



REBEL ALLIANCE

Jan./Feb. 2019

ALTMAR-PARISH-WILLIAMSTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Voice of Democracy Essay Contest Winners



Pictured from left to right: Claude House (Chairman of Contest), Dale Ostrander (Student), Joe Olsen (Principal), Reid Morton (Student), Frank Romanowski (Commander).

Two APW Jr./Sr. High School students were recently recognized as winners of VFW Post 136 Williamstown "Voice of Democracy" essay contest. The 1st place winner was 12th grader Dale Ostrander. Dale was the recipient of a \$150 award. The 2nd place winner was 9th grader Reid Morton. Reid was the recipient of a \$75 award. The theme of the essay contest was "Why My Vote Matters." Both students wrote very powerful essays that made them stand out from the rest of the contestants. We are very proud of them!

DON'T FORGET!

Please note changes to the early dismissal times for Parent Conference Days from what is printed on the district calendar! On Jan. 16, the JSHS will dismiss at 11:00 am; and the Elementary will dismiss at 12:10 pm.

Concerts Bring the Spirit of the Holidays



Members of the Sign Aloud Chorus perform the opening songs during the Grades 4-6 Holiday Concert at the Elementary School recently.

Holiday music could be heard from every age group in the APW District during the month of December with band, chorus and elementary concerts scheduled to celebrate the season and showcase the outstanding talent of students. Audiences packed the JSHS Auditorium for the first winter holiday concert with parents and family members overflowing into the hallways waiting for a chance to get a seat for their students' performance. Chorus and band members from grades 7-12 performed traditional favorites and not-so-traditional new favorites with thunderous applause after each selection.

The Elementary Concert and

Art Show packed the gymnasium with standing room only for the Kindergarten
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Mr. Anthony Veiga directs the Senior High School Band during the recent Holiday Concert.

Superintendent's Message



Here's to you Mrs. Robinson

While many in our school community are celebrating the last week before the break others of us are mourning a great loss

to APW. For us December 20th isn't just the last day before the holiday, it is the end of an era. On December 20th, 2018, after more than 16 years of service to the school district as both Secretary to the Superintendent and Board of Education Clerk, Sandra Robinson is retiring from APW. During her time at APW Sandi has worn many hats. She managed the transition of eight Superintendents, oversaw countless Board of Education meetings, fielded hundreds of thousands of phone calls and served as the oracle, the nerve center and keeper of institutional knowledge for our district. Anything that made it onto a Board agenda over the past 16 years crossed Sandi's desk. Anyone hired at APW over the past 16 years first had to get through Sandi. I cannot begin to express how fortunate I have been to start my time at APW with Sandra Robinson on my team. Always the consummate professional, Sandi has kept our district well organized, our

community well informed and she has taken on more and more responsibility at APW without hesitation. Sandi is a master of redirecting resources to our kids and the overall quality of their educational program. The superb quality of her work over the past 16 years is surpassed only by the quality of her character. On behalf of everyone at APW whose life has been enriched by Sandi Robinson I want to publicly express our sincere gratitude for years of steadfast service to our community, for her leadership and creativity and most of all for her friendship. You will be sorely missed.

Congratulations on your retirement Sandra Robinson!

Eric Knuth
Superintendent of Schools
 APW Central School District
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 315-625-5251

"Our children become what we see in them"-Mike Mattos

Congratulations Retirees!

Congratulations and best wishes to two long-time APW employees in the District Office. Sandra Robinson and Rosalie Platt have both recently retired and we wish them much happiness in their retirement, and send them off with a huge thank you for their dedication and commitment to the students, staff and community in the APW Central School District. You will be missed!

APW Drama Club's production of "Radium Girls" well received

The APW Drama Club presented the heartbreaking story "Radium Girls" onstage in November. The moving tale, based on a true story, told of a time when Radium was all the rage until workers in a factory which manufactured illuminated watch dials began to exhibit symptoms of a mysterious disease. Directed by Mary Ann House and Evan Masterson, the drama was well received.



PTSA

Parent/Teacher/Student/Association

The APW Parent-Teacher-Student-Association (PTSA) provides a strong voice within the school and ensures that our school remains at the center of our community. Within our rural district, the APW Central School buildings are both the physical center as well as the social hub of our community. Our goals through PTSA efforts include supporting ways to build community, offer fun and family-friendly education, enrichment, entertainment, & activities, and the APW Central PTSA is dedicated to enhancing our children's education by providing quality programming for students and parents, and by working with faculty and administrators to improve our educational environment.

**We welcome new members—Parents, Teachers, Students, and Community Members to join in our efforts to continue to build and unite our APW School community. Meetings are now held on the 1st Saturday of the month at 8am at the Grist Mill, please join us.*

- Our APW Central PTSA includes the entire APW School District and community and the group is comprised of specific components targeting the APW Elementary School, the APW Jr/Sr High School, and the Special Education Department. Facebook Pages are offered to provide communication directly to our community of parents, students, and staff and include the APW Jr/Sr High School PTSA page, the APW Elementary PTSA page, and there is a private group for families having special education needs (participation is available upon request due to confidentiality and out of respect for our students).
- We offer mini-grant opportunities to faculty who submit applications for assistance to offer enriching opportunities to our school community. Past projects have included supporting enrichment efforts through school-based learning opportunities, enrichment, supplemental supports for arts and music, and beautification efforts within the school.
- The APW Central PTSA has offered special treats and has supported holiday events at both the Elementary and Junior/Senior High Schools again this holiday season. Communication support as well as fiscal opportunities also have helped to assist all of the efforts of the school to help to give the entire APW community a very, merry Christmas!
- We look forward to hosting the upcoming Snow Ball and Glow In The Dark Dance at the elementary school.



Follow our Facebook pages for information updates:

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

A Message From the APW Board of Education

Happy New Year! As we enter into 2019 I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. When we take a look back on 2018 I hope we can be happy with what we have accomplished, but look forward to the goals we have set for the New Year.



Mark Mattison
President

This is a busy time of the year for the Board of Education (BOE) as we work with our Superintendent and his staff to create a budget for our district. In building this budget the BOE will align with our district goal of.... **APWCSD will maintain fiscal responsibility in order to maximize programming and physical safety for all students while recognizing the importance of investing in our future.** In these ever-changing economic times of reduced state aid and increased operational costs, it is always a difficult task to build a budget that aligns with our district goal while also keeping the thoughts of our taxpayers in mind. We will be hearing numerous budget presentations from the various departments in upcoming board meetings. Everyone is welcome to come out and hear these presentations, please refer to the district website and Board Docs for the upcoming meetings and agendas.

I hope everyone had an opportunity to make it out to the wonderful holiday concerts. These students worked very hard in preparation for these concerts and did a fabulous job.

The winter sports season is in full swing, good luck to all of the student athletes, and be sure to come out and support the teams. GO REBELS!

As I mention in every edition of the Rebel Alliance, I encourage everyone to get involved. There are many events to participate in the district and be involved in your child's education. If you would like to share your thoughts and engage in dialogue with your BOE, I would encourage you to participate in the BOE committee meetings. These meetings; ESA (excellence in student achievement), Finance, Policy, LRP (long range planning), and Athletics are typically held the fourth Thursday of every month. Please refer to the district website for these dates and times.

On behalf of the BOE I would like to thank everyone for their continued support in helping us achieve...**Academics at their best! Pursuit of Excellence! Where Students come First!**

Stay warm and safe!

Mark Mattison, President
APW Board of Education



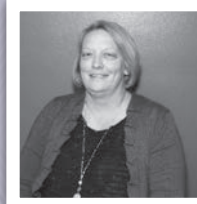
Shawn Clark
Vice-President



Kristina
Brouse



Michael
Hale, Sr.



Nicole
Nadeau



Karen
Oakes



Jesse
Williams

Breakfast with Santa Benefits Backpack Program



Mr. and Mrs. Claus were on hand for photos during the annual Breakfast with Santa event held recently at the APW Elementary School. Monies raised went to the APW Backpack Program which provides food for students during breaks and weekends who are food fragile. While the holidays are a time for celebration for most of us, there are many for whom the holiday break represents a lack of food and warmth. The backpack program helps to provide a continuation of much-needed food for those families who are struggling. Thank you for supporting the program through the Breakfast with Santa event and for those who continue to donate to this worthy cause. For more information, contact the APW High School to see how you can help.



Ugly Sweater Contest winner Heather Costello proudly displays her trophy following winter spirit week at the Elementary School.

Thanksgiving Celebration for Senior Citizens



Members of the student government and volunteers participated in the annual Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner hosted at APW Junior/Senior High School.

For more than 30 years, community members in the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown School District have been lining up to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday at the annual Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner at the high school. The event, coordinated by the APW student government, under the direction of their advisor Beth Dunham, draws more than one hundred seniors from the surrounding communities who look forward to re-connecting with one another each year at the event. For some, it is the last time before they head south as snowbirds, for others, they look forward to the social gathering before the snow falls and travel occurs less often.

The event is made possible through donations and support by APW staff and community members, local and area business donations and lots of volunteers, including the student government waiters and waitresses who serve the tables of seniors gathered.

The menu included turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, spiced applesauce, squash, corn, rolls and homemade pies as well as a variety of beverages.

Volunteer staff members helped serve up the plates for students to deliver to each table.

A drawing for door prizes was also held and gifts and gift certificates were distributed to the winning ticket holders.

Entertainment was provided by student choral members and the student emcees for the evening provided some comedic breaks between performances and raffles during the night.

Volunteer servers dish up plates for the Thanksgiving Feast as student servers pick up the plates to deliver more than 100 meals to the waiting guests.



Rebel Ready Rally Rewards Responsibility and More



Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Elementary School rewarded students who demonstrated that they are “Rebel Ready” by exhibiting responsible, safe and respectful behavior in and around the school. The first ever “Rebel Ready Rally” was held with four options for students to receive their reward. Students were invited to attend the rally where cheerleaders from

the junior/senior high school performed several spirit-filled routines to “rally up” the students in preparation for their reward. Principal Julie Woolson and Assistant Principal Heather Costello congratulated the students on their exemplary behavior before outlining their reward options. Students could choose one activity from the four, including Yoga, watching the movie “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” holiday craft time, or a dance party in the gymnasium. Students were able to ponder for a moment before deciding on their own reward and were allowed 30 fun-filled minutes of reward for this quarter’s Rebel Readiness. The students were relatively evenly distributed across the four options and received a special Rebel Ready bracelet to mark their participation. Students who were not cited for Rebel Readiness remained in their classroom and were encouraged to strive for the reward during the next quarter.



Kowalski Accepted to Theater Honors Program

APW Senior Nova Kowalski has been accepted to participate in the upcoming Theatre Honors Weekend at Russell Sage College in Troy, New York. The program is open to seniors looking to pursue theatre as a career. Students must be nominated by their vocal/theatre teacher and it is quite an extensive process to get accepted.

The theatre weekend will offer intensive study in musical theatre, audition techniques, devised theatre and stage combat. All students will be expected to attend with a prepared musical theatre song and monologue piece. The program will be held January 18 and 19, 2019 and will culminate in a showcase performance.

Congratulations to Nova for this outstanding honor to be a part of this wonderful opportunity.

Nova Kowalski will be participating in a select Theatre Honors program at Russell Sage College in January.

Meet Our New Security Staff



Jeff Bzdick

Meet the new security staff members hired for the APW Junior/Senior High School and APW Elementary School.

Jeff Bzdick is a school security officer at the Junior/Senior High School where he works to ensure school security, identify threats to the district, and if a threat should arise, make sure no one gets hurt.

"My goals for this year are to keep the students safe, first and foremost," said Bzdick. Right now, we are testing the waters to see what the security needs are, here at APW, consulting on various upgrades the district is planning as part of the recent capital project, and identifying some of the areas of need.

In one capacity or another, Mr. Bzdick has been in the district for many years, from board member to coaching several sports. His three children all attended and graduated from APW, he is also an alumni and both he and his wife work at the school.

"My ties in this district run deep," he said. "I'm still Coach Bzdick and most of the kids still call me coach. That's the kind of relationship I want."

His experience in law enforcement runs deep as well. He spent over 36 years in law enforcement, with many years spent as an investigator with the Oswego County Sheriff's Department where he investigated cases involving juveniles which he feels has given him insight into where he feels he is needed the most as a school security officer. That experience has taught me how to look for signs of abuse and other issues. "Sometimes you just know when a kid needs someone to talk to," he said.

In his spare time, Bzdick likes to work out and runs the strength program for kids in the weight room at the school. At home, he loves to read and reads a lot, and also enjoys watching football and movies. He loves his two grandchildren and enjoys spending time with them. He's been married 35 years and has three children.

"I am living the dream," Bzdick said. "This is exactly where I want to be. I love this school district and I love these kids."

Robert Ocker joins the APW staff as the new security officer at the

elementary school where one of his roles is to be a first responder to a critical incident on school grounds, but also recognizes the importance of being proactive as far as securing the property from people who don't belong here. For Ocker, it's much more than security, it's about building trust with students. "A big part of my job is creating strong relationships with the students, being a strong, male role model that they can look up to," he said. "It's really fun working here," he added.



Robert Ocker

Ocker was born and raised in the Capital District, and his first interest in law enforcement came when he was a security officer for the SUNY Police. After that he went on to become a Syracuse City Police Officer for 21 years and recently retired from there where he served as a Sergeant and supervised a street crime unit.

He has been a resident of Oswego County for 19 years and when he knew that he wanted to retire, he thought about pursuing a security position in a school near his home and was very happy to have found the position at APW. "I love it here," he said. One goal for Ocker is to try to get know as many of the students as possible and he even visits classrooms at the school where he reads to students. Ocker and his wife have two teenage boys and enjoy many outdoor activities including kayaking, hiking, fishing, hunting and camping.

Make Sense Shop Thanksgiving



The Make Sense Shop held their annual Thanksgiving "thank you" dinner for district personnel before the Thanksgiving holiday. Mr. Knuth and Mrs. Furlong stopped by for lunch and to visit with APW students in the program. So thankful for this amazing program and its opportunities for students.

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

Concerts Bring the Spirit of the Holidays

(Continued from page 1)
to third grade concert and the grades four to six concerts on back-to-back nights. The hallways and gymnasium were decorated with seasonal artwork to bring the holidays to life and spread cheer to all who entered the building.



All-County Band Selections

Students decked out in holiday colors and accessories put their all into their performances in front of packed houses for each of the holiday concerts in the APW District.



APW Junior High School students selected to participate in All-County Band pictured in front, left to right are: Julliana Phillips, Charley Skellington-Bice, and Jordan Korzeniewski. In back, left to right are: Noah Clark, Jason Bobanick, MaKayla Cobb, Merrick O'Brien and Avery Oakes. The students auditioned for the honor earlier this year and will participate in the OCMEA All-County Festival in the spring.



APW Senior High School students selected to participate in All-County Band pictured left to right are: Ethan Pernisi, Abigail Sweeney, Ainsley Brouse and Alyssa Hamilton.

Calendar of Events

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
Feb. 1	Staff Development Day - No School for Students
Feb. 9	JSHS Talent Show, 6:00 pm
Feb. 14	BOE Meeting, 6:00 pm
Feb. 15	Elem. Outdoor Fun Days
Feb. 18-22	Mid-Winter Recess
Mar. 1	Elem. Read Across America Day
Mar. 8-9	Spring Musical - Fiddler on the Roof, 7:00 pm
Mar. 10	Spring Musical Matinee - 2:00 pm
Mar. 10	Daylight Saving Time Begins (Spring Forward)
Mar. 11-15	PTSA ES Spring Book Fair
Mar. 12	PTSA Family Literacy Night
Mar. 14	BOE Meeting, 6:00 pm
Mar. 18	Staff Development Day - No School for Students
Mar. 20	NHS Induction Ceremony
Mar. 21	NJHS Induction Ceremony
Mar. 24-25	Dollars for Scholars Phone-a-thon
Mar. 27	Parent Conferences, early dismissal; JSHS at 11:00; ES at 12:10 pm
Mar. 29	ES Pep for the Test

REBEL ALLIANCE

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APW JSHS Principal Olsen establishes student cabinet

APW Junior/Senior High School Principal Joe Olsen called together his first meeting of the "Principal's Cabinet", a group of students from all grade levels. The cabinet was an idea Olsen had to provide students an opportunity to voice their opinions, concerns or ideas in a safe and non-judgemental forum. It is a student-driven initiative where they can bring up topics that they are interested in, concerns that other students have shared with them or brainstorm ways the students can improve their school.

A wide range of topics were discussed at the initial meeting and students will be sharing with other groups and organizations some of what was discussed to further the dialogue and move forward on some of their ideas.

The cabinet plans to meet monthly with Olsen, with the next meeting scheduled for mid-January.

Students create turkey disguises at APW Elementary School

Students in Maria Walter's and Hanna Weigel's second grade classroom at APW Elementary School created the perfect disguise for a turkey to escape the typical Thanksgiving week danger and connected with their distance

learning buddy school on Long Island in a fun project. The students in each classroom developed a disguise for their turkey and then connected via the CiTi Distance Learning video connection for a process of elimination game to determine (without peeking) what the other school's turkey disguise looked like.

They asked questions like "does your turkey have red on it?" or "is your turkey a famous character?" to eliminate options on their board of possible disguises. The students learned to look for detail and compare and contrast the guesses. Communication and careful attention were necessary to determine the disguise and the students had a great time connecting with the school for the second time.

Earlier this fall, the students had connected with the school for a monster match and decided to keep in touch periodically through pen pal letters and future video connections over the course of the school year.

The Distance Learning connection was facilitated through the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation.

