June 18, 2026.
- There will be no school on June 19, 2026 – Juneteenth.
- Report cards will be sent home on Tuesday, June 22, 2026.
- The last day for elementary students will be on Friday, June 26, 2026 (tentatively).

KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK



STUDENT SUPPORT

Dear Families,

Throughout the school year, we've explored 24 character-strengths, learning how they help us build strong relationships and become the best versions of ourselves. Every 1–2 weeks, we focused on a different strength or element of the Other People Mindset.

The Other People Mindset involves five key practices:

- Identifying and appreciating the good in other people,
- Knowing our words and actions affect others,
- Supporting others when they struggle,
- Celebrating others when they succeed,
- Being fully present and giving others our attention.



As our Positivity Project lessons come to an end for this year, we reflect on how our staff and students have learned that positive relationships are built on these principles. As a school community, we have experienced firsthand how these connections help us become happier, healthier, and more resilient.



P2 for FAMILIES: Other People Mindset (OPM)

Knowing that my words and actions affect others

I know that what I say and do can help or hurt someone.



WHY DOES IT MATTER?

I know that what I say and do can help or hurt someone. When I see a classmate working hard on something, I tell them, "You're doing a great job!". My kind words can help encourage them to keep going and make our friendship stronger, too!

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

When it's convenient (at dinner, waiting in line, in the car, etc.), ask each other...

- Have you ever heard someone say, "Use your words"? What do you think that means?
- What can you do if you make a mistake and hurt someone's feelings?
- How can we be kinder to each other?

RTI



Our academic MTSS (formerly RTI) providers: Kim Buckler, Kaitlyn Hardler, 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

Pre-K has started the A to Z End of School Countdown. It gives us the opportunity to have fun while focusing on the sound that each letter makes. Thank you families for following along and helping your child be prepared for these special days. So far we have had astronaut day, bubble day, color day, directed drawing day, explore day and favorite book day. We can't wait for what's to come.

-The Pre-K Team





KINDERGARTEN

May has been a busy month. Students have learned 46 sight words this year and are practicing reading and writing them daily: a, can, the, and, I, go, has, me, we, like, my, to, is, do, he, be, all, see, you, she, as, are, here, little, was, have, one, with, who, for, what, of, they, said, want, this, of, that, from, when, or, help, too, look, good, and where. Please continue to read with your child daily and take advantage of those decodable stories they bring home weekly. They are blossoming into readers!

Students who met the Reading Incentive Goal were able to participate in the Ice Cream Party on May 27th. Thanks to some volunteer staff, each of Mrs. Batsford's students read for 400 minutes, or more, and were all able to participate this quarter. A BIG thank you to our volunteers for making this possible!

In math students have been solving math stories along with practicing their addition and subtraction facts to five for fluency and to ten for exposure. They are doing a great job! For Memorial Day students listened to both fiction and nonfiction stories. Then, Mrs. Batsford's class completed a color-by-number activity and Mr. Kober's class made American flags. We hung them on our bulletin in the hallway in honor of those who served our country but are no longer with us, so that we can live freely.

With warmer weather students will need a water bottle daily to stay hydrated and sneakers for PE and outdoor recess. Cute shoes are fun to wear, but they are not typically safe for playground equipment and certainly not in PE. Please make sure your child has a pair of sneakers and a water bottle daily.

May 29th was our final Bright Knights Assembly. We have many more fun things to look forward to in June.

-The Kindergarten Team



1ST GRADE

First grade had an eventful May! We wrapped up our last unit of math and are starting to do some review and projects to finish out the year. We had a great field trip to the Ross Park Zoo and learned a lot about the animals. We look forward to a fun filled June filled with projects and review to finish out the school year!

-The First Grade Team



2ND GRADE

In second grade students have been keeping busy!

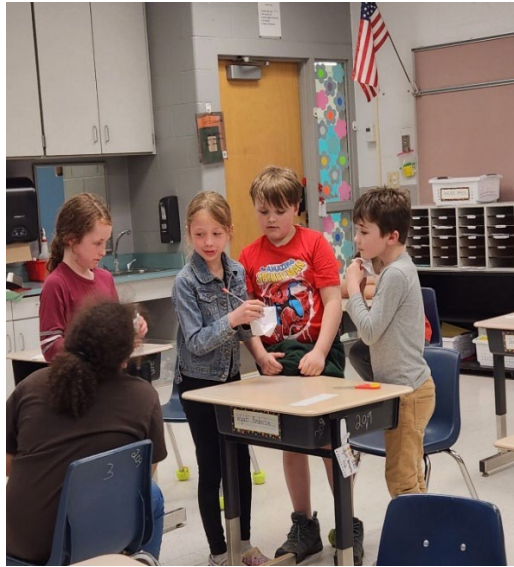
In ELA, we have been focusing on the essential question, “How do we use money?” Students have been learning about how money is made, where it comes from, and the different ways people use it in everyday life.

In math, we have been practicing creating rows and columns to help prepare students for multiplication and division next year.

In science, we have been exploring whether objects and changes are reversible or irreversible. We also had a fun hands-on activity last Friday where students tie-dyed their shirts and enjoyed showing their creativity! Keep it up second grade!

-The Second Grade Team





3RD GRADE

Third grade has had a busy month! We finished our ecosystem projects- they came out so great! We have started weather and one of the topics was about different clouds. The students got to use a cloud finder to seek and find different clouds. The kids saw a pattern of certain clouds that they kept seeing over and over. Now we are starting The Water

Cycle-hopefully the students will get a chance to witness the water cycle in action before the end of the year! We ended our week last week with a field trip to Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse, NY. The weather was perfect, the animals were out and the kids had a great time- even with the long bus ride! We are in the middle of benchmark testing- finishing with IREADY this week! There are a lot of year end activities- keep eyes open for notes, flyers, etc coming home. Reach out to the teachers with any questions or concerns! Let's finish our 3rd grade year strong!

-The Third Grade Team

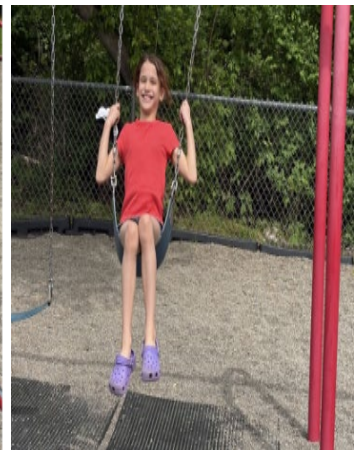


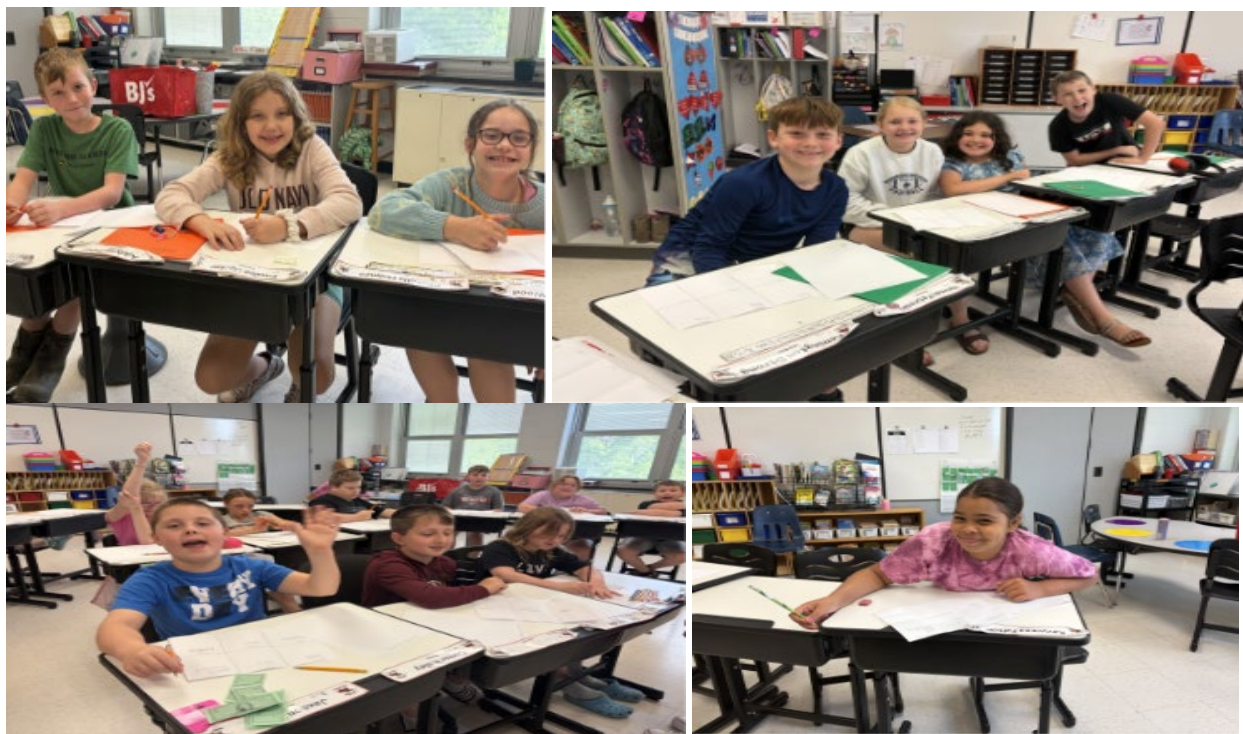


4TH GRADE

Summer is almost here, and the kids can't wait! They worked very hard this year, and we are very proud of the growth they have made! State Testing is over, and we also finished our Iready end of year benchmarks in ELA and Math along with our end of year Math fluency of adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers. We are finishing our units of poetry in ELA, fractions in Math, and energy and circuits in Science. We are about to complete our New York State Grade 4 Light It Up Investigation in Science. Our class field trip to the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown and our school-wide trip back to Chenango Valley State Park will be happening next month, and we couldn't be more excited! |

-The Fourth Grade Team





5TH GRADE

The school year is beginning to wind down! We have all our state testing behind us, as well as our end of year iReady testing. We are really looking forward to our trip to Animal Adventure, and then our trip to Chenango Valley Park in June! As we finish up the month of May, we are learning about the different spheres of earth—the biosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and the hydrosphere. We are learning how the different spheres interact with one another to create weather, erosion, and life forms. Ask your child about it! In ELA, we are continuing some of the short stories in our Wonders textbook, and in math we are continuing to practice with fractions and measurements. We would strongly advise everyone to continue practicing their math facts since they are the foundation of most math skills! Math fluency helps with all calculations, especially as they enter more challenging math classes in middle school. Mark your calendars—the fifth-grade graduation is Tuesday, June 23 @ 9:00 in the high school auditorium! Hope to see everyone there!

-The Fifth Grade Team





12:1:1

This month students learned about Memorial Day and were able to make a Bald Eagle craft. They also completed multiple activities and games through the Scholastic News Article "Happy Birthday USA".

-The 12:1:1 Team

EXTENDED STUDIES

POOL

In aquatics class this month, the PreK students have continued working on their elementary backstroke and pencil jumps. They have shown tremendous improvement in all of their swimming skills since the beginning of the year. The students have done an excellent job overcoming fears and persevering through challenges in the water. Our Kindergarten–5th grade students have been focusing on the important water safety skill known as the jellyfish float. Kindergarten and 1st grade students are working toward holding the float with their faces in the water for three seconds, while 2nd–5th grade students are aiming for five to eight seconds. As we practice this safety skill, students are

encouraged not to wear goggles so they can become comfortable performing the skill independently, just as they would need to in a real emergency situation. These grade levels have also been practicing the scissor kick using kickboards. The students are progressing very well and are picking up the skill quickly.

Community open swim

The last day for community open swim will be June 25.

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! First graders and under must be accompanied by an adult. Also, please note that small children (kindergarten and under) must have an adult in the water with them.

-Mrs. Sheldon

Reading Ice Cream/Dance Party



Harpursville Summer Program 2026

Here is the whole letter/form - explanation, enrollment form, permission/medical forms are embedded: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tykmMh-YyzxUx92jWerqA1hB0ri89mpPvSe-D4rpLB0/edit?usp=sharing>

Here is the enrollment link alone: <https://forms.gle/j5eMdcnH9vcjFV4eA>