



# REBEL ALLIANCE

Nov./Dec. 2018

ALTMAR-PARISH-WILLIAMSTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Academics at its best • Pursuit of excellence • Where students come first.*

## Voters approve safety and security capital project

Voters approved a \$2 million capital project with a focus on the safety and security of students and staff. The vote results showed a less than exciting turnout, but overwhelmingly approved the project with proposed improvements in the District to include: renovating/adding secure entrances, door and window hardening, exterior enhancements, and other work related to increasing the security of APW Schools. The district's security does not stop with this project, though. District officials will now be able to use the new secure environment to more effectively implement improved safety procedures for our schools. The District believes in taking a proactive approach to school security and this ideal will be reflected in this project and safety procedural improvements.

This project is yet another stepping stone in the District's proud history of providing the best programs and facilities for our children.

Thank you voters for your support of APW Schools

### **SPECIAL NOTE!**

Please note changes to the early dismissal times for Parent Conference Days from what is printed on the district calendar! The JSHS will dismiss at 11:00; and the Elementary will dismiss at 12:10 on Nov. 19-20 and Jan 16. Also Dec. 21 has been added to the Holiday Recess days off.

## Hovercraft Project puts STEAM into action



*Autumn Holmes is all smiles as she navigates across the gymnasium on a hovercraft.*

Sometimes life gets difficult and sometimes you want to cry or give up, said Matt Chase of Chase Educational Consulting, who developed the Hovercraft Project that visited Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Elementary School recently. That's life, Chase told the students, but perseverance and determination are two character traits that will make you successful.

Teams of students worked together to construct and operate a self-propelled hovercraft using little more than a platform, a frame, a piece of Tyvek-type paper, a leaf blower and lots of ingenuity and teamwork.

Chase worked with the

students in small groups and  
*(Continued on page 7)*



*Matt Chase demonstrates to fifth graders how to affix the skirt to the frame of the hovercraft during the recent STEM-based project at APW Elementary School.*

## Superintendent's Message



To our APW family,

Thank you for the overwhelming show of support in voting to approve our upcoming school security project.

It is wonderful to

be part of a community so dedicated to student safety. While this project will allow us to provide greater physical security for students and staff, there is also a great deal of work happening at both schools to provide for the social and emotional well-being of our students. In addition to the services provided by our outstanding faculty, we continually expand our community partnerships with a variety of local agencies that provide everything from basic medical care to counseling and family services. While our upcoming project improves our ability to provide protection, we remain focused on prevention. We are committed to constantly working to improve the relationships between teachers, students, and their families. These relationships are critical to keeping our children safe at school. To that end I encourage you to reach out early

and often to school staff with any information that will help us better support your children.

Thank you for playing an active role in the education of your children.

Sincerely,

Eric Knuth,  
*APW Superintendent of Schools*

## APW Drama Department to present "Radium Girls" November 9-10

On November 9 & 10 the APW Drama Department will present its annual fall play "Radium Girls," by D.W. Gregory.

In 1926, radium was a miracle cure, Madame Curie an international celebrity, and luminous watches the latest rage—until the girls who painted them began to fall ill with a mysterious disease. Inspired by a true story, Radium Girls traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court.

Performances will be held in the Jr/Sr High School Auditorium at 7:00pm each evening. Admission will be \$5.00 for students/Sr. Citizens and \$7.00 for adults.



## Erroneous Delivery Becomes Student Butterfly Project



Late one evening a shipment marked "live specimens" arrived in error at the loading dock of the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Junior/Senior

High School. The company who shipped the package was contacted to arrange for return of the shipment. They explained that if the box was returned, the "specimens" inside would not survive the trip, so the company suggested the school keep the shipment if they could use them. The live specimens were painted lady

butterfly caterpillars, so Laurie Parker contacted one of the science teachers to see if they were interested in using the caterpillars in science class.

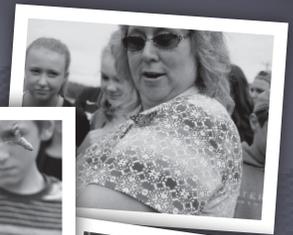
Realizing that this was a golden opportunity for the students, the science teacher said yes and returned to the school to set up the butterfly habitat. The specimens were divided between two classes and the study of the life cycle of butterflies began.

The butterflies became a wonderful hands-on project-based learning opportunity that taught some valuable life-lessons as well as the scientific study of the butterfly. Students researched the life cycle of the specimens and the specific needs to keep them alive



and healthy until they could be released, but they also learned a great deal about life. They learned about empathy, responsibility, consistency, dependability and so much more in the nurturing and upkeep of the caterpillars as they transformed and became butterflies. Daily

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# PTSA

Parent/Teacher/Student/Association

PTSA will have an Elementary School Fundraiser with Uncle Jerry's Tees going out in November due back by 11/26. Distribution should be around 12/18 at the Elementary School, perfect for holiday gift giving. Please keep an eye out for the annual wreath and poinsettia offerings. Both are of beautiful quality and would make a lovely holiday decoration. PTSA will look forward to providing popcorn and juice in December for both the Elementary and the Jr/Sr High School. Two of our most anticipated events, PTSA will be hosting the Snow Ball (grades UPK-3) and Glow-In-the-Dark (grades 4-6) dances at the Elementary School in January. PTSA is welcoming of new members and volunteers, including APW staff and teachers, parents, grandparents, family and community members. To learn more about how you can join the PTSA, please reach out to us and follow us on our Facebook pages. We are also very appreciative and welcoming of high school students who need to volunteer for community service hours.



Follow our Facebook pages for information updates:

- APW Elementary PTSA**
- APW Jr/Sr High School PTSA**

## Butterfly Project, Continued...

*(Continued from previous page)*

observations and scientific notations about the progress provided an opportunity for research and individual further exploration was encouraged.

On the day of the release of the adult butterflies, students in both classes gathered outside as the mesh enclosures were opened and the butterflies flew out, fluttering around the students for a moment before heading out into the world. Painted lady butterflies are some of the most prevalent on the planet and are found in five of the seven continents. They have unusual migration patterns and are one of the fastest flying butterflies, covering up to 100 miles per day during their migration. Their favorite food plant is thistle and their scientific name "Vanessa cardui" actually translates to "butterfly of thistle."

## A Message From the APW Board of Education



Mark Mattison  
President

On behalf of the Board Of Education, I would like to thank everyone that came out to vote and chose to support the recent safety and security project. This project will help ensure our students, staff and community stay safe while in our buildings. Thank you again!

By the time this article goes to print, school will have been in session for well over forty days. Marking period one will be in the books and our students are well under way to an exciting educational year. Our fall sports teams have or will have finished up their fall season and hopefully had a successful year. Congratulations to all student athletes.

Along with winter sports beginning there are many other events to take part in. Drama club will be performing their fall production and before we know it holiday concerts will fill the schools with wonderful sounds. I would encourage everyone to take a look at either the school calendar or the dates listed here in the Rebel Alliance and come out to support our students.

The BOE will have met twice since the start of the year in an effort to refine our Board and District goals. The BOE is continually working to achieve our mission: **Academics at its best, Pursuit of excellence, Where students come first!**

Mark Mattison, *President*  
APW Board of Education

### APW BOE Meetings

Nov. 15:  
BOE Meeting, 6:00 pm

Dec. 13:  
BOE Meeting, 6:00 pm

Jan. 10:  
BOE Meeting, 6:00 pm

Jan 24:  
BOE Workshop or  
Committee Meeting

Feb. 14:  
BOE Meeting, 6:00 pm

March 14:  
BOE Meeting, 6:00 pm

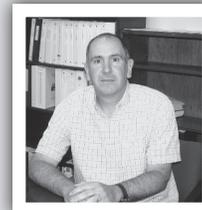
March 28:  
BOE Workshop or  
Committee Meeting



Shawn Clark  
Vice-President



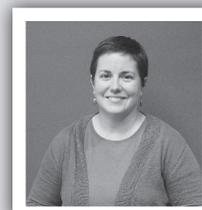
Kristina  
Brouse



Michael  
Hale, Sr.



Nicole  
Nadeau



Karen  
Oakes



Jesse  
Williams

## First OCAY League goes around the world



*APW OCAY League team takes a moment from their competition for a quick photo during the first event of the season. Pictured in front, left to right are: Katie Trumble, Ainsley Brouse, Sydney Townsend, Audrey DeGraw and Jordan Tanner. In back: Ben Smith, Robert Skopinsky, Ethan Pernisi, Tim Trumble and Lily Sweeney. The APW team is coached by Danni Miller.*

Oswego County Academic Youth League (OCAY) held their first competition of the season with a theme entitled "Around the World." Teams of students competed in several academic areas testing their knowledge of geography, world flags, capitals and more.

Taking first place in the competition was the team from Oswego with Central Square and Fulton finishing second and third respectively.

OCAY League is coordinated by the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation's Arts-in-Education program and competes in four separate academically based competitions throughout the school year. At the close of the school year, an overall champion is named based on cumulative points earned from all competitions.



*At left: APW team members Katie Trumble, Ainsley Brouse and Jordan Tanner work on one of the many projects during the "Around the World" themed competition at OCAY League.*

## NYS Assemblyman Barclay assists students in preparing for Youth Legislative Day in Albany



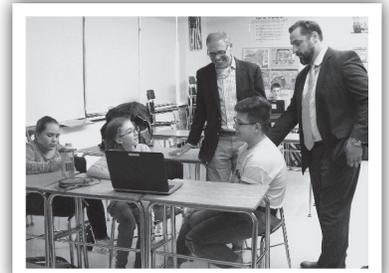
*New York State Assemblyman Will Barclay, center back, visited with students from APW Junior/Senior High School who will be participating in YMCA Youth Legislative Day in Albany in November.*

What causes are important to you that you would like to see legislation enacted in New York State, and how would you go about creating that change at the legislative level? These are questions that junior high students at APW are looking at, and acting upon, through the YMCA Youth and Government Day in Albany in November.

Teams of students have worked on their issues, building a case that will be brought before an assembly comprised of students from across the state in the New York State Legislative chambers. The students will debate their proposed bills and vote on which initiatives will move forward for the entire youth assembly to vote upon.

New York State Assemblyman Will Barclay recently visited APW JSHS to offer some assistance and support for the students and their proposed legislation. The student groups shared with Barclay their ideas and he offered suggestions on how they can improve their position or insight into the legislative process. Student causes ran the gamut from repeal of the SAFE act to increased penalties for those convicted of child abuse.

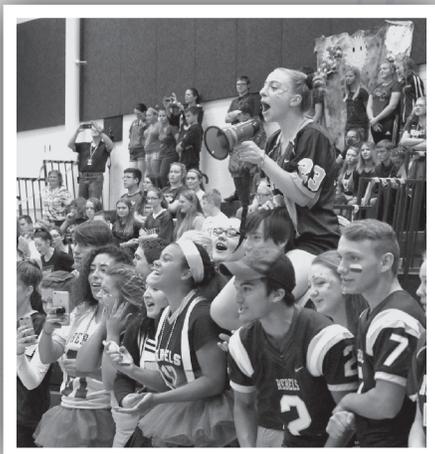
*Will Barclay, far right, gives students some pointers on how to best present their proposed legislation on repealing the SAFE Act when they visit Albany on YMCA Youth Legislative Day in November. The students, left to right are: Ryder Ault, Alex Wejko and Wyatt Welytok.*



*Students share their proposed legislation that they will try to get made into a bill during the YMCA Legislative Day in Albany with NYS Assemblyman Will Barclay, left, and APW Superintendent Eric Knuth at right. Pictured seated left to right are: Gail Louer, Hailey Comstock and Avery Oakes.*



## Spirit week and pep rally brings school spirit to a peak



Spirit Week and the events leading up to the Friday afternoon Pep Rally and Homecoming game that night saw students come together by grade level to see which class could earn the top honor of most spirited class for Homecoming 2018. Individuals and teams of students competed in events such as the tug of war, Ravenous, Ravenous Rebels (ala Hungry, Hungry Hippos), blindfold football toss, tiny bike race, wall decorating, class participation in the daily theme, and more to earn points. Seniors were named the most spirited class and the Pep Rally was closed with the tradition of the Senior Circle. Unique

to the APW district, the Senior Circle serves to symbolize the solidarity and unity of the class as they sit in a large circle on the floor holding hands and in wave-like fashion, each clasped hand is raised until the circle is complete and the students fall back onto the floor together. The circle is impressive to watch and even more impressive to be a part of according to the seniors. "We've waited four years to be a part of this ceremony, but to actually participate...it's emotional, it's exhilarating, but it's also bittersweet knowing that it's our final year here at APW."



## APW students selected for All-State

Five students from Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Junior-Senior High School were recommended for participation in All-State Chorus. The students, under the direction of Chorus Director Mary Ann Clarke-House auditioned for the spots last spring and were selected based on several criteria including: recommendation by their choral director, score on their performance of a level VI solo during the audition process, adjudicator recommendation, previous NYSSMA solo ratings, grade in school, zone representation, and participation in previous year's All-State and other performing organizations.

More than 6,500 students began the selection process, with only about 900 from across the state earning the honor. The participating students were notified at the start of the school year of their acceptance into the prestigious All-State Chorus. They will join with others from their region in a special concert on November 17th at SUNY Potsdam.



*All-State Chorus students from Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Junior-Senior High School are pictured above, left to right: Isabella Walter, Nova Kowalski, Kindl Leja, Tim Trumble and Gabe Casata.*

## Meet Our New Staff Members



*Rebecca Breezee*

Meet Rebecca Breezee, our new teacher in the Universal Pre-Kindergarten program at APW Elementary School. Rebecca grew up in the area attending Mexico Schools before college at SUNY Oswego where she earned a B.A. in Theatre, majoring in technical theatre and lighting design. She received a Master's Degree in Inclusive Childhood Education and is certified to teach Birth to 6th grade in

both early childhood education and special education.

She and her husband moved to Western New York following graduation from college and she worked for a non-profit agency as a preschool special education teacher working with students in a small class setting with a variety of disabilities. She continued her career as an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher working with families and their children ages less than one year old up to five years old in a 1:1 setting in homes, daycare and school settings. In this position, she evaluated students whose parents or teachers had concerns academically or socially, taught students academic and social skills needed to be successful in a school setting, and worked with many families whose children were on the autism spectrum. She also has specialized training in the DIR/Floortime approach to autism.

She and her family returned to the Central New York area this past winter where she accepted a position at APW because she wanted to make a difference in the district that she and her family live in.

In her spare time, she enjoys kayaking, snowmobiling, camping and scrapbooking. She shares her home with her husband, stepson and their dog, Roxy.

Her goals for the coming year are to help mold her young students into lifelong learners who love school and to prepare them academically and socially for kindergarten.

Please help us welcome Mrs. Breezee to the APW family!

Watch for the feature: "Meet the New Staff Members" articles in upcoming editions of the Rebel Alliance

## Open House at Junior/Senior High School



*The Froats family visited Olivia's classrooms during the annual Open House at the Junior/Senior High School. Pictured: Olivia, Dad Mike, brother Parker who is a student in the PTECH program, and Mom Katrina.*

Open House saw families and their students visit the APW Junior/Senior High School and meet with teachers, staff and administration. The hallways and classrooms were crowded with visitors eager to talk with their child's teachers and see examples of curriculum and student work. In the foyer of the building several informational tables were set up sharing information about Rebel gear and school spirit items and information regarding hosting an international exchange student for the school year. Below: pictured are two students at APW this year, at left is Betty Rongsawat from Thailand and Veronica Becahlui from Italy is pictured at right. For information about how you can sponsor an international exchange student, contact Leslie LaCrosse at 315-243-0744.



# Hovercraft Project continued...

(Continued from page 1)

communicated through team leaders and task-specific individuals focusing on good leadership, communication, collaboration and positivity. The project took the students through the design phase where they were asked to draw the largest perfect circle they could on a piece of Tyvek-type material that would become the skirt for their hovercraft. The teams were given minimal materials that included a piece of string, ink pen, two yard sticks, several different colored markers and a pair of scissors. The students worked together to determine how best to measure and mark their perfect circle using skills they have not yet learned in math class.

Teachers and adults were cautioned not to assist the students but rather to let the students come to the answer through their own means of communicating and collaborating with each other. 'What makes a perfect circle' asked one teacher? 'It doesn't have any edges,' answered a student. 'Neither does an oval,' the teacher responded, 'so what makes it a perfect circle?' 'Well, it's the same distance from the center,' was the response and the light went off in the student's eye as they grasped the concept and came to the discovery of how to draw that perfect circle.

The project became a learning experience for students and teachers alike with one teacher commenting, "I think we are too easy on our students in the classroom because we don't want to see them struggle, but look how they are successful through, and because of, that struggle and look how they get to that point of discovery without us handing them the answer."

More than a science, technology, engineering and math project, the event also allowed for creative expression, infusing art into the mix, creating a STEAM-based learning experience.

In addition, Chase spoke about self-empowerment and confidence. He asked them for labels that people tried to call them and wrote those negative words on his arm in a symbolic message to the group that he was taking on their burden and releasing them from that negative label. Just because he had the word, or label, on him, he explained to the students that it didn't make it true.

"Don't let anyone take your value from you," Chase said, "You own that, don't let anyone tell you that you're not valuable."

The Hovercraft Project was coordinated through the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation and visited all nine districts in Oswego County.



## Calendar of Events

- Nov. 2 Elementary All County Festival (Hannibal)
- Nov. 9 Staff Development Day - No School for Students
- Nov. 9-10 JSHS Fall Drama Production, "Radium Girls"
- Nov. 12 Veteran's Day (Observed)- School Closed
- Nov. 15 Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner, 5 pm
- Nov. 15 BOE Meeting, 6:00 pm
- Nov. 16-17 Area All-State Festival at SUNY Potsdam
- Nov. 19-20 Parent Conferences, Early Dismissal  
JSHS at 11:00; Elementary at 12:10 pm
- Nov. 20 Dollars for Scholars Mtg, JSHS 6:30 pm
- Nov. 21-23 Thanksgiving Recess - School Closed
- Dec. 4 JSHS Winter Holiday Concert, 6:30 pm
- Dec. 5 SNOW DATE: JSHS Holiday Concert
- Dec. 6 10th Grade CTE Orientation
- Dec. 8 SH All-County Vocal Auditions at CS
- Dec. 11 Elem. Concert & Art Show, K-3, 6:30 pm
- Dec. 12 Elem. Concert & Art Show, 4-6, 6:30 pm
- Dec. 13 BOE Meeting, 6:00 pm
- Dec. 21-Jan. 1 Holiday Recess - No School
- Jan. 10 BOE Meeting, 6:00 pm
- Jan 11-12 OCMEA All-County Band, Oswego HS
- Jan. 15 Dollars for Scholars Mtg, JSHS 6:30 pm
- Jan. 16 Parent Conferences, Early Dismissal  
JSHS at 11:00; Elementary at 12:10 pm
- Jan. 18 PTSA Elementary Snowball Dance
- Jan. 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - School Closed
- Jan 22-25 Regents Exams
- Jan. 25 PTSA Elementary Glow-in-the-Dark Dance

# REBEL ALLIANCE

Altmar-Parish-Williamstown  
Central School District  
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Parish, NY 13131

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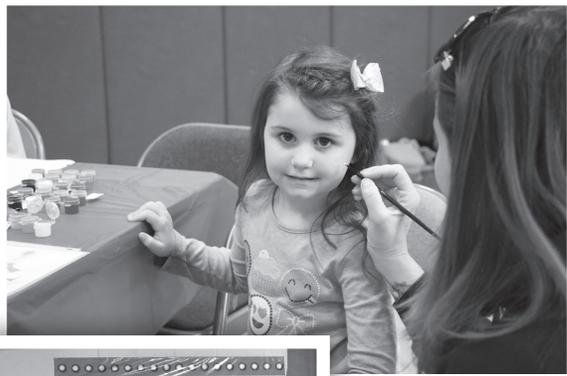
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## Rebel Day Carnival and Back to School Picnic

The Annual Rebel Day Carnival drew a large crowd to the Elementary School gymnasium and cafeteria in September with games of chance, balloon animals, face painting and carnival-style snacks and treats. The event, which serves as a welcome to students and their families, is sponsored by the Parent/Teacher/Student Association (PTSA). Volunteers hosted booths where children played games of chance to earn a small prize, but the real prize was the celebration of Rebel Pride and the sense of community the school offers to district residents.



## Dig for Gold volleyball cancer fundraiser



On Thursday, October 18th the APW Varsity and Junior Varsity Volleyball teams played games with community service and childhood cancer research as the real winners. All proceeds raised from several fundraisers before and during the Dig for Gold Volleyball game will be donated to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer.

The money will go toward pediatric cancer research projects looking for better treatments and cures for all children with cancer.

Varsity players are pictured above, in front left to right: Kindl Leja, Amber Amidon, Cierra Stone, Holly Meagher, Julianna Bresha and Katie Trumble. In back: Bailey Nadeau, Christine Leemann, Helaina Hale, Jill Mueller, April Wright and Alayna Ruffos.