The Bulldog Bulletin

Alden Primary School – November 2026

A Note from Mr. Stepnick

Dear Primary School Families,

It's hard to believe, but in a few short weeks, we'll already be wrapping up our first trimester of the 2026-2027 school year. As we plow ahead into November, I wanted to share a few updates and reminders:

Coats/Hats/Gloves



Teachers will continue trying to get classes outside as long as the weather permits. Please ensure that your child is adequately prepared for the cooler temps and inclement weather. Unanticipated emergencies are always possible, so having the proper clothing is essential for unplanned events such as evacuation drills, transportation issues, etc.

School Breakfast



We never want any of our students to start their day on an empty stomach. If your child is supposed to be receiving breakfast at school, please check with them to ensure that they are going down each morning. Students who eat breakfast at school go directly to the cafeteria to eat before reporting to their rooms. Breakfast runs from 7:40 - 8:10 AM each morning. Teachers do not have any way of knowing who should be attending breakfast. If your child is supposed to be eating breakfast in the AM, please remind them to go directly to the cafeteria upon arrival. Thank you for your assistance!

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conference Day is scheduled for Friday, December 11th. K-5 students are not in attendance on this day. If you have not signed up for a conference time, please reach out to your child's teacher(s) to coordinate a slot. Although in-person conferences are always preferred, phone conferences may be scheduled for special circumstances. Please confirm your arrangements with the classroom teachers well in advance of this date.

Veteran's Day - November 11th

We are looking for some help with a Veteran's Day project for our APS front foyer. Please see the attached letter (last page of this packet) for information regarding our "Wall of Honor" that we would like to create for the month of November. Help us in recognizing the men and women closest to us who have sacrificed so much for our nation.



It is recommended that you do not send in original photographs for this project. We do not want to lose any family keepsakes. Please try to copy or scan the photo before attaching and sending in. Thank you!!!

Volunteer Training

Our next Volunteer Training opportunity will be on Monday, November 16th from 6:00 - 7:00 PM at Alden Primary School.

This one-hour training is required for anyone who would like to help out with fun events that occur during the regular school day (field trips, holiday rotations, books fairs, Merry Moose, Field Day, etc.).

If you would like to attend, please call or email Mrs. Ryan at 716-937-9116 ext. 6919 or dryan@aldenschools.org to reserve your spot! Grandparents and relatives are welcome to take part!



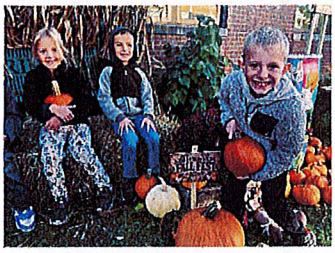
Youth Basketball

Looking for something to do this winter? Consider signing up for the Alden Youth Basketball League! The league is open to all 1st-6th grade students and runs from December to March. Sign-up flyer is attached!



PTO Events: Holiday Rotations & Fun Nights

Throughout the year, our Primary School PTO sponsors a variety of fun and exciting events for our students. These holiday rotations (Fall Fest, Winter Fest, Spring Fever Day, etc.), and grade level fun nights for K-2, are memorable experiences that we are proud to offer!



Although we often get a large number of volunteers signing up for events that take place during the school day, we have been struggling in recent years to appropriately staff our evening fun nights.

As we look ahead to 2027, please consider marking your calendar to assist with a grade level fun night. If you'd like more information on what this entails, we encourage you to stop out to one of our PS PTO Meetings in the APS library. Meetings are always the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.



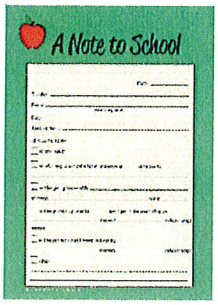
Check us out online! See all of the fun and excitement happening at APS on our school Instagram page:

aldenps_



News and Notes:

*If you are unexpectedly picking your child up, please try to send a note to your child's teacher in the morning. If an emergency comes up, call the main office as soon as you know to limit confusion at dismissal time. If you can call before 12:00 PM, it makes things much easier for everyone!



PS Picture Retakes

Retakes for all K-2 students will be on Tuesday, November 24th. If you need a new order sheet, please reach out to your child's teacher.

November

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Scholastic Book Fair		BOE Mtg. 6:30 PM		
	9 Spirit Day Wear Bills gear!	10 Spirit Day Wear red, white, & blue PS PTO Mtg. 6:30 PM	11 Veteran's Day NO SCHOOL	12	13 Spirit Day World Kindness Day! Wear yellow or pink!	14
	16	17	18 UPK Info Night: 6PM	19 BOE Mtg. 6:30 PM	20 Bulldog Day Wear blue & gold!	21
	23 Being Kind is "No Sweat" Wear comfy clothes!	24 PS Picture Retakes	25 Spirit Day Wear fall colors!	26 Thanksgiving Recess NO SCHOOL	26	28
29	30 End of 1st Trimester					

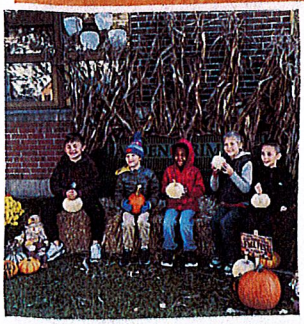
Alden Primary School
Excellence in Education

11197 Broadway, Alden, NY 14004 (716) 937-9116 ext. 6191



November PTO Newsletter





HELLO ALDEN PRIMARY FAMILIES!

What an awesome Spooky Season we had at Alden Primary! We hope all of your little ghouls and goblins had a great October, and enjoyed picking out their pumpkins in our Pumpkin Patch at Fall Fest! Thank you so much to the Veihdeffer Family & Lyric Contracting for the pumpkin donation! We love being able to make the holidays special. We were also able to give our teachers a carmel apple bar!



November Calendar at a Glance



- 11/3-11/5: In-School Book Fair
- 11/10: : PTO Meeting
- 11/11: Veteran's Day
- 11/13: World Kindness Day
- 11/26-11/27: Thanksgiving Break
- 12/1-12/3: Merry Moose Shopping

Happy World Kindness Day!



- We are excited to team up with the Alden/Marilla Food Pantry this November to collect food items in a friendly competition between grade levels. Whichever grade level brings in the most food items will win a prize! Donations will be collected November 2-12. We will be looking for volunteers to help us unload- stay tuned!

Primary PTO Takes on the Trunk or Treat!

- We loved seeing so many of our Primary families at the Alden Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition's Trunk or Treat this year!



Upcoming Fall Book Fair!

- Our Fall Book Fair will take place 11/3-11/5 during school. You can send in cash, or add money to an ewallet. Funds here can be transferred over to future book fairs! Follow the QR Code above for more info.

Past PTO Meeting Minutes

- Follow the QR code to see what was discussed at our previous meetings- hope you can join us in November!

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Please contact us if you are interested at aldenprimarypto@gmail.com ASAP!

- **Primary Post/Book Barn**

Primary Post/Book Barn (starting in January- Flexible schedule- must be volunteer trained!).

- **Fall Book Fair** 11/3 - 11/5.

Book Fair Sign up HERE



Upcoming Merry Moose Dates



- Our Merry Moose Shopping dates will be taking place December 1-3. Kids will be able to shop for their loved ones during school! Stay tuned for more info!

November PTO Meeting

<u>Tuesday November 10th at 6:30 in Library</u>. Come meet other parents, hear about upcoming events, and share your ideas. We'd love to see you there! KIDDOS WELCOME!

STAY CONNECTED! FOLLOW US!

/aldenprimarypto aldenprimarypto@gmail

Scan the QR code to visit our LinkTree for ALL the links on the happenings at Alden Primary PTO!

Alden Primary School

Wall of Honor

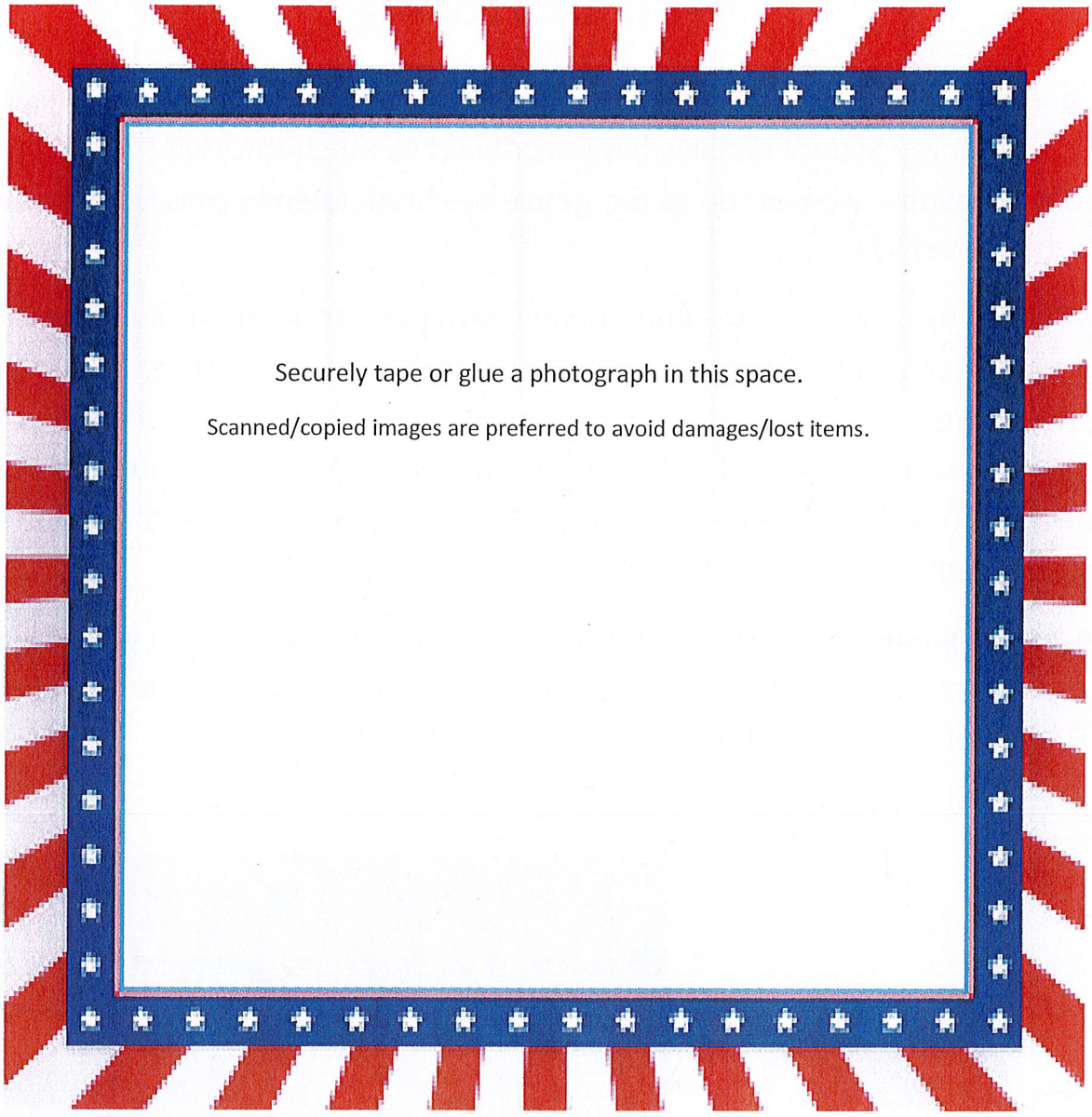
In preparation for Veteran's Day, we are reaching out for some help. Since many of our Alden Primary School families have sacrificed so much through their military service to our country, we wanted to recognize the hometown heroes that our students admire in their own lives.

If you, or any of your child's immediate relatives (grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, etc.) are serving, or have previously served in the United States Military, we'd love to know about it. We are hoping to utilize the information you provide us with to create a "Wall of Honor" in the entrance to our school. We'll display the images of those that have served all month long in November, because our appreciation for the military stretches beyond just one day of the year.

Please complete the bottom portion of this letter and return it to your child's teacher as soon as you can. We will return all sheets back to everyone at the end of the month. Thank you in advance for your assistance!



Alden Primary School Wall of Honor



Veteran's Name: _____

APS Student: _____

Military Branch: _____

ALDEN YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

— 2026-2027 SEASON —

SIGNUPS • NOVEMBER 2-30, 2026

Grades 1-6 | All experience levels welcome

FIND YOUR TEAM

1st-2nd Grade Co-Ed Fundamentals	Includes a T-shirt	**$30**
3rd-4th Grade Co-Ed House League		**$75**
5th-6th Grade Boys	No extra travel fees	**$75**
5th-6th Grade Girls	No extra travel fees	**$75**

Opportunities to play against surrounding towns for the 5th–6th grade levels.

DECEMBER 2026–MARCH 2027

Practice/Games/Days/Times to be announced.

1st–4th Grade locations include Alden Primary, Intermediate, Middle & High School gyms

Interested in coaching or volunteering? Let us know during registration.

REGISTER THROUGH TEAMSNAP

registration.teamsnap.com/form/77708

ALDEN YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

LITTLE HOOPERS, BIG FUN!

1st & 2nd Grade

KNOW BEFORE YOU JOIN!

DOES MY CHILD NEED TO KNOW HOW TO PLAY?

Not at all! We welcome ALL skill levels, including kids who have never picked up a basketball before. Everyone starts somewhere!

HOW IS THE PROGRAM SET UP?

We typically have two separate teams of 1st and 2nd graders. Practices are **twice a week and each practice is one hour long.**

WILL THEY PLAY BASKETBALL GAMES?

Not full games just yet! At this age, even reaching the basketball hoop can be a challenge! We often practice at the Primary School where we have lower hoops that are better suited for our little players.

WHAT WILL THEY DO AT PRACTICE?

We keep the kids moving with lots of fun drills and games! They'll practice ball handling, dribbling, passing, shooting and learn the basics of basketball along the way.

IS IT COMPETITIVE?

Not at all! We don't take things too seriously at Alden Youth Basketball, especially at this age. Our focus is on learning, having fun, making friends and building confidence!

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BRING?

- Athletic sneakers
- A water bottle

DOES MY CHILD RECEIVE A UNIFORM?

Yes! We provide every player with an Alden Youth Basketball T-shirt.

DOES A PARENT OR GUARDIAN NEED TO STAY?

Yes! We ask that every player have a parent or guardian that stays at the gym during practices. Our little hoopers are still young, and we want everyone to have a safe and fun experience!

WINTER REMINDER!

When the snow starts flying, please have your child bring their athletic sneakers to change into at the gym. This helps keep our floors clean, dry and safe for everyone!

WILL THEY GET TO SHOW OFF WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED?

YES! At the end of the season, our little hoopers will have the opportunity to show off their new skills and participate in a fun **scrimmage.** It's a great opportunity for families to see how much they've learned!

OUR BIGGEST GOAL!

For every child to have FUN, learn something new, build confidence and leave the gym excited to come back. We aren't trying to create professional basketball players in 1st grade. We're just hoping to help kids fall in love with the game!

REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 2ND! | *Questions?* aldenyouthbasketball@gmail.com

WNY United & Rupp Pfalzgraf Attorneys present:

Healthy Choices Art & Poetry Contest 2026

to explore a drug & alcohol free life!

CALLING All ARTISTS & POETS IN GRADES K-12!

Create an original piece of artwork or poetry with the theme **"Fueling My Future"**

CONTEST:

Theme: **Fueling My Future.**

Show or tell us through your art or poem how the choices you make every day help you grow strong, feel happy, and fuel your future.

Art:

Grades K-12

- Any medium is acceptable (water colors, markers, crayons, charcoal, acrylic, colored pencils (etc), on paper, card stock, canvas, (etc).
- Maximum size for a flat piece is 11"x17

Poetry:

Grades 3-12

- Poems must be on 8.5"x11" paper- use a separate piece of paper for each page & do not staple pages together.
- Type or hand write very neatly.

(Decorating poems is acceptable but does not factor into judging)

Judging Criteria:

- How well the theme was incorporated
- Clarity- impact of message
- Creativity- inspired design
- Craftsmanship/Skill- based on age

Prizes:

First Place: $50 & Certificate
Second Place: $25 & Certificate
Third Place: $20 & Certificate
Honorable Mention: Certificate

SUBMISSIONS: DUE BY NOVEMBER 19, 2026

MAIL:

Entries to: WNY United Against Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Inc., PO BOX 635, Orchard Park, NY 14127
(Please label: "Healthy Choices Art/Poetry Contest")
ALL entries MUST be accompanied by entry forms on the reverse or printed from our website.

ONLINE:

Enter online at www.wnyunited.org by clicking on the yellow Healthy Choices circle on the home page. Complete the entry form, upload your file and submit.

- Poetry - submit a Word Doc, or PDF of the poem
- Art - submit a photo of the artwork as JPG or PNG

ALL entries MUST be submitted with a COMPLETE entry form

On Display:

All winning entries will be on display at the Hamburg Fairgrounds Festival of Lights and published on our social media platforms & website. Please provide a parent/ guardian phone number and email so we may contact the winners!

RULES: Do not incorporate any copyrighted literature or characters. Any entry that does so will not be considered for judging. All submissions must be original and the exclusive work of the person entering the contest in idea, design & execution.
All entries become the property of WNY United Against Drug & Alcohol Abuse. Sponsors assume no responsibility for late, lost, illegible, damaged, incorrect, postage-due, incomplete, misdirected mail/entries or their materials.
Any winning artworks submitted online will be printed out and put on display, unless original artwork is submitted.
Entries will not be returned. Prize money will be in the form of a check that will be mailed or hand delivered.

WNY UNITED
Against Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Inc

If you have questions about this contest, please contact Kate Chudoba at kchudoba@wnyunited.org or call (716) 821-7722 x314

Rupp Pfalzgraf LLC
People at law

UNITED
Against Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Inc.
1195 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14213

Nonprofit organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Buffalo N.Y.
Permit No. 3344

Director
Recreation Center
Ywca Townline Elem. Edp
11197 Broadway St
Alden NY 14004-9525

Healthy Choices Art & Poetry Contest 2026 Entry Forms

SCHOOLS THAT ARE SUBMITTING: Art & Poetry must be separated by age category (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12).
To be considered eligible for prizes, all information below must be completed and must be **received** by: November 19, 2026

Mail all entries to: WNY United Against Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Inc. PO BOX 635 Orchard Park, NY 14127
(Please label: "Healthy Choices Art/Poetry Contest") OR **Online** at www.wnyunited.org and click on the yellow Healthy Choices circle on the homepage to enter & submit art works

☐ Check box if entering on your own ☐ Check box if entering Art Contest ☐ Check box if entering Poetry Contest

School Name: _____
(If entering on your own, fill in the school you attend and your name)

School Address: _____
(If entering on your own, fill in your home address)

City, Zip Code: _____
(If entering on your own, fill in your home information)

Classroom Teacher's Name: _____
(If entering on your own, fill in parent/guardian name)

School Phone Number: _____
(If entering on your own, fill in parent/guardian phone number)

Teacher's Email Address: _____
(If entering on your own, please enter parent/guardian email)

Who Should we notify if the student is a winner? _____
(School? Parent/Guardian? fill in name and phone number and email)

Total number of entries in this group (for teachers submitting multiple entries): _____

Complete this entry form IN FULL and ATTACH to back side of EACH individual PIECE.

Student Name: _____ School & Teacher: _____

Grade: _____ Parent/Guardian Phone # &/or email: _____

☐ Check box if entering Art Contest ☐ Check box if entering Poetry Contest

ALDEN FAMILY CENTER

Stay up to Date

Remind
Class code **@46eeka**

Located in the Middle School,
13250 Park St., 716-937-9116 x2158
mhoward@aldenschools.org

November 2026

The **Alden Family Center** offers short-term mental health services and referrals to community resources to individuals in the district. The Center also runs wellness and educational programs and presentations throughout the school year.

"Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things."
- Charles Dickens

Center Spotlight: Getting Ready for Winter

Winter is coming, and we understand that the season can bring unique challenges for families. The Center is here to support you with access to a variety of essential resources during this time. We have a small supply of non-perishable foods, carbon monoxide detectors to help keep your home safe, toiletries, and winter accessories like hats and gloves. Families are encouraged to reach out to the Center for assistance in connecting with resources and support that best meet their needs.

Tips to get ready for winter

Click **here** for Erie County's guide to getting ready for winter.

HEAP program for heat assistance

Applications can be submitted starting November 2nd, 2026. For more information, click **here**.

Community Winter Resources

Local clothing closets that are stocked with winter coats and other items to keep you warm this season.

Neat Repeats

13298 Broadway, Alden, NY 14004.
Hours: Wednesdays, 9am-11am,
1st Saturday of every month, 9am-Noon
3rd Friday of each month, 6pm-8pm.
For appointments, contact the Family Center.

Abundance of Grace

Gently used clothing, food, & home goods ministry.
11269 Broadway St., Alden, NY
Click **here** for November hours
and here for **holiday food giveaway date.**

Monthly Focus: Managing Stress and Taking care of Yourself around the holidays

The holiday season often brings a blend of feelings—some wonderful, some difficult. Along with joy, excitement, and cherished traditions, it can also bring stress, sadness, or a sense of being overwhelmed. Knowing that this mix of highs and lows is normal can help us approach the season with dfiferently. Here are some friendly tips to help you do just that.

- **Don't over-schedule yourself -** Focus on activities and gatherings that you truly enjoy rather than trying to do everything.
- **Manage gift-giving -** Set a gift-giving budget to avoid financial strain and stick to your spending limits.
- **Enjoy family and understand your limits -** Some people find extended family time to be stressful. Do whatever you need to do to take care of yourself, including taking a break from the gathering, going for a walk, calling someone you enjoy talking to, or taking some alone time.
- **Honor your losses of the year -** If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, acknowledge your feelings and consider adapting traditions in ways that honor their memory.
- **Keep some routines -** Maintain healthy routines by getting enough sleep, eating well, exercising, relaxing, and practicing self-care throughout the season.

To read the full article on managing stress around the holidays, click here.

Parent & Caregiver Podcast

How to Raise Grateful Children

What does it mean to raise a grateful child? Developmental scientist and psychologist Andrea Hussong says it's a lot more than teaching your child about basic manners. In fact, it's a lot deeper than that and parents play a crucial role in modeling gratitude, how they create opportunities for children to experience gratefulness, and even talking to their children about it.
Click **here** to listen.

Important Dates:

Click on the program title for more information and registration

Digital Dangers: Behind the Screens: The Hidden Risks Facing Our Youth
A Program for Parent and Caregivers
Thursday, November 19th, 5:45pm-7:30pm
Alden Intermediate School Library

Black Water Acres Community Open House: The Arc Erie County
Tuesday, November 17th, 3:00pm-7:00pm
Slade Rd, Alden, NY

Kids in the Kitchen Program
Wednesday, November 18th, 2:05pm-3:15pm
Intermediate School Cafeteria

Cards and Kindness Family Night
Wednesday, December 9th, 4:30pm-6pm
Alden Intermediate School Library



Community Impact : Veterans Day Project



This month, we're celebrating our veterans in a special way! We're creating a message board to display at **Alden's Veterans Ceremony on November 10th at 1:40 PM at Alden High School**. We'd love for you to share a message of gratitude with our veterans by clicking on this **form.** All messages will be printed and displayed during the ceremony, so your words will be part of this meaningful tribute. Once the message board is complete, we'll send you a photo so you can see it!

Thank you so much for supporting our veterans! If you have any questions, please reach out to the Alden Family Center.

Building Connections

This month we will be highlighting:

Health on Wheels

What is it?
Health on Wheels is a mobile health unit that brings essential (and free) health services to your neighborhood. Organized by the University at Buffalo's School of Public Health and Health Professions, Health on Wheels aims to improve health and promote wellness in your community.

Who does it serve?
It serves anyone in the Western New York area.

Getting Connected: For more information about what neighborhood it will be at next or how to make an appointment, go to their website, https://publichealth.buffalo.edu/home/mobile-health.html or click **here.**

If you have questions about the program or how to get connected, contact the Alden Family Center.

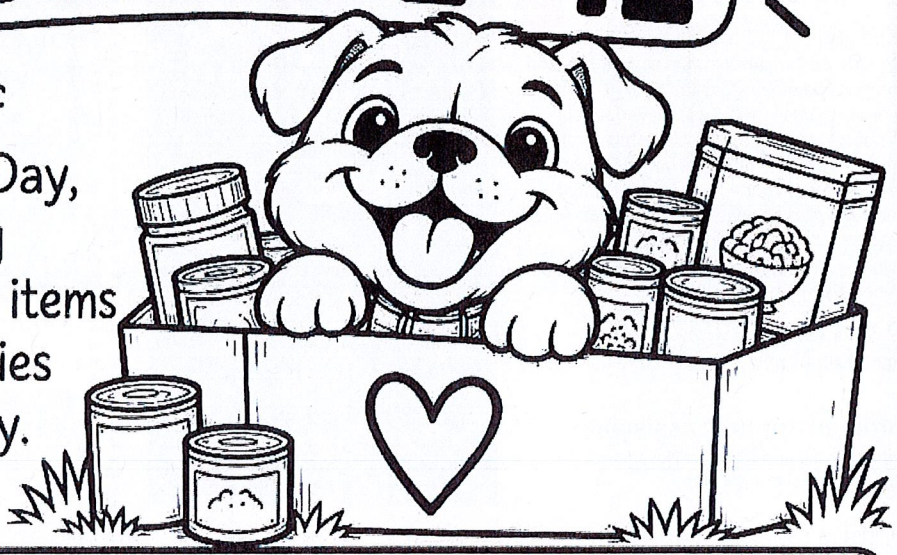
Alden Primary School

FOOD DRIVE

Benefiting the Alden-Marilla Food Pantry

November 2 - 12

In celebration of World Kindness Day, we are collecting food and pantry items to support families in our community.



Suggested Food Items

- Cereal
- Pasta & Spaghetti Sauce
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Rice (Instant or Boxed)
- Instant Potatoes
- Soup (All Types)
- Canned Beans
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruits
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Tuna or Chicken
- Diced Tomatoes
- Chicken Broth
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Crackers & Snack Items
- Juice (Boxed or Bottles)
- Cake & Brownie Mix

PLEASE REMEMBER

Only unopened, unexpired food items, please!

THE GRADE THAT COLLECTS THE MOST DONATIONS WILL RECEIVE AN ICE CREAM REWARD!