

Afton Central School Elementary Newsletter

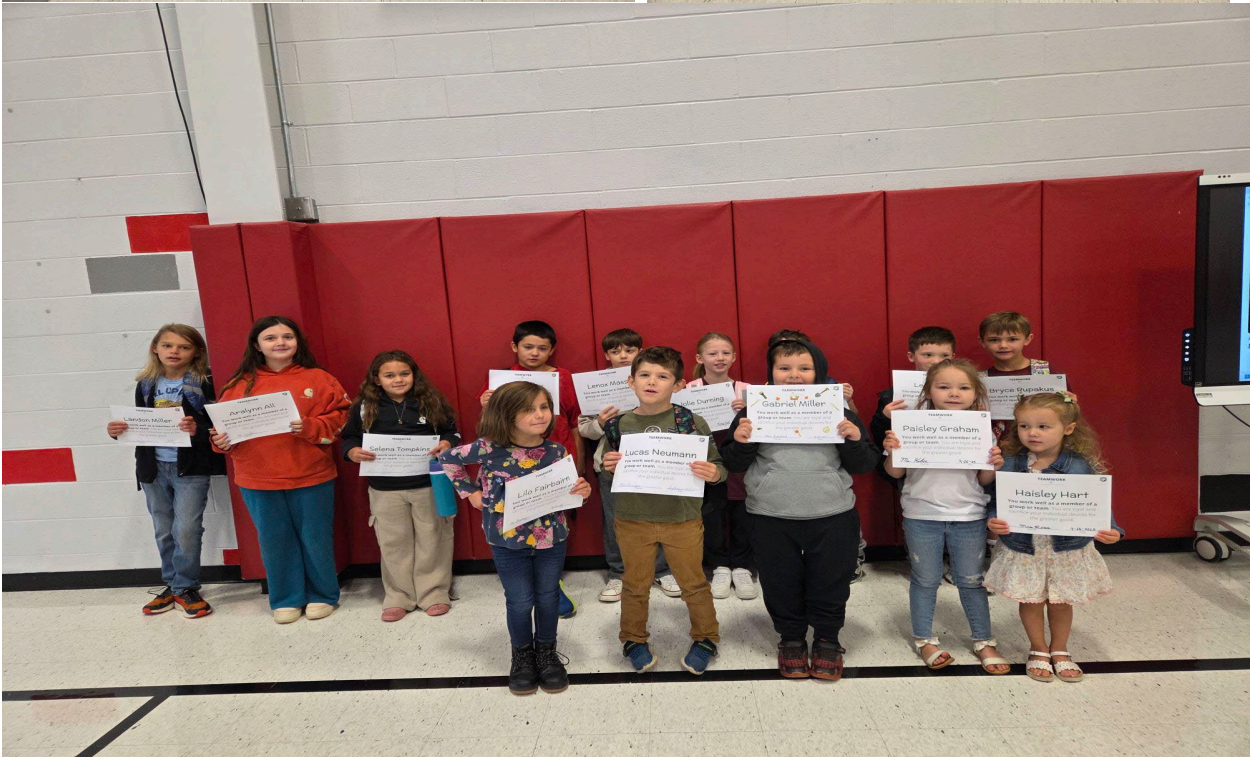
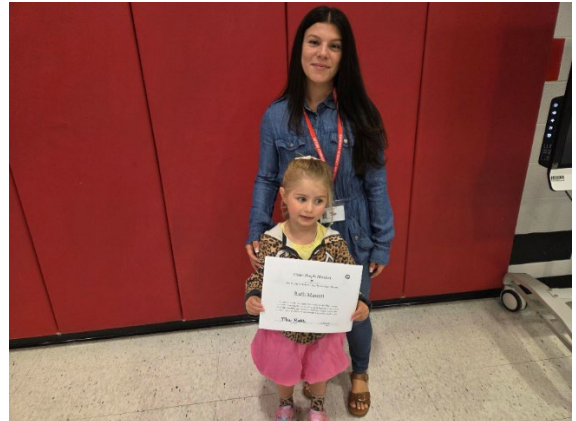
September 26, 2025



Important Information:

- If you have not done so, please return all the first day's paperwork to the Elementary Office.
- Fall Picture Day will be on Wednesday, October 1, 2025.
- The first Elementary guest reader event will take place on Wednesday, October 1, 2025.
- The first VIP lunch will take place on Thursday, October 2, 2025.
- The next BOE meeting will be held on Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., in the Board Room.
- Second grade will be going on a field trip to Animal Adventure on Friday, October 3, 2025.
- Fire Safety Week is the week of October 5, 2025. The Afton Fire Department will be coming to the elementary and will have a fire safety presentation on Thursday, October 9, 2025.
- There will be an early dismissal on Thursday, October 9, 2025.
- There will be no school for students on Friday, October 10, 2025, or Monday, October 13, 2025.
- NYSSBA School Board Recognition is the week of October 13, 2025.
- There will be a fall pumpkin activity for students on Thursday, October 16, 2025, and Friday, October 17, 2025.
- Bus Safety Week/Driver Recognition is the week of October 20, 2025.
- There will be an early dismissal day on Thursday, October 19, 2025.
- First grade will be going on a field trip to Piela View Farms on Wednesday, October 22, 2025.
- Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2025. This will be a half day for students.
- There will be a half day for students on Friday, October 24, 2025.
- The Elementary Halloween Party will be held during the school day on Thursday, October 31, 2025.

KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK



STUDENT SUPPORT

Hello families!

I am excited to be kicking off another school year here at Afton. As the school psychologist, I am available for support and consultation for any student concerns. I keep busy with testing for special education services and writing reports. However, my absolute favorite part of my job is the kids! I do my best to be visible and try to put as many names to faces as possible. Helping students make connections in school is huge and so important for their learning. I am happy to be a part of their support system.

Let's have a great year,

Kim Johnson, Afton CSD School Psychologist

As part of the elementary school counseling program, one of my favorite roles is pushing into each classroom (PK-5) for a 30-minute lesson on a rotating schedule. In our lessons, I teach all students a variety of social-emotional learning skills.

What Is Social-Emotional Learning?

Social-emotional learning, or SEL, helps people understand and manage their emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy and care for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Imagine how great it would be if our kids could master these skills!

The five core competencies that make up SEL:

- Self-management
- Responsible decision-making
- Relationship skills
- Social awareness
- Self-awareness



Students receive instruction from a variety of programs and resources to support social emotional growth and development. We know that elementary students can learn and improve on skills in these areas with awareness and repetition. We'll be dedicating time and effort to teaching and reinforcing social-emotional skills with students all year long.

If you would like more information regarding our SEL programs and resources, you can visit the school counselor website at [School Counselor | Afton Central School District](#), or contact the elementary school counselor, Marie Wurtz, at mwurtz@aftoncsd.org or (607)639-8209.

WELCOME BACK!

Dear parents and guardians,

Welcome back! Hello, my name is Angela Perry and I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am the elementary School Social Worker. I love working at Afton School! I just wanted to make sure that you are aware that I am available at the school. I can provide counseling and emotional support to your children at school. I can also help to connect families with resources or provide other support services. You can call me anytime concerning your children. My contact information is 607-639-8234. I am looking forward to the rest of this school year!

Angela Perry

School Social Worker, LCSW

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

Pre-K has been busy learning about each other, their classroom and school. They have shared what they would like to learn about this year. We have been talking about colors in math, ela and science. Through sorting, stories, drawing/writing and color mixing experiments.

-The Pre-K Team



KINDERGARTEN

It has been a wonderful start to the new school year! The children have been learning about school routines, bus safety, and so much more. In math, we have been learning about reading and writing numbers 0-5. The children have practiced placing the numbers in order too. We have learned using many various materials, such as counting bears, cubes, and flashcards.

During ELA time, we have been working on counting syllables, rhyming words, beginning/ending sounds, and the letters of the alphabet. We have been reading/reciting many nursery rhymes and learning to read and write the high-frequency words *I* and *can*. We have even read short books that focus on these words.

It is an exciting time in kindergarten and everyone is eager to keep learning!

-The Kindergarten Team



1ST GRADE

Hello First Grade Families! We have enjoyed a wonderful start to the new school year. We work hard every day to remember to be kind, friendly and try our best at all we do!

In ELA we are working on reviewing kindergarten skills, taking our first IREADY on-line assessment, and reviewing all our short vowel sounds. We are reviewing our high frequency words from kindergarten and adding our new first grade high frequency words. In Math we are working on our fluency facts, learning our ten's facts, and part-part-whole word problems.

In science we enjoyed an experiment using our five senses and gummy worms!

Just a few friendly reminders: Please remember to send in a water bottle daily. We are using our IPADS daily in first grade, if you have a pair of headphones at home for your student and would like to send them in for the year, please put your student's name on them and we will store them in their personal box in their cubby. They cannot be wireless

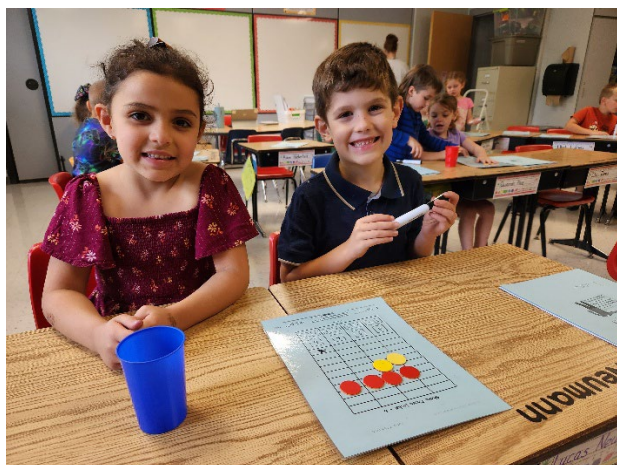
headphones. Our spelling unit will start on Monday September 29th, 2025. In your child's Friday folder, you will find a list of spelling words to look over for the week.

We are looking forward to a great year together!

Please remember to return your red Friday folder every Monday and please remember to look inside the folder for very important weekly information.

-The First Grade Team





2ND GRADE

Second grade so far. We started the year by getting to know each other. Second graders have some new and different expectations since they are now on the “top” floor. Evacuation drills and bathroom procedures are a bit different from what they were used to.

We spent a few weeks completing the beginning of the year benchmarks. This information will be shared with parents and guardians on Parent Teacher Conference Day on October 23rd.

The second graders were able to do an extra unit on Butterflies at the beginning of the school year. Ms. Doing provided all three classes with caterpillars. Students were able to observe them form a “J” before they became a chrysalis. Then we waited for them to “hatch”. Several of our butterflies flew to their new homes successfully.

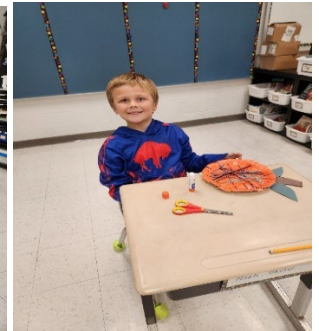
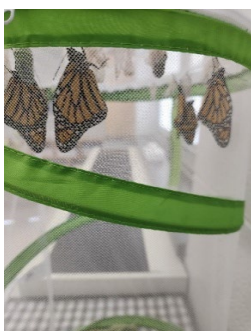
Please remember to have your child wear the appropriate footwear, especially on PE days. Also, our classrooms tend to run on the chilly side, so please feel free to send in a sweater or sweatshirt to keep in the cubby.

It was great to meet all of you that came to Open House!

School picture day will be October 1, 2025.

-The Second Grade Team





3RD GRADE

Third grade has had a spectacular start to our school year. Students have been learning how to tell time and now are beginning to work on mass. We have been discussing the difference between grams and kilograms. In science the students have started to work on their life cycle projects and are deep into researching the plant or animal of their choice! Please keep an eye out for when the students will be presenting their finished projects. In Wonders students have been reading about how people from different cultures contribute to the community. This week we learned about dream catchers and the students even got to create dreamcatchers of their own!

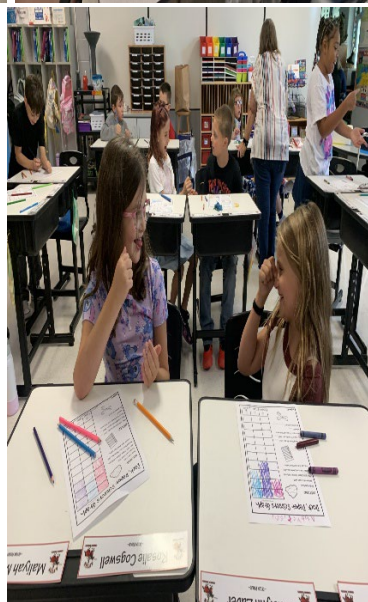
-The Third Grade Team



4TH GRADE

We are off to a busy start in 4th grade. We completed our Beginning of the Year ELA and Math i-Ready Assessments along with our Math Fluency. In ELA, we are reading non-fiction passages about how the world has changed and continues to change due to slow and fast natural processes, and we took our first assessment of the school year. In Math, we are solving addition and subtraction problems by first solving them on graph paper to show the lining up of the place values before solving each problem. In Social Studies, we are learning about New York State and reading passages about New York State's Geography and its importance. We have also been doing activities where our students have to write questions, answers, and fact sentences based on the passages they are reading. Please encourage your child nightly to read for 20 minutes and practice their Math facts.

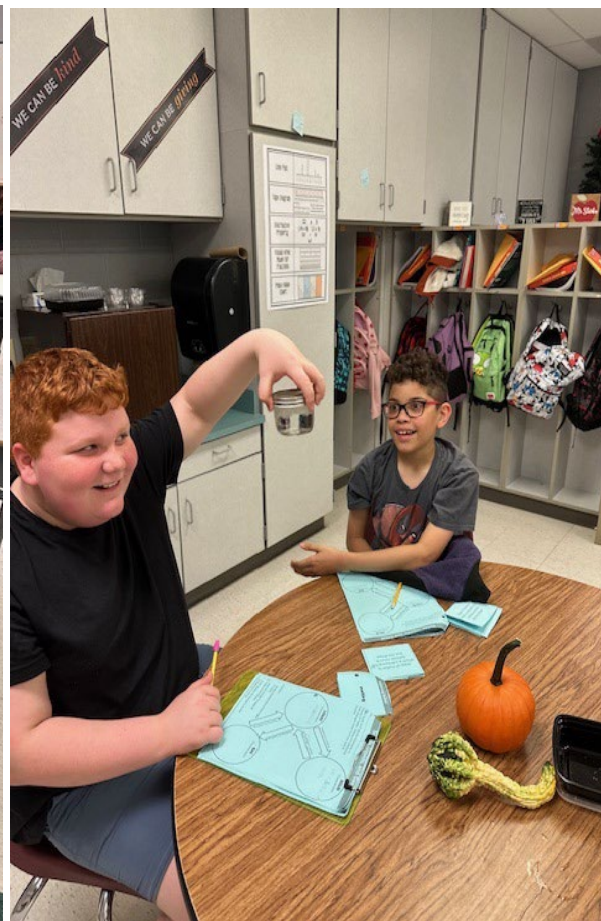
-The Fourth Grade Team



5TH GRADE

Hello fifth grade families! Welcome to your child's final year of elementary school! We have already hit the ground running—labs in Science, stories in ELA, and place value in Math. We have been doing a lot of hands-on activities in Science so the students can experience the concepts we are learning about, rather than just reading about it in a book or watching it on YouTube. We are currently in our Matter unit, so ask your child about it! In Math, we have been reviewing place value and learning how each digit in a number is ten times larger or smaller than the ones next to it. We have shown them the shortcut in multiplying and dividing by powers of 10, by just adding or removing zeros. In ELA we read the story "Camping with the President" where we learned about a camping trip that President Roosevelt took with John Muir, which inspired Roosevelt to launch land preservation tactics to save the Redwood forests and other natural beauties in our nation. Finally in Social Studies, we have been completing a study guide on the major milestones in US history, from settlement to wars and 9/11. Thank you all for your support and keep an eye out for your child's Boomerang Folder and agenda each night!

-The Fifth Grade Team



12:1:1

This month my class did a great job acclimating back to school and establishing a routine. They had fun making math about me posters and themselves as Minecraft people. We are looking forward to another great month of learning!

-The 12:1:1 Team

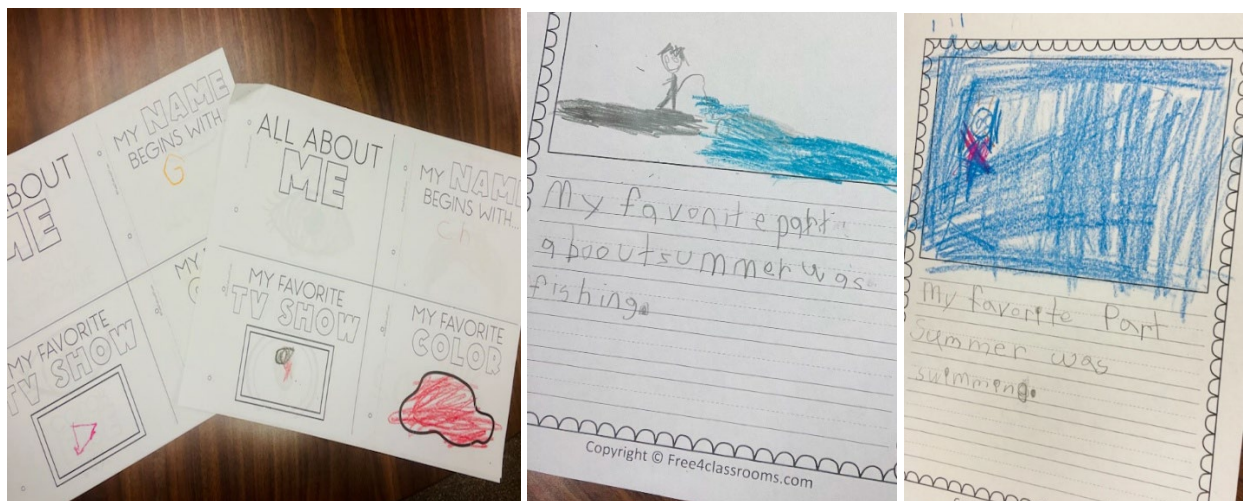


SPEECH

Welcome back!

September has been a great month in speech therapy as we've started the school year building connections and setting the stage for success. To help students feel comfortable and confident, we've been using ice breaker activities to develop connections amongst peers and provider. These activities give everyone a chance to get to know each other while practicing important speech and language skills in a relaxed environment. In addition to ice breakers, we've also been reviewing each student's individual speech and language goals. Together we've taken time to talk about what those goals mean, why they are important and how we will work on them during sessions. We're off to a great start and I'm looking forward to seeing your students' growth as we move through the year!

-Mrs. Parks



EXTENDED STUDIES

POOL

In Aquatics class this month PreK and kindergarten are working on feeling comfortable and getting used to the water. They are learning how to get in and out of the pool correctly using the side of the pool. Also, the students are learning how to do front crawl arms, which they know as their long octopus tentacles. Additionally, kindergarten is working on blowing bubbles in the water. The 1st and 2nd grade students are working on their front crawl arms as well. Plus, they are trying to put their face in the water without plugging their nose. The 3rd-5th grade students are also working on the swim stroke the front crawl. They are focusing on keeping their head locked in and getting their arms up out of the water. Another skill the 3rd-5th grade students are working on is a bob. They try to go up and down in the water at a quick pace without plugging their nose. Most of the students have been able to do it five times in a row. All the students are doing an awesome job. I have been so impressed with how much the students have grown over the summer. A friendly reminder that if a student brings their own swimsuit to use, they need to bring a bag to take it home in, it could be a Ziplock bag. Some fun information about the pool is that it is open for **Community Swim 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

ART

We started art classes this year by "Picturing a Great Year!" Each student created a picture that told a little about themselves.

Pre-K created self-portraits, practiced coloring and made simple prints using aluminum foil and watercolor markers. In kindergarten we have been learning about lines and directions they can travel. After reading The Crayons Go Back to School, we created pictures using different types of lines and made paper crayons that look like they did the drawings. Next we will use lines to make a lion with a big mane. In 1st grade, we create Photo Booth Selfie, making 4 different facial expressions. We will continue with the idea of lines and add

patterns to create a creepy crawler next. In 2nd grade, we explored line to make a portrait of a person. We learned about 3D shapes (forms) and created cubes with different types of lines on them to decide how to make the hair for our portraits.

The 3rd and 4th grade classes have also been learning about lines, building on the definitions learned in the lower grades. We learned about the directions a line can travel, parallel and perpendicular lines and reviewed different types of lines. The 3rd grade is creating Bento Box Names. We learned how to turn a stick letter into a block letter (shape) and drew pictures of some of our interests. We are learning how to add a shadow and will be adding color and patterns to finish our projects. 4th grade is creating a Block letter initial with a shadow, and filling their paper with adjectives that describe them, and start with the same letter as their initial. We are also learning about contrast and how to put emphasis on different parts of our work.

In 5th grade we began working on our Tim Burton inspired Creepy Self Portraits. During the project we will learn about value and shading.

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!

-Mrs. Sabol



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