Winter Newsletter

**Girls basketball team 2019/20**


**Boy’s basketball Team 2019-20**

The 3rd & 4th Grade Class

This winter we have been focusing on energy sources and sound waves in science! We have had opportunities to build different creations, showing what we have learned about all different kinds of energy sources. Our two favorite activities were building electrical circuits and sound machines! Soon we will begin our unit on force and motion!

Building our own sound machines to learn about sound waves!

Learning about electrical energy by building circuits.

Writing has been another big focus of ours. We try to build a new paragraph every week, and soon we will start building two paragraphs at a time! We enjoy writing narratives, but have mostly been working on informational paragraphs.

We like to use graphic organizers to help us write complete paragraphs.

In social studies we have started working on naming our states and their state capitals. We just finished learning about the west region of the United States and are continuing to learn about other parts of the nation. Reading has taken us far and wide to learn how people around the world access books. We have come to realize how lucky we are to have such easy access to books every day!
Message from Mrs. Shealy’s Special Education class

The power of mindfulness is all the excitement in Ms. Shealy’s classroom. Mindfulness represents a practice of being present in the moment as it relates to your surroundings and self. Mindfulness is used in our classroom as a method to increase overall teacher effectiveness, raise student achievement, and bring joy to learning. Occasionally, we all face tasks that make us feel overwhelmed, nervous and/or uneasy. Mindfulness is a tool that allows the classroom and its students to practice kindness towards others and self, increase attention span, improve listening and retention, and empathize with others. If your student works with Ms. Shealy, ask them about our practice of mindfulness and how we use it in the classroom. Here’s to a great 2nd semester! Malia Shealy

VALUED! INSPIRED! RESOURCEFUL! TOGETHER!

1st 2nd grade news

The 1st and 2nd graders had fun before the holidays leaning about Christmas around the world. They even received authentic julekage bread while learning about Germany.

Classroom Trout

On Friday the 10th, the Washington State Department of Wildlife delivered our classroom trout. We received them 5 days old and they are already starting to hatch. The kids are excited to incorporate learning about the fish as we start our water unit. We will feed and allow the trout to grow and release them in May.
FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT’S DESK

HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAM: In order to develop the abilities of each Highly Capable Program student, the district will offer a highly capable program which provides kindergarten through twelfth grade students selected for the program access to basic education programs that accelerates learning and enhances instruction. The framework for such programs will encompass, but not be limited to, the following objectives: 1. Expansion of academic attainments and intellectual skills; 2. Stimulation of intellectual curiosity, independence and responsibility; 3. Development of a positive attitude toward self and others; and 4. Development of originality and creativity.

If you feel your student would benefit from this program, please call or email me at sschmerer@almirasd.org.

New Math Curriculum Being Piloted

Almira Elementary is piloting a new math program this semester in second, fourth, and fifth grades. Ready Classroom, by Curriculum Associates, brings visual models, hands on experiences, student analysis, and attention to the needs of every learner. Through a variety of settings, students engage in exploration, making connections and reflecting on their investigations into mathematical concepts. We are excited to join Coulee City in piloting this new and engaging curriculum.

The middle school has been piloting the Open Up Resources 6–8 Math curriculum. This curriculum is fully aligned to, and deeply rooted in, the new state standards. Additional information is available at the following website:
https://openupresources.org/open-up-resources-history/

Parents and community members are welcome to come and look at these new curriculums, or contact Mrs. Doulgas or Mr. Matthewson with questions. If you would like to see the materials, please contact Luci Klein and make an appointment so we can try to be available to answer questions.

Mrs. Conway’s Jr. High Art Class

In Mrs. Conway’s art class the students have worked on Digital Art, Symmetry, Optical Illusion art and Acrylic painting. Digital art was very exciting because they got to explore different types of art programs that they could use on our touchscreen chrome books. They also made pixel art pictures using a Google Sheets program and made cartoons on a program called ToonTastic. This next quarter we will be exploring sculpting, pencil drawings and different style paint techniques. We have some very talented students who have produced some great artwork. Submitted by Mrs. Nicole Conway
The ACH 6th grade had a lot of fun making orange cranberry bread as gifts for our families in December. We also kept to the Dr. Seuss theme and decorated our class Christmas tree with Grinch and Max ornaments.

Mrs. Sample’s encore art class painted beautiful watercolor poinsettias.

In the after school art program, several students made tied fleece blankets or pillows.

Above: Evan Tipps and Fiona McMillan
Left: Tyson Hoffman

Wyatt Stout
Kindergarten partakes in Writer’s Workshop

Kindergarten has been hard at work in their Writer’s Workshop. Students have become skilled illustrators who can create detailed drawings with lots of colors and labels to help tell a story. Kindergarten students are also becoming skilled authors by adding words to their stories. By using sight words, color words, emotions, and invented spelling by stretching our words, these authors are formulating simple sentences. Their favorite part of Writer’s Workshop is being able to share and retell their stories with the class. Submitted by Julianna Hughes

Karlee Jo Barney, Maddax Wright, Honor Parrish, Parker Salinas and Finn Florenzen

VOTE NOW!
REPLACEMENT LEVY

Mr. Matthewson’s Middle School Musical coming in April

In February 2020, Almira School District will propose a replacement educational programs and operations levy. This replacement levy is necessary to provide quality educational opportunities for the students of our community and will not result in increased taxes over the previous levy. This levy allows us to maintain existing programs. State funding does not adequately fund current programs and services - levy funds ensure that we can maintain these programs. The loss of a levy would drastically impact Almira School District operations and require reductions in programs for our students.

valued! inspired! resourceful! together!
Molding the future, while honoring the past
#oneteamonemission #WarriorProud
ACH WarriorBots Finish Season with Recognition

Three ACH WarriorBot teams, Electric Llamas, Hydro Heroes, and Engineering Emmets finished their five month season of First LEGO League Saturday, January 18th, in Spokane, WA. All three teams earned their highest scores of the year on the mission game board. The Electric Llamas were recognized and awarded as the team with the greatest Gracious Professionalism at the Eastern WA State Finals. Gracious Professionalism is at the core foundation of First LEGO League competitions, and it is quite an honor to be selected for this award.

During regional qualifiers on December 7, 2019, Electric Llamas were awarded with Innovative Project Presentation, and HydroHeros awarded with Innovative Solution Project. All three teams distinguished themselves this season with excellent research projects, robot design and engineering skills and developing core values. Congratulations! Submitted by Mrs. Susan Douglas

Front row: Jeremy Pinar, Zane Heathman, Beth Okamoto, Everett Wood, Gabe Alig and Max Horrell.
Back row: Nathan Hinkle, Brent Robertson (speaker) and Christine Keeley

Middle School Science

Our main focus during the first semester was on physics. The eighth grade completed a unit in physics last year, so we started the year leaning how waves transfer energy. Students were given the option to learn about waves the traditional way or to design a concert hall. The students who chose to design the concert hall were excited to meet the challenge. After some research, they discovered how difficult concert design really is. For a short while they started to question their choice, but once they got past the shock, all of the groups dug in and worked very hard. After three weeks and very little motivation needed from me, they completed some amazing projects. The groups’ demonstrations of light and speaker placement along with their explanations of why they made their decisions were exceptional. One group even had a video screen placed behind the performers that showed the music video of them performing the song they were playing on stage. It was a great way to start the year.

Our seventh grade started the year at the beginning of the physics unit. Unfortunately for them, the beginning of a physics unit involves a lot of math and students don’t expect to do math in science. There is no getting around it, if you truly want to understand physics you have to first understand the math. Once we endured the math, the labs came at them like they were on a conveyer belt. The labs they performed focused on force, work, power, collisions, and mechanical advantage. The students worked hard to complete the labs, but enjoyed the hands on learning.

Our sixth grade started the year with an introduction to chemistry. They learned about the periodic table and how physical factors such as temperature and surface area can affect chemical reactions. Our sixth grade students had to learn how to complete chemistry labs in a safe way, so we started them off with using chemicals that could not harm them in any way. Once I was sure they understood safety procedures, we were able to go outside and complete some exothermic reactions that were exciting to watch. The labs involved mixing Potassium Iodide and Hydrogen Peroxide, Diet Coke and Mentos, and finally Sulfuric Acid and Sugar. The students had a great time while learning about exothermic reactions. After chemistry they began the physics unit. The math was a little above where they are in their math class, but we worked through the problems as a class. They are currently finishing up the mechanical advantage labs that will end the unit.

For the second semester, all grades will focus on the biological and environmental sciences. The sixth grade will focus on human biology, while the seventh and eighth grade will focus on ecology, cycles, and biomes. At the end of the year when the students believe summer has already started, I give them fun learning projects such as toothpick bridges, catapults, airplanes, or other hands on projects. So if you walk by my room and see airplanes flying around, my class isn’t out of control they are just working on a project. Submitted by Mr. Tim Dotson
Look for sports schedules, lunch and breakfast menus, school calendar, daily bulletin etc. Parents check out the “Family Access”! Keep track of your students lunch money, attendance, and grades too if you have a middle school student. Call for your user name and password.