



The Bagpiper

Argyle Central School Newsletter

Superintendent's Message

Dear Argyle Community Members:

Happy New Year!

I continue to be impressed with the community support and interactions between the school and the community. So many in our school community were involved in Operation Santa Claus to ensure young children within our school district had a happy Christmas Day. Thank you to all who made a child's day. The concerts were well attended which many enjoyed. In addition, having an audience provides affirmation to our students that their efforts were positively appreciated. The Booster Club, PTSA, and the faculty and staff contributed to an amazing spirit week here at the school during the week before the Christmas break.

Now that we are back, some of our highlights will be January regents, the end of the second quarter, and kindergarten's 100th day celebration. The Superintendent's search is underway and applications are due January 13th. The Board of Education will soon be engaged with first round interviews and we will be looking for people to volunteer to serve on a Community Advisory Committee the week of February 27th.

We are also extremely proud of our students who have been recognized in the following areas:

- Fall Scholar Athlete teams in Volleyball, Soccer, and Cross Country.
- Student athletes who were recognized as League Sectional and State Class 5th Team

Volleyball: 1st Team All Stars—Carrie Humiston and Kylee Humiston
(Kylee also made 5th Team All State Class D team)
2nd Team All Stars—Raegan Humiston and Emilie Wood

Soccer: 1st Team All Star: Carsen Bartow
2nd Team All Star: Shea Squires

Cross Country:

2nd Team All Stars—Boys: Jacob Durkee and Lucas Kingsley
2nd Team All Stars—Girls: Carlie Depew and Erica Siaulnski

- McKenzie Sterling was selected to attend the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Seminar.

Sincerely,
Mark Bessen, Interim Superintendent

January 2023

Superintendent's Search

The Argyle Central School District Board of Education is currently in the process of soliciting candidates for the position of Superintendent of Schools. Semi-finalist will be brought back for an extensive interview with two advisory committees consisting of school employees, parents, and community members.

If you are interested in being a member of the Advisory Committee, please submit your name to Kim Humiston at 518-638-8243, ext. 504 or via email at humiston_k@argylecsd.org by February 1, 2023. When responding, please state the group you are associated with and include your email address and phone number. In the event there are more than four community members who volunteer to serve on the Advisor Committees, participants will be chosen by lottery.



Junior/Senior High Principal's Message

Mark Doody, Interim

On December 19 and 20, 144 students in grades 7-12 were honored with a special breakfast in the cafeteria for their outstanding academic achievement of being named to the honor roll or high honor roll for the first marking period. Honor roll students earn an overall average of at least 85%. High honor roll students earn an overall average of 90% or higher. Congratulations to all of these students. Many of our students achieved this special recognition while also being involved in fall sports, clubs, and activities which makes this recognition truly special. All honorees were awarded a certificate and were encouraged to keep up their academic effort for the remainder of the school year.

As we enter 2023, I am filled with hope and excitement for the year ahead. Our entire staff and students have performed exceptionally well this year. For those students who haven't performed up to your expectations, there still is time. I encourage everyone to take advantage of all the opportunities this great school district has to offer. Please reach out to your teacher for some extra help. Set a goal to take advantage of period 9 which is designed for the primary purpose of helping students who need just a little more guidance and support in order to reach their full potential.

Finally, on behalf of the Argyle 7-12 faculty and staff, thank you for your continued support of our students and the work we do for them. It is truly the community, parents, and staff partnering and working together that allows us to maintain the successes we have so long enjoyed in the district. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact a teacher or me directly. We are here to work together to provide the best possible education for your student!



ACS Announces

H.O.B.Y

Winner



Argyle Central School proudly announces that sophomore McKenzie Sterling has been selected to attend the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Seminar. McKenzie is the daughter of Heather and Christopher Sterling. She is active in a variety of sports and clubs including softball, the school newspaper, and Natural Helpers. She has also participated in The Scot Trot for a number of years. The proceeds from the race benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Outside of school, she holds a part time job with an area landscaping business. McKenzie has always had a desire to have a positive impact on the community.

The H.O.B.Y. Foundation was established to give outstanding sophomores the opportunity to interact with recognized leaders in business, government, science, art, and education through workshops designed to develop and stimulate young people's leadership abilities. The Seminar will be held in May at SUNY Albany.

Elementary Principal's Message

Dear ACS Families:

I hope you enjoyed a peaceful holiday break with your families. It was certainly a busy time here at school. We were excited to be able to celebrate the season with many in-person events this year. Some of our parents have asked us about recording or live streaming these types of events to share with loved ones who do not reside in the area. We appreciate hearing your positive feedback. We are working on a plan and look forward to sharing some of our events on our YouTube channel in the future.

I can't believe it's 2023 already!

As we ring in the new year, our elementary teachers and staff begin reflecting on the goals we have set for our students and work to provide opportunities to further their growth. Working together with our families plays a crucial role in helping our students succeed. Having good school attendance, reviewing learning concepts at home, and keeping in contact with your child's teacher are just a few examples of how parents can help ensure school success.

Below is some information you may find helpful:

- *Report Cards:* Our first trimester report cards went home in early December. If you have any questions regarding your child's progress, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher.
- *Benchmark Winter Testing:* During the month of January, our teachers begin assessing our students' growth by administering the iReady benchmark diagnostic. This testing helps us evaluate your child's growth in the areas of reading and math. We will share the results of this testing with our parents at the end of January. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have regarding these assessments.
- *NYS 3-8 Testing:* In the spring, our students in grades 3-8 will be taking the New York State ELA and Math Assessments. During the month of January, our students will participate in a computer based simulation of those tests. More information to come.
- *Recess Reminder:* We try our best to take the students outside for recess. As the weather gets colder, remember to bring your coats, hats, mittens, and boots.

Happy New Year!

Dawn Wood
Elementary Principal



Grade 6 students with their kindergarten buddies had a hot cocoa reading party on December 21st.

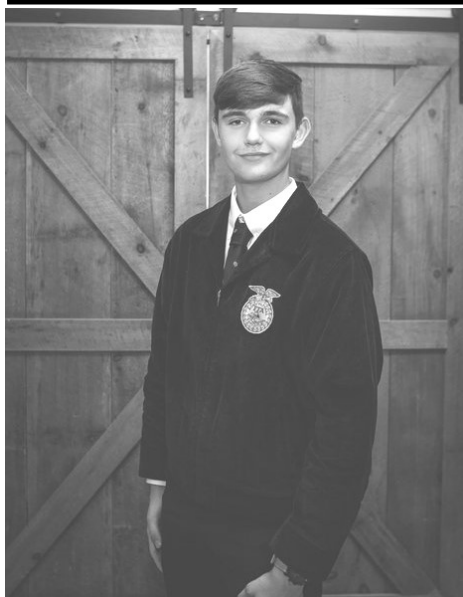
Pictured above is kindergartener Lochlan Kearns with his sixth grade buddy, Landon Rock



Kindergarten student Holt Schmid got a ride to school in a Fire Truck from the Argyle Fire Department. Holt was the winner of the Ride to School in a Fire Truck raffle held in December.



Student Spotlight Gabe Burch



To say that senior Gabe Burch likes to stay busy is an understatement. He is on the varsity soccer and tennis teams and ski/snowboarding club, a member of National Honor Society, Math Club, and band, part of the 4-H Leadership Council and he volunteers with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Argyle Fire Department.

He was also recently elected to the NYS FFA District President for District 3.

"I wanted to run for district president to help new chapters and

kids have the same experiences and opportunities I've had," said Burch.

According to Gabe, FFA has been a great resource to not only learn more about agriculture, but leadership and public speaking as well. He recently traveled to the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana and was able to take education tours, listen to keynote speakers, explore the college and industry expo and meet kids from all over the country. Locally, he hopes to organize successful competitions and meetings of the district, and represent district 3 well.

"Being district president is an honor and a responsibility, to myself and NYS FFA, and I love it," remarked Burch.

His favorite class is the engineering class he takes at the BOCES New Visions Engineering program. He is able to work on different projects including the design and manufacture of new products. He also loves the site visits that allow him to see the activities and responsibilities related to various engineering disciplines.

His plans for next year include college—his first choice is Clarkson University. He hopes to earn a mechanical engineering degree and a master's in business through Clarkson's five year program.

"Whatever I do, I want to bring new ideas and make a difference."

Career Goal: Start own engineering firm

Favorite Book: Laws of Human Nature by Robert Greene

Favorite Movie: Thor Ragnorok

ACS has SPIRIT!



The newly formed SPIRIT Club has been working hard this year! High school students participated in a fall Pep Rally supporting our fall athletes.

December was

very busy ... Hallway Decorating Contest took place—Congratulations to all the students that participated—the hallways looked AMAZING! WINTER Spirit Week—where everyone was able to have some fun with their outfits! The last day of school we had the High School Reindeer Games! Minute to Win it Games, Relay Race, Faculty vs. Student Tug of War—so much laughing—it was great for our ACS Spirit!

We have also been working hard to have some fun at basketball games. During the Varsity Boys half time we do a basketball shoot out and January 4th



we had a winner—Shannon Riley! She won an Argyle Scots Tumbler! Sign up for the contest at the games!

If you are interested in helping out with Spirit Club or have any questions, please contact Meaghan Wilkins, Advisor, at wilkins_m@argylecsd.org.

Student Spotlight Megan DePaul

Argyle ninth grader, Megan DePaul, has a new calf to raise. As a winner of the Washington County 4-H Calf Scholarship, Megan will have the opportunity to raise Dakota, an Ayrshire breed calf.

In addition to keeping meticulous records of Dakota's care, she will show her at the 2023 Washington County Fair. Megan will also arrange to have the heifer bred once it reaches maturity and return the first viable heifer calf back to the program. In fact, Dakota is the granddaughter of the calf that her brother raised a few years ago.

Megan is an active member of 4-H, participating in quiz bowl, teen council, public presentations, and field trips. She is also an avid photographer. Megan plans to study dairy science or ag engineering after high school and hopes to become an agricultural teacher and own a small herd of show cattle.



Class of 2024

After Prom Party

Dear Community Members:

The Argyle Central School Class of 2024 will hold their prom on May 6, 2023. This year we are providing a fun, chaperoned, secure after prom party for our juniors and their friends. This event is a safe alternative to parties that may involve drinking and driving. We would like to make it as much fun as possible for them.

Please join us in supporting this safe event by contributing a financial gift, prize item, or a gift certificate to use for door prizes or auction items. This year's event will be held at Adventure Racing in Lake George and we need your support to make this event successful. The members of the Class of 2024 and their parents appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,
After Prom Party Committee

Please return to ACS Class of 2024 After Prom Party Committee, 5023 State Route 40, Argyle, NY 12809 by March 31st.

YES, we would like to support the After Prom Party!

Name of Business or Family: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Contact Person: _____

We will donate: _____

Please make checks payable to ACS After Prom Party

Our donation is

- ☐ Enclosed
☐ Can be picked up

Pesticide State Requirements

Dear Parent, Guardian, and School Staff:

New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The Argyle Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- A school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72-hours following an application;
- Anti-microbial products;
- Nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- Nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- Silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams, or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- Boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- The application of EPA designated biopesticides;
- The application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CRF152.25;
- The use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please complete the form below and return it to Mark Bessen, Superintendent of Schools, Argyle School District pesticide representative at 5023 State Route 40, Argyle, NY 12809—Phone (518) 638-8243, ext. 504, Fax (518) 638-6373.

Argyle Central School District Request for Pesticide Application Notification

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Day Phone: _____
 Evening Phone: _____
 E-Mail Address: _____

Please feel free to contact Mark Bessen, Superintendent of Schools, Argyle Central School District pesticide representative at 5023 State Route 40, Argyle, NY 12809—Phone (518) 638-8243, ext. 504, Fax (518) 638-6373 or (e-mail address: bessen_m@argylecsd.org) for further information on these requirements.

Asbestos

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) of 1987 (40 CFR Part 763) all school employees, parents/guardians, and all building occupants are hereby notified that the Argyle Central School Asbestos Management Plan is available to the public for review Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Under the AHERA Regulation, the school district is required to reinspect all facilities which contain asbestos materials once every three (3) years. Moreover, periodic surveillances are conducted by our Building and Grounds personnel on a regular basis.

A Message from your Food Service Director ... Meaghan Wilkins

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This month I spent time communicating with our leaders and in Albany lobbying for healthier school meals for all. It is a very important program and we are hoping the Governor adds FREE meals for all NY students into the budget this year. It is only 0.1% of the NY budget to make sure ALL students have the options of healthy breakfast and lunch every day. Students learn better and behave better when their tummies are full!

If you have any questions, please contact Food Service Director Meaghan Wilkins at wilkins_m@argylecsd.org.

ACS INDOOR WALKING PROGRAM

Adult district residents may use the building to walk November–April. There will be designated hours before and after school when participants may walk the hallways of the schools.

Participants must pre-register in the Main Office to participate in this independent activity.

COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTER

The Fitness Center at Argyle Central School is open to residents of the district age 13 and up. No one under the age of 15 is permitted to use the fitness center without his/her parent/guardian present at all times.

Participants may register in the Main Office to receive an electronic swipe card. Forms can be found on our website at www.argylecsd.org.

Fitness Center days and hours are Monday–Thursday 5–8 pm when school is in session.



Members from the Natural Helpers club, Delaine Bates and Dilyn McKernon, stopped by to read holiday books to our Kindergarten students.



Juniors and seniors have visited the following colleges this fall: Siena and Castleton. More trips are planned for the spring.



Argyle Central School
5023 State Route 40
Argyle, New York 12809

Board of Education Members
Pamela Ellis, *President*
Travis Dessaint, *Vice President*
Thomas Genovese
David Holck
Rodney Saunders

Postal Patron or Current Resident

Carrier Route Pres.
Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #3
Argyle, New York 12809

Calendar of Events

February 3 Grades 7-12 Report Cards Issued
February 7 PTSA Meeting 7pm
February 9 Board of Education Meeting 7pm
February 20-24 Mid-Winter Recess—School Closed

March 7 PTSA Meeting 7pm
March 9 Board of Education Meeting 7pm
March 10 PreK-Grade 6 Trimester II Report
Cards Issued
March 17 Grades 7-12 Interim Reports Issued
March 31 Grades 3-6 Academic Awards
Assembly 1:30pm

April 4 PTSA Meeting 7pm
April 7-14 Spring Recess—School Closed
April 19-20 Grades 3 & 6 NYS ELA test
April 20-21 Grade 7 NYS ELA Test
April 21 Grades 7-12 Report Cards Issued
April 24-25 Grades 4, 5, & 8 NYS ELA Test
April 25 Board of Education Meeting 7pm
April 27 PreK and Kindergarten Parent
Orientation Meeting

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration Information

Kindergarten

In early April, a registration packet will be going out to all children who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2023.

Pre-Kindergarten

This full day program will consist of a 5-hour day (8:15-1:15) and run for the entire 180 day school year. Parents will be responsible for transporting their child to and from school. This program is for children four years old on or before December 1, 2023. A registration packet will be sent out in early April.

In order to enhance communication with you, please go to our website (www.argylecsd.org) and fill out the pre-registration information on your child(ren).

Parent Orientation Meetings will be held on Thursday, April 27, 2023.