

A MESSAGE FROM DR. LYONS

A new year offers a reset button, time to take stock of where we've been and where we want to go. Arlington's mission is to empower all students to be self-directed lifelong learners, who willingly contribute to their community, and lead passionate, purposeful lives. This mission serves as the North Star for our district.

The Board of Education approved this mission statement and our district's strategic plan in January 2013. It is now time for us to revisit this plan and set our objectives for the next five years. I look forward to working with our faculty and staff, students, families and community members to create a plan that will continue to help us strive toward achieving our mission. Over the past year and a half we have conducted family, staff, and student (grades 6–12) engagement surveys. We will use the results of these surveys to inform the next steps in our strategic plan.

As you will read on page 6, we are committed to promoting equity within our district. Equity recognizes that a one-size-fits-all approach to education does not work. Rather, by recognizing and appreciating differences, we can provide students with the resources and support they need to be successful. We will look through this equity lens as we update our strategic plan. Our core values affirm the beliefs that all people have inherent value and that a community thrives when all members embrace their interdependence with compassion and empathy. These values inspire us to address inequities or barriers within our school district that may prevent any of our students from fulfilling our mission.

I am proud of the equity work that is happening around the district. In November, we had an opportunity to share this work, along with many of the course offerings that make Arlington special, with Regent Judith Johnson. Regent

Johnson represents our region as a member of the Board of Regents. The Regents oversee all of the educational activities in New York State. You can read more about Regent Johnson's visit on page 2.

I encourage you to read the following pages of this Communicator to see some of our accomplishments this past year. Our students are excelling in literacy, math, science, and technology, while at the same time pursuing their passions and contributing to their community. I would also like to add my thanks to our IBM volunteers for their continued support through EWeek activities, mentoring, and grant funding.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the importance of stopping for a school bus with flashing red lights, even if it is on the opposite side of a divided highway. Remember, it is "unlawful to pass when red lights flash." Please read the important motorist safety tips on page 3 and assist us in keeping our children safe.

I wish all of you a happy and healthy New Year.



Sincerely,

Brendan Lyons, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Regent Judith Johnson met with members of the AHS Student Equity Team to learn more about student efforts to address educational inequities. Learn more about Regent Johnson's visit and Arlington equity efforts inside.



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ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMUNICATOR

WINTER 2019



REGENT JUDITH JOHNSON SEES ARLINGTON AS A MODEL DISTRICT

On November 15, Regent Judith Johnson visited Arlington High School and LaGrange Middle School to learn more about the unique and valuable student opportunities our district offers.

WHAT IS THE BOARD OF REGENTS AND WHO IS REGENT JOHNSON?

The New York State Board of Regents is responsible for the general supervision of all educational activities within the State, presiding over the State University system and the NYS Education Department. The Board comprises 17 members elected by the State Legislature for 5-year terms: one from each of the State's 13 judicial districts and 4 members who serve at large. Arlington is part of the 9th Judicial District that includes Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester counties. Like school board members, regents are volunteers.

Regent Johnson's teaching and leadership roles span seven very diverse city and suburban districts. During President Clinton's second term in office, she initially served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary and later as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education. Regent Johnson returned to K-12 education and served for ten years as School Superintendent for the city of Peekskill, becoming the first woman and African American to hold that position. In 2008, she received the New York State School Superintendent of the Year award.

WE

BELIEVE

WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF JOHNSON'S VISIT?

During her visit, Regent Johnson met with district administrators and members of the Board of Education. She then visited Arlington High School to learn more about the Family and Consumer Science Programs and to talk with members of the AHS Student Equity Team. She ended her day at LaGrange Middle School, where she visited the school's technology and art programs and met with members of the LMS Student Equity Team.

The purpose of inviting Regent Johnson to visit Arlington was four-fold:

- To establish Arlington's presence at the State level to ensure our needs are considered in policy and decision-making
- To spotlight a high-performing, diverse district
- To highlight Arlington's outstanding and unique programs
- To guide State decisions about educational equity after hearing firsthand from students about their efforts to understand and address this issue

all people

can learn.

REGENT JOHNSON PLANS TO VISIT ARLINGTON WITH CHANCELLOR ROSA

Regent Johnson was impressed by the breadth and depth of our middle and high school course offerings. She left in awe of our students' ability to discuss their coursework, as well as their work on the equity teams. She praised Arlington teachers and educational leaders for their efforts in developing these abilities in our students. Her accolades establish Arlington as an educational model to the 720 school districts in New York State for delivering high quality education to a diverse population. Regent Johnson plans to return to Arlington in September with Board of Regents Chancellor Betty Rosa. •



Ms. Croft and students Sicily Martinez and Quincy Fields discussed Arlington's impressive array of Family and Consumer Science course offerings.



Seniors Janiece Kerr and Justin Hargraves talk to Regent Johnson about how students, together with Chef Losee, choose foods for the Cultural Foods course offered in the AHS culinary arts program.



LMS technology teacher, Elizabeth Socci, speaks with Regent Johnson about student enthusiasm for the new 6th grade coding unit.

MOTORISTS MUST STOP. IT'S THE LAW!



Sadly, this fall we have seen several stories in the news about children hit by cars that failed to stop for school buses. In New

York, you must stop for a school bus even if it is on the opposite side of a divided highway. While Arlington avoids scheduling stops where students need to cross a divided highway, it is important for drivers to stop. We cannot fully anticipate what a student will do when getting on or off the bus. Most school bus-related deaths and injuries occur while children cross the street to board or exit a bus, not in collisions that involve school buses. Remember that vehicles, such as vans, that transport students with disabilities can be equipped as school buses and you must stop for them as you would for other school buses.

During a one-month period, Arlington bus drivers reported 15 incidents of motorists failing to stop for school buses. Half of these violations occurred on Haight Avenue (the eastbound Arterial). We are working with the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department to address this problem. Whenever our drivers are able to obtain a license plate number and vehicle description, we report these drivers to the NYS DMV Driver Improvement Bureau in Albany.

Important safety tips for drivers as they share the roads with school buses

- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, **watch out for children.**
- **Slow down.** Watch for children congregating near bus stops.
- **Be alert.** Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.

- **Learn the flashing signal light system** that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions. Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop.
- **Red flashing lights and an extended stop arm** indicate the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off.
- **Wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended sign is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before starting to drive again.** This applies to school buses stopped on:
 - Opposite side of a divided highway
 - Multiple lane roadways
 - Parking lots
 - School grounds •



WE

BELIEVE

that

ARLINGTON'S CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Learning does not end after high school, college, or even graduate school. It is a lifelong endeavor. Arlington is proud to offer 250 continuing education classes annually for adults, teens, and children.

COME TAKE A CLASS OR TWO!

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts and Craft Classes (Watercolors, Zentangle®, Crocheting, Drawing, and more) • Photography • Languages (Spanish and Italian) • Ballroom Dancing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line Dancing • Guitar • Cooking • Theatre Trips (<i>The Cher Show</i> and <i>Phantom of the Opera</i>) • Personal Enrichment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Direction (Medicare, Social Security, Credit Wellness) • Baseball Games • Ski Trips • Athletics (Golf, Tennis, Volleyball) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness & Wellness Classes (Zumba®, PIYO, Hula Hoop, I Liq Chuan, Belly Dancing) • SAT & ACT Review Classes • Driver Education • Driver Safety • Gardening • And more... |
|---|---|---|---|

lifelong

learning is

essential

for growth.

Visit "News" at www.arlingtonschools.org for a spring 2019 brochure and paper registration.

Students may now register online and pay with a credit card at <https://arlingtonschools.revtrak.net>. •

WE BELIEVE

6TH GRADERS DESIGNING MOBILE APPS

HERE IS WHAT SOME LAGRANGE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT CODING

"I think that the [App Creators] program is helpful because it keeps me organized and I think it's fun to code. I like to code on my own time too. It also teaches me how to design. It teaches me to keep my steps in order and stay focused on one thing at a time."

JANE S.

"It taught me to be creative in my apps and go beyond what I thought I could do."

SEAN M.

"I think the whole point of this was to solve problems in our everyday lives and turn it into an app to make things easier. It's very noticeable that our technology has changed a lot throughout the years... We never know what the future will bring. Sometimes technology can be crazy, and who knows if we'll actually have flying cars, or robots that will do our chores for us. It is all about solving our problems. We are learning how to code and learning new algorithms."

ELLA C. •

This fall Arlington added App Creators as a unit to the 6th grade computer class. Part of the Gateway to Technology/Project Lead the Way program, App Creators introduces students to the field of computer science and coding through the creation of mobile apps. Students learn how to develop mobile apps to address an issue related to health, the environment, emergency preparedness, community service or school culture. According to Dawn Galente, Arlington's Director of Math, Science and Engineering, "App Creators teaches students valuable, real-world skills and encourages self-directed learning by allowing students to choose a problem that interests them."

Most students do not know the first thing about what makes their smartphones, laptops, social media networks, and video games run. Basic programming knowledge can change the way students interact with the technologies they use. Coding improves creativity by empowering students to not only use digital media and technology, but to develop it. Programming promotes problem solving by encouraging students to take complex problems and break them down into smaller parts. As students look toward the future, programmers are in high demand. According to Code.org, 71% of all new STEM jobs are in computing, yet only 8% of STEM graduates are in computer science. (Barone, R. (2017, December 12). *9 reasons your child should learn to code.* [Web blog post] Retrieved from www.idtech.com.)



6th grade students are developing mobile apps to conquer real-world problems

WE BELIEVE that potential can only be attained through commitment, resilience, and high expectations.

THIRD ANNUAL ARLINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION 5K RUN/WALK & KIDS RUNS

Save the Date! • Saturday, April 27, 2019

Interested in sponsoring this year's 5K event?

Checkout our new website www.arlingtonschools.org/aefny for sponsorship opportunities

For more information about the Foundation & its work on behalf of Arlington's students & their classrooms, go to:

www.arlingtonschools.org/aefny or contact

Executive Director, MaryBeth Kaminsky at arlingtonfoundation@acsdny.org or 845-486-4460, ext. 20156



OTHER ARLINGTON STEAM NEWS

STEAM=SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, AND MATH

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR IBM VOLUNTEERS

For the past ten years IBM has partnered with Arlington for National Engineers Week, held each February. IBM volunteers visit each Arlington school to help increase an understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers. This year IBM started a grant program where districts that host at least 10 IBM volunteers can apply. With more than 70 volunteers visiting Arlington schools for EWeek events, IBM donated \$3,000 to support our district's STEAM initiatives.



On November 15, IBM volunteers participated in a speed-mentoring event at Arlington High School. During four 15-minute sessions, IBM executives, retirees, and recent hires shared valuable advice with students interested in engineering, computer science, and business.

ARLINGTON HS STUDENTS STUDY LOCAL WATERSHED

This past summer, three Arlington students, Jonathan Huang, Chloe Rosa, and Joelle Weir, participated in the Cary Institute's Mid-Hudson Young Environmental Scientist Program (MH-YES). Through MH-YES, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies worked with partners at Marist College to engage local high school students in authentic water quality research.

MH-YES Coordinator, Rhea Esposito says, "Our goal was to expose MH-YES students to the whole process of environmental research about their home ecosystem—from question creation to analyzing data and sharing results with their community."

For any students interested in applying for the 2019 MH-YES, the application will be available on the Cary Institute website this spring (www.caryinstitute.org/students/mh-yes-program).



"Being in a group of like-minded [students] planning to pursue STEM careers opened my mind to what STEM can be. The MH-YES program inspired me to further pursue science research by joining the Science Research Class at Arlington High School. I am currently working on publishing my summer research team's project pertaining to Fecal Indicator Bacteria in the Fall Kill Creek."
—Senior Joelle Weir

ARLINGTON STUDENTS TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH AQUAPONICS

The "AquaPals" research team from Arlington High School was one of eight teams from across the country to earn \$10,000 in scholarships and grants in the Lexus Eco Land/Water Challenge. This is the tenth time that an Arlington Team has won this challenge.

The AquaPals tackled the issue of PCBs and their contamination of the Hudson River. Since it is not safe to eat fish from the Hudson, the AquaPals have come up with a solution: aquaponics. The team embarked on a yearlong journey to study, engineer, construct, and operate an entire aquaponics lab at AHS. Aquaponics is a combination of hydroponics, growing plants in water without soil, and aquaculture, growing fish for consumption. The fish are PCB-free and completely safe for consumption. The Bibb lettuce grew 320% faster than traditional lettuce. Maribel Pregnall and Tricia Muraco advise the team. For more information, visit www.ahsaquapals.wixsite.com/aquablog.

The AquaPals are now qualified to participate in the Final Challenge for a chance at the \$30,000 grand prizes.



Congratulations to the winning AquaPals team! (Top) Tyler Locke, Shannon Gibson, Emme Magliato, Spencer Koonin, (Bottom) Krishna Koka, Jacob Gaines.

ENERGY RESEARCH

Students in science teacher Jacob Lawrence's Energy Research class work to raise awareness of energy and climate issues. This year, Tom Giewont and Maya Payman are working with Vail Farm students to assess the carbon footprint of the Vail Farm building. They visited Vail Farm Elementary several times to assess the school's energy use. Tom and Maya taught a lesson to Mr. Adams' 5th grade class to discuss where electricity comes from. Students brought electronic devices from home and plugged them into the "plug load logger" to see how much energy their devices use.

Over the next several months, Tom and Maya will work with five 5th grade student "Energy Warriors" to measure lighting levels to assess whether areas are over or under lit. The students will then make recommendations to the principal, Ms. Khare, and the head custodian, Ms. Millus. •

PROMOTING EQUITY AT ARLINGTON

EQUITY VS. EQUALITY: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?



EQUALITY: People receive the same resources based on the belief that equal means fair.



EQUITY: People receive what they need in order to have the opportunity to be successful.

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WHY IS EQUITY IMPORTANT?

Our district mission says “all” students. Equity compels us to consider how we can enable all students to become self-directed, life-long learners, to willingly contribute to their community, and to live purposeful, passionate lives.

WHAT IS EDUCATIONAL EQUITY?

Educational equity means all students have what they need to:

1. define and experience their own success,
2. experience joy in learning every day, and
3. see themselves reflected in the content of their learning as well as the educators who serve them.

It provides a climate in school that attends to race, ethnicity, language, culture, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, religion, (dis)ability, and socioeconomic status (McCabe Zwerger, 2017).

WHAT DID WE DO DURING THE 2017/2018 SCHOOL YEAR?

- District administrators and the Board of Education attended workshops to consider what is required of leadership in order to be equitable and inclusive.



In June, members of the middle school student equity team led a series of teach-ins for faculty and staff.

- Student equity leaders from LMS, UVMS, and AHS participated in a 4-part series to learn about educational equity, to discuss examples of inequities they have experienced, and to make recommendations. Students then had an opportunity to teach their teachers during teach-ins/presentations to faculty and staff. Some high school students presented their work at local conferences.
- The District Equity Team, made up of Board members, teachers, administrators, parents, and AHS students, met eight times and developed a set of recommendations for promoting equity district-wide.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Build a common language with faculty and staff around the principles of educational equity. Share this message with parents and the community, building a common understanding that actively engages community stakeholders.
2. Develop and implement a District Equity Plan that will serve to outline the goals and timeline related to promoting equity district-wide.



Members of the AHS Equity Team spoke at the NYU Decolonizing Education conference last spring. They discussed how participating on the AHS and district equity teams had broadened their understanding of the experiences and needs of diverse students.

3. Develop and offer comprehensive professional development for each individual in Arlington to understand and build capacity to serve as a member of an equitable and inclusive school district community.

WHAT ARE WE DOING THIS SCHOOL YEAR?

- District administrators and Board of Education members will continue to meet to examine their role in supporting culturally responsive practices.
- The District Equity Team will meet to strategically plan and monitor their recommendations for promoting equity district-wide.
- Student equity leaders from LMS, UVMS, and AHS will build on their work from last year and will continue to speak with students and faculty across the buildings in a variety of forums.
- All district staff will receive training this year on promoting inclusion, diversity, belonging, and equity.
- Each school has established a building equity committee to identify the priorities and goals for their school. School equity committees will participate in a book talk, develop professional development to meet the needs of their school community, and will engage in data analysis to identify inequities that may exist in their school.

QUESTIONS?

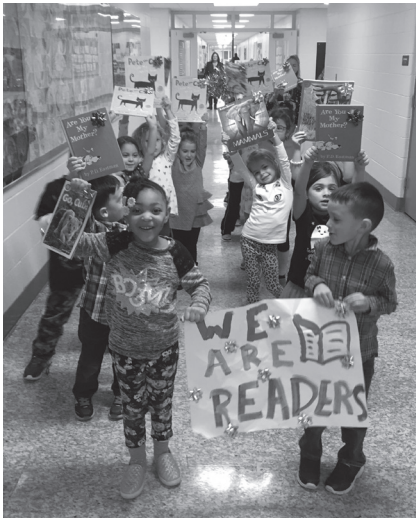
Contact Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Jonathan Brown at 845-486-4460. •

READERS AND WRITERS

The goal of the Arlington literacy program is to create flexible, resilient readers and writers who read and write for pleasure as well as for school. Teachers use strategies developed by the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, along with other resources to help students expand and challenge their literacy skills. •



Titusville Intermediate School fourth graders write personal narratives as part of the Teachers College Units of Study writing curriculum.



Vail Farm kindergarteners celebrate reading with a "We Are Readers" parade.



On September 7, Noxon Road Elementary students heard from local authors, doctors, politicians, athletes, and artists about how reading has impacted their lives and helped them to become the successful people they are today. M.A. Brown is the author of *Clever Sarah*.



Traver Road Primary second graders practice guided reading in a space that best supports their learning.

AHS ADMIRALS MARCHING BAND WINS THIRD CONSECUTIVE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

For the third consecutive year, the Arlington Admirals High School Marching Band has brought home the first place trophy, or Governor's Cup, in the National Class from the New York State Field Band Conference Championship with a score of 95.00. The competition took place on October 28 at the Carrier Dome at Syracuse University.

The band is under the direction of Band Director Darrell Keech, along with Assistant Band Directors Evan Rzdokiewicz and Lynda Keech and Color Guard Director Albert Cousins. One hundred and twenty Arlington students took to the field and performed their 2018 production, "Electric World," led by Drum Majors Alex Gray, Phoebe Anderson and Anna Spendley.

"Marching band isn't about being better than other bands; it is about being the best YOU can be. Sometimes you'll earn trophies along the way, but the beauty of marching band isn't what place you're in, it's about swimming with bigger fishes and showing them what you can do. That is what we have done for the past three years, and we will remember these moments always," said AHS Marching Band Drum Major Alex Gray. •



From left: Color Guard Co-Captain Kim Johnston; Drum Majors Phoebe Anderson, Alex Gray & Anna Spendley; and Color Guard Co-Captain Tori Smalley celebrate their third consecutive first place marching band state championship!

**OUR
MISSION
IS**

to empower
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**ARLINGTON CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Superintendent of Schools

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Visit Our District Website at
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14TH ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019 • 7:00 PM AT ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Arlington Central School District invites you to attend our fourteenth Annual Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Wednesday, January 16 (snow date January 17) from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at Arlington High School. Students from throughout our school district will once again celebrate Dr. King's vision for diversity, equality, and freedom with an evening filled with art, poetry, music, theater, and dance.

Dr. King was a vital figure of the modern era. His words and actions stirred the concern and sparked the conscience of a generation. Please join us in our tribute to this great man of vision and peace. •