

Afton Central School

Elementary Newsletter

February 2026



Important Information:

- The next elementary guest reader event will be held Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 8:15 a.m. If you're interested in being a guest reader please email pwagner@aftoncsd.org.
- BOE meeting, Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the Board Room.
- There will be a half day of school on Friday, March 6, 2026. – Parent/Teacher Conferences. Lunch will be served through the lunch line, before dismissal.
- There will be no school on Friday, March 13, 2026.
- There will be no school on Monday, March 16, 2026.
- PTO meeting, Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., in the MS/HS Library.
- Spring/Pre-K milestone picture day will be on Thursday, March 26, 2026.
- There will be a half day of school for students on Friday, March 27, 2026. Lunch will be served through the lunch line, before dismissal.
- The third marking period ends on Thursday, April 2, 2026.
- There will be no school on Friday, April 3, 2026 – Good Friday.
- There will be no school Monday, April 6, 2026, through Friday, April 10, 2026 – Spring Recess.

KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK



P2 for Families

Welcome to the **P2 for Families 1-1-3**. You'll find 1 quote, 1 video, and 3 questions to help you and your children discuss The Positivity Project's character strength of the week.

Character Word: Love.

Definition: You care a lot about someone or something.

Below is the link to a 2-minute video clip to watch as a family.

<https://youtu.be/MRCrw-qY6MI>

After watching the video, discuss the following questions together.

1. How can we show love to others?
2. How does it make you feel when others show love to you?
3. Who are some people in your life that you love? What things do you love to do together?

“How do you spell love? You don’t spell it; you feel it.”

– PIGLET, WINNIE THE POOH

MORE ON LOVE:

Love is shown through our thoughts, feelings, and actions toward those we care about. When we love someone, we comfort them, make them feel safe, support them during tough times, and often put their needs before our own. When someone loves us, we feel safe and secure and can be ourselves around them. We miss them when they are not around.

Love is important for our community and society. We all depend on each other for happiness and well-being. Love creates positive feelings, helping to reduce loneliness, anxiety, and depression. Without love, we can't form strong bonds with our families, friends, or communities. A world without love would be a lonely and unsafe place.

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

February was a fun and fast month in Pre-K. The students enjoyed Valentine and 100th day centers and activities throughout the month. The centers allowed the students to practice their number sense, alphabet letters (with focus on Ee, Bb, Ll), syllables, rhyming, writing/drawing. We had our second read across the kingdom where 11th graders read with our class. The students enjoyed being able to deliver each of their valentines to their friends. It was wonderful to see them recognizing the names of their classmates. The family project of the Valentine boxes were wonderful. Thank you for your at home support with this as well as making a 100th day of school shirt. We did a parade through the offices in our shirts to show the staff.

-The Pre-K Team





KINDERGARTEN

February has been a very busy month full of learning and fun activities too. Mrs. Batsford's class had a guest reader on February 4th, Verna Apgar. Students really enjoyed her story about a cat who was looking for its meow. Kindergarten students are currently learning their teen numbers – they always start with one. And have learned a total of 22 sight

words: a, can, and, do, go, I, like, my, all, see, to, the, with, you, is, has, are, he, we, me, be, and she. And we have been painting during inside recess too!

February 13 was a full day. We began with Read Across America. The sixth grade students came to read with our class. Together we listened to, and read, stories from our book boxes. It was P.S. I Love You day too and we all wore purple to encourage one another to be kind. We finished the day with our Valentine's Day Party. This was the highlight of the day. Kids had loads of fun opening their cards and thanking their friends for their kindness. We finished off the day's celebration with some yummy ice cream sundaes!

February 24th was our 100th Day of School! We made 100th Day hats. Sang some 100th day songs from the Singing Walrus and Scratch Garden YouTube videos: count to 100, count by fives, count by tens, and teen numbers. We jumped 100 times, wrote our numbers to 100, read a story *The 100th Day of School* by Angela Medearis, dressed as though we were 100 years old, and watched a Jack Hartman video "100 Days of School"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qt2sky88m9w>.

Please keep reading with your child each day and recording those minutes read. We have had an increase in the number of students participating and are super excited! Continue to look for those new-to-you gently used books that are coming home, read them together, and then reread them again. They are yours to keep and enjoy.

-The Kindergarten Team





1ST GRADE

First Grade has been busy in ELA, Science and Math this February! We are also very excited to be celebrating the 100th day of school on February 24th! 100 days of learning, 100 days of fun!

ELA: We are continuing to build our understanding of magic e, soft g and soft c, nouns, verbs, and building our writing skills in our journals. We are also just starting our comprehension Thursdays by working in IREADY on understanding parts of a story, non-fiction and fiction texts, vocabulary, and character development.

Math: We have started our Module 3 on measurement and graphing. We have learned to use the same unit of measurement when measuring an object, and to line up our measurement tool endpoint to end-point with no gaps or overlays. We will enjoy a small celebration for the 100th day of school as well.

Science: We are working on Animal Habitats.

We hope to get outside soon for playground, we are having fun indoors but anxious to return outside! Please remember to send in boots, snowpants, gloves, hats, and a winter coat for outdoor fun.

-The First Grade Team







2ND GRADE

Our second graders have been working incredibly hard these past few weeks! We are so proud of their focus, perseverance, and enthusiasm for learning. Here's a look at what we've been exploring in our classrooms:

In math, students have been diving deep into addition and subtraction using place value charts and the standard algorithm. They are learning how to break numbers apart into tens and ones to better understand how numbers work. Using place value charts has helped students visually see how numbers are built, making it easier to regroup when needed. As they grow more confident, they are applying the standard algorithm to solve problems accurately and explain their thinking. We are especially proud of how they are showing their work and checking their answers carefully!

In social studies, students have been learning how to use a compass and read maps. They are exploring cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west) and practicing how to follow and give directions. Through hands-on activities, they are developing important geography skills, such as identifying map features, understanding symbols, and navigating using a compass rose. It has been exciting to see them apply these skills in fun and interactive ways!

In ELA, we are focusing on the essential question, “How are kids around the world different?” Students are reading stories and informational texts that highlight children’s lives in different countries and cultures. They are learning about traditions, daily routines, schools, and family life around the world. Through discussions and writing activities, students are comparing their own experiences with those of children in other parts of the world.

Keep up the great work 2nd grade!
-The Second Grade Team





3RD GRADE

This month third grade has started to learn about ecosystems. In this unit we will be doing some fun hands-on activities to learn about different animal adaptations and observe the different parts of an ecosystem. We are wrapping up our multiplication and division modules and moving on to learning about area and perimeter! We will still be using multiplication and division in class daily, so make sure to keep practicing your math facts.

-The Third Grade Team

4TH GRADE

Fourth grade worked hard this month! We continue to work on multi-digit multiplication in Math class, as well as reviewing expanded & word form of numbers and skip counting in our small groups. We started a new Science unit in which we are learning about the processes that shape the Earth's surface. We have a lot of fun hands-on activities planned! Recently our students made 3-D maps of New York State, Afton, or Chenango County using frosting and candy. They did a great job and had a lot of fun! We will also begin a new unit for Social Studies in a couple of weeks. This unit is about New York State Native Americans and how they used their environment. In ELA, we worked on and are nearing the completion of our final copies. Everyone worked very hard on them. We are going back into Wonders, and will be reading a passage about Spiders, and completing activities about this passage. We will begin preparing for the New York State ELA Test soon. Our last Wonders test had questions similar to what they will see on the State test. We spent a class period going over each question, discussing it, and using the strategies needed to answer these questions. We will be doing more of this going forward. We will have our next Spelling Test on Friday, March 6th.

-The Fourth Grade Team

5TH GRADE

Greetings 5th grade families! We are looking forward to Spring! We are still working on our Esperanza Rising unit, and we are quickly approaching the conclusion of the book. Once we finish, we will have a review and a unit test. After the unit test, we will be writing another essay to practice our writing skills. After our Esperanza Rising unit, we will begin doing review for the ELA state test! It is hard to believe that it is that time of the year already. In math, we are continuing our unit on decimals and fractions. Finally in Social Studies, we are preparing for our geography unit, where we will be working on a series of centers. Ask your child about class!

-The Fifth Grade Team

12:1:1

This month the students learned about Groundhogs Day and completed different activities to learn about how Groundhogs Day started and why we celebrate it every year. They also worked on Valentine's Day activities and learned about how the candy Sweethearts became a Valentines Day candy through reading a Scholastic News article called "Be Mine".

-The 12:1:1 Team

EXTENDED STUDIES

POOL

This month in aquatics class PreK is continuing to work on their elementary back stroke arms and have been doing the pencil jump to enter the water. The K-2nd grade students have continued working on their elementary back stroke. They are putting it all together, arms and legs. So, the cue words are chicken bend, duck airplane, and whip soldier. The 3rd-5th have been focusing on the legs for the elementary back stroke. The kick is called the whip kick. The cue words we use for the whip kick are bend, duck, and whip. They are trying hard to whip them quick. This week they are putting it all together and doing the whole elementary back stroke, arms and legs. All students are picking up the movement very quickly and doing an impressive job.

Community open swim

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

P.E.





LIBRARY

In March we celebrate Read Across America Week. This week starts the first week of March. We will be having a Spirit week to celebrate reading from March 2nd-6th. Students will be learning how to use SORA which is free for them to access e-books and audio books. This application can be used on different devices. The student's login is their last name and first initial. Here is the link to access SORA on a computer

<https://soraapp.com/welcome/login/202777/ils/aftones/form/Afton%20Elementary%20School> . We will also be having a book fair from March 6th-12th. If you have a parent

teacher conference on March 6th, please feel free to stop in! The online store will also be available from March 9th-22nd,

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/aftonelementaryschool3> . Creating a love of reading helps students in academics and future endeavors. Reading also helps create caring, empathetic, and well-rounded individuals. Reading with your child each night also helps create memories and bonds between you and your child."

-Mrs. Gaeta

Read Across America

Monday 3/2	Tuesday 3/3	Wednesday 3/4	Thursday 3/5	Friday 3/6
Read My Shirt Day Wear a shirt with words on it, so that everyone can read your shirt! (Make sure it is school appropriate!)	Fox in Socks Day Wear crazy or mismatched socks!	Wacky Wednesday Wear crazy colored and mismatched clothes!	Favorite Character Dress up as your favorite book character! (Ex. Wear red to be Clifford)	Drop Everything and Read It's always nice to curl up with a good book! Wear your pajamas to school!
				



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.

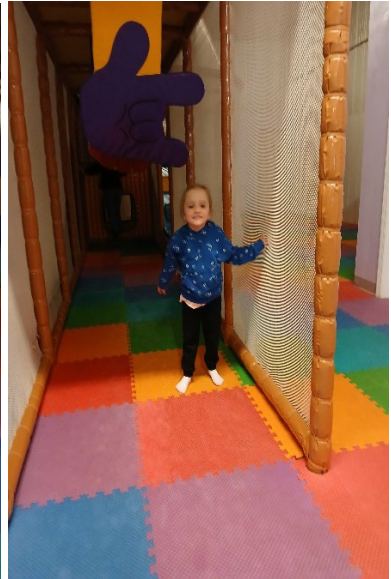
You can also browse to www.artsonia.com/parents and enter this Parent Code

R4XYCH5P

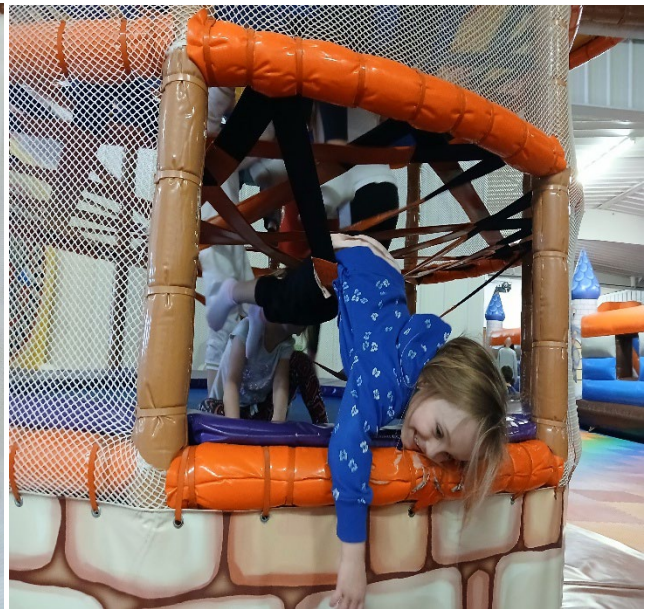
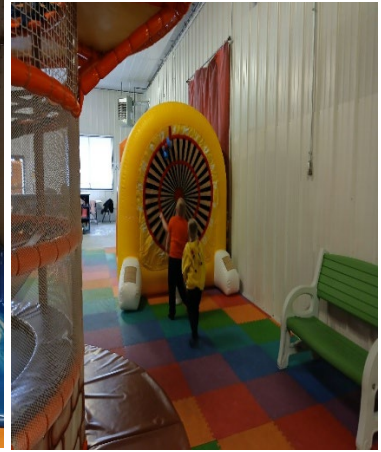
Reading Incentive Ice Cream Party



PK-2 Bright Knight Field Trip - Kidz Kingdom







3-5 Bright Knight Field Trip - Ripics Bowling Alley





