



# Altoona Intermediate School

## Altoona, Wisconsin



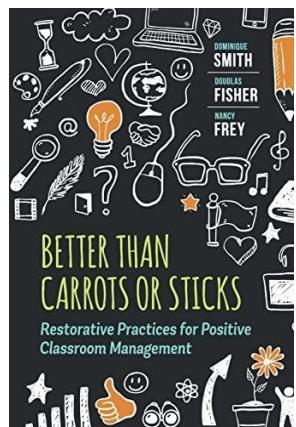
# December 2022 Newsletter

## What's Happening in AIS?

Hello AIS Families! I hope the Winter months are bringing to you and your family feelings of comfort, belonging, and warmth. I also hope that you are wearing shoes that have traction on them when it is snowy and icy out (Mr. Zuiker may have taken a couple of spills out at recess while walking up the incline to open the upper field gate). At any rate, this time in Wisconsin always brings excitement that is related to the change in weather, yes, but also making the shift to the second third of the school year. At AIS, our students are well into their groove with routines, consistency, and hearing high expectation messages from our staff. With the Winter months, there also comes a few longer breaks from school. We appreciate your partnership in providing similar routines, consistency, and high expectation messages to your child(ren) while they are not at school!



Our staff at AIS are preparing to close out our 1st semester book study on *Better than Carrots or Sticks: Restorative Practices for Positive Classroom Management*. We have done some FANTASTIC learning through this book study. It has provided us affirmations as to practices we currently employ and embody, dissonance in areas we may not be used to yet, and wonders in areas where we may not fully be strong in ourselves yet. When you put those three together, we obtain a high level of LEARNING, which is always our main goal when it comes to a book study as a staff. Right in line with our school's Personal Success strand goal: We will decrease the use of exclusionary practices by 3%, going from 33 to 32, we're on a solid trajectory to meet that goal, only having to employ exclusionary practices a total of 4 times this year. This data gives us solid insight as to the success of proactive approaches we utilize in building relationships with our students!



AIS's PBIS focus for the month of December is on the topic of kindness. Our students are making an intentional effort to recognize others for acts of kindness, and then writing those down to display for all to see in the school. This focus goes hand in hand within the larger framework of helping our students develop empathy, and recognizing that different students are at different stages of proficiency in how they offer kindness to others. When we affirm and validate each other for making steps towards progress, we feed into a culture of gratitude and inclusion! A few questions to pose to and discuss with your child(ren) around this topic could be:

*What do you do to make sure an act of kindness is genuine and authentic?*

*How does your kindness impact others in a positive way?*



When we achieve our goal of 'filling up our classroom doors with kindness', students will enjoy a movie on the day before Winter break that coincides with the topic. In addition to that, all AIS students will also receive a copy of the book *Save Me a Seat* by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan. Coming back from break, students and their families will be able to listen to and follow along with AIS staff reading sections of the book!

Our recess time at AIS has been going very smoothly as we've been able to open up multiple areas outside, as well as inside sometimes for students to engage in productive activities that promote social well-being. Within this grade band of 4th and 5th, at times students tend to engage in interactions with their peers that fuel drama and negativity, sometimes for the sole purpose of 'getting under one's' skin'. I encourage you to check in with your child(ren) as to how recess is going and pose the following questions for discussion with them:

*Are you adding to unnecessary drama or intentionally trying to distance yourself from it?*

*What would be an ideal procedure for solving a disagreement with another student in the moment?*

Lastly, it is hard to believe that we are coming up on our mid-year Fastbridge assessment in reading and math! Students will take these assessments during the week of January 9th. These two assessments are critical in monitoring our school's Academic Outcome goals of: *We will increase reading comprehension among students in grades 4-5 as measured by percentage of students proficient (65th percentile or higher) on Fast aReading and We will increase math skills among students in grades 4-5 as measured by percentage of students proficient (65th percentile or higher) on Fast aMath. It's a good idea to talk with your child(ren) about putting forth their best effort, as these two assessments are good, in-district, progress measurements for our school!*



Thank you for your partnership with AIS! Our school thrives when we have strong support from our families and community. I will always finish my insert portion of the newsletter with the same statement I read to students as I close the morning announcements:

*We are so proud of you at AIS. We are here to help guide you through struggle and celebrate your wins with you. Every single one of you plays an important role at AIS, YOU ALL MATTER to our school community. Just in case someone didn't tell you they love you today, you matter, you belong, and you are LOVED at AIS! Have a FANTASTIC day everyone!*

Best,

Cale Zuiker  
Altoona Intermediate School Principal  
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715-838-7111 ext. 309

"It takes years to build a culture, and you will always be looking to improve it"

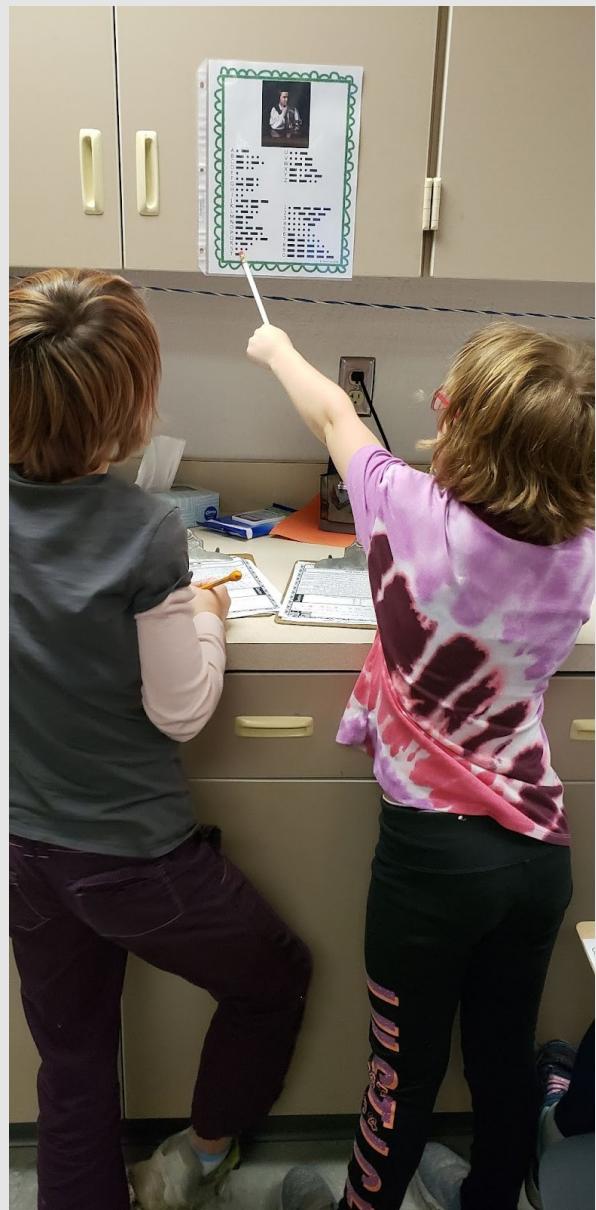


# 4th Grade Updates

## The American Revolution

No taxation without representation! This is just one of the many topics that the 4th Graders have learned about in our American Revolution unit. For the first part of this unit we've been reading articles about some of the events and people of the Revolutionary War. After reading the articles, we practice answering questions and highlighting text evidence to support our answers.

One of our favorite topics was learning about spies! We learned how they used secret codes to send and receive messages. We even practiced using secret codes in an escape room activity. There were four different messages that we had to decipher. Each message used a different type of secret code. Decoding the messages gave us the numbers that we needed to escape from the room.



# Cups, Quarts, and Gallons



Each month in Number Corner our classes collect something different. For November, each class collected one cup of colored water each day. We observed that it takes four cups to equal one quart, and four quarts to equal one gallon. We even wrote down some fraction equations for these observations. For example, we noticed that one cup is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a quart. When we made it to one quart we observed that  $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = 4/4$  which equals 1 full quart! We then noticed that we could change that equation into the multiplication equation  $4 \times \frac{1}{4} = 4/4$  (which equals 1). After 16 days, and 16 cups of water stored in quart containers, we were able to fill our gallon container!



Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office  
**Stuffed Animal Drive**  
Benefitting EC Victim/Witness Office

Donate NEW or GENTLY USED stuffed animals to be given to children who visit the Victim/Witness Office.  
Donations will be accepted December 5th - December 19th  
Donation boxes will be located in the Jail Lobby, Clerk of Courts Office, 1st Floor LE Center by Mailboxes, and ECSO Ground Floor Briefing Room

Stuffed animals will also be collected at AIS from December 5th–December 19th. There will be a friendly competition between classrooms and the class that collects the most will earn a hot cocoa party!

Gently used stuffed animals are OK to share. These stuffed animals are given to children in situations like car accidents, car stalls or incidents where children may be scared.

Thank you for your support!



# Bring on the Snow!

AIS Play

Article by Emerson Mohr and KharySma Davies

## Time and Date

The AIS play "Bring on the Snow", will be at the Altoona High School, on December 14th. The play will be at 6:00pm, and will last about 45-60 minutes long.



## About the Play



"Bring on the Snow" is a comedy play about kids who are excited that there is a blizzard coming. The kids sing songs and do dances as well!!

## Characters

There is a series of humans and animals that come out and crack jokes. A few of the characters include reindeer, snowflakes, geese, penguins, and figure skaters.



## Credits

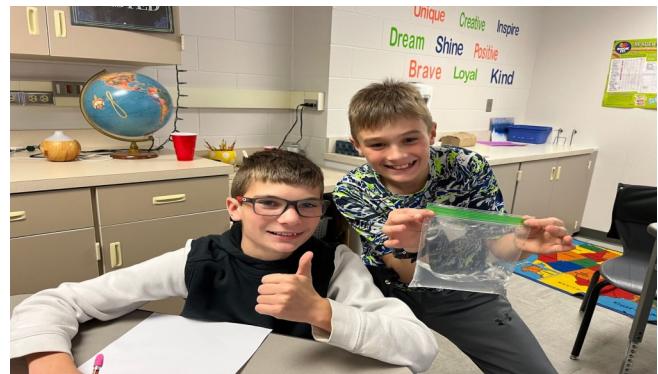
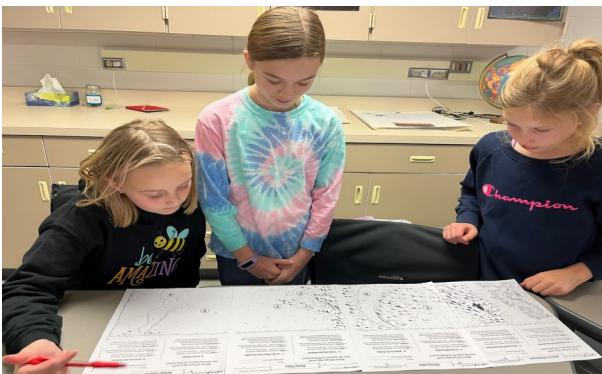
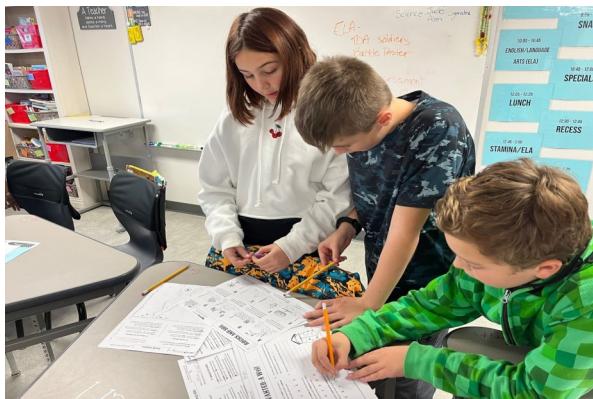
Mrs. Julie Scott & Mrs. Kristine Lenberg directed the play. They sacrificed their Mondays as well as their Wednesdays just to choreograph the play for 4th and 5th graders.

# What are 5th graders learning in science?

## **Do you know why you can't see salt in the ocean?**

In 5th grade we are learning about how much salt is in the ocean. We even made our own TINY oceans. The reason why we can't see the salt is because the salt dissolves into the water. When the water dries, the salt stays and forms little tiny crystals. It proves the salt is there even though we can't see it! We are also learning about aquifers and how we get our water.

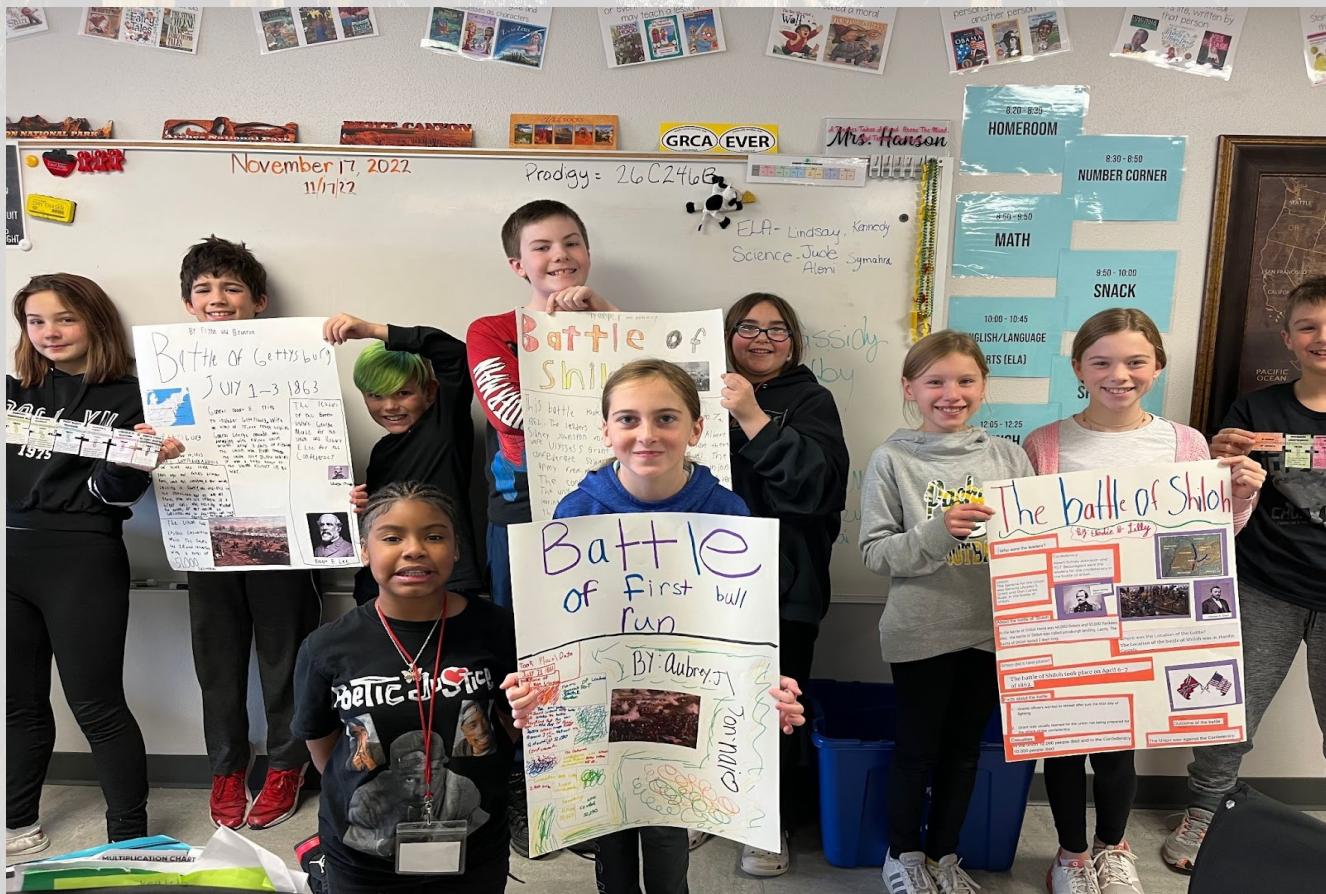
By: Jude McIntosh, Aloni Adams and Symahra Nelson.



# What are 5th graders doing in ELA?

Do you know any facts about the Civil War? We are learning all about the Civil War! We have written many Text Dependent Analysis also known as a TDA about the Civil War. A few topics were women, kids, soldiers. Another very important topic of the Civil War is the Underground Railroad. We learned how conductors help slaves to get to the north to be free. We learned how the Civil War started because the north and south had different opinions on slavery and politics. We took a formative and a summative for the Civil War. That's what we're doing in 5th grade.

By Kennedy Nichols and Lindsay Erickson  
In Mrs. Hanson's class.



# Meet the AIS Physical Education teachers!



Mr. Emerson's classes are working on Team Fitness activities.



Ms. Klahr's classes are working on Team Building activities.



Check out these AIS students in action!

