



Altoona Intermediate School

Altoona, Wisconsin



January 2023 Newsletter

Hello AIS Families! I hope the winter break was beneficial to you and your families; our staff used it as a necessary time to relax, rejuvenate, and also spend quality time with their loved ones. A new year has begun and with it comes excitement, renewed energy, and a readiness to mature in different ways. As a staff of educators, we are very excited to continue to help guide your child(ren) in the second half of the school year, academically as well as socially. Coming back from a long break can be difficult to get back into routines, procedures, and consistent expectations - please take a few moments to check in with your child(ren) to see how that reacclimation is going for them!



If you, or a family with children in our school district, is in need of a reliable and affordable internet source, please see the attached [link](#) that provides information on how to apply for that service. We want to ensure that all families have access to internet services so that all can participate in communication from our school as well as any home connections that our classroom has for our students! Simply click on this [highlighted link](#), and it will take you to more information! If there are any questions or needs for clarification, please contact our Future Ready Director, Sarah Radcliffe (sradcliffe@altoona.k12.wi.us).

Your child(ren) should have received a book entitled *Save Me a Seat when they left for winter break*. This book was obtained through a program called *One School One Book*, and provides schools with an affordable way to purchase whole school books. As a staff, we have been dedicated to promoting this book to our students, tying in topics from it to our social and emotional curriculum, and providing recorded read-alouds by our staff! On a device, please go to your child's Google Classroom page to get access to a chapter list, where each chapter is read by a different staff member!



The week of January 9th, all AIS students will take the mid-year Fastbridge assessments in reading and math. These two assessments provide key data for our staff and students to see growth, identify supports and enrichments for students to receive in the next few months, and to measure the effectiveness of our curriculum programs in ELA and Math. If you would like to see your child(ren)'s results before Family conferences in late February, please feel free to communicate with classroom teachers to obtain this information! As a school, it is our goal for 50% of our 4th and 5th-graders to reach the 65th percentile or higher by the end of the year in math and 44% of our 4th and 5th-graders to reach the 65th percentile or higher in reading.

Lastly, our Family Conferences are upcoming soon, on February 27th and March 2nd. It was great to see such a high number of families attend our Fall conferences, and the impact it has on our students is vital. Please be on the lookout for communication from our school, as well as from your classroom teacher, on signing up for time slots. We look forward to seeing you at that time and to continue to build relationships with the families we serve!

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"

Lunch Bunches with Mr. Zuiker are awesome! AIS students like talking about what they would do if they were the principal! There would be lots of ice cream and not so much school work!



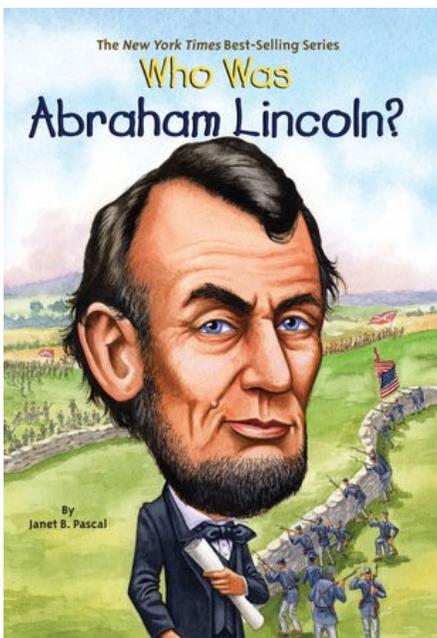
Save the Dates for Summer School!

Session 1: June 12-June 29, 2023
Session 2: July 10-July 20, 2023



All opportunities and registration information coming soon.

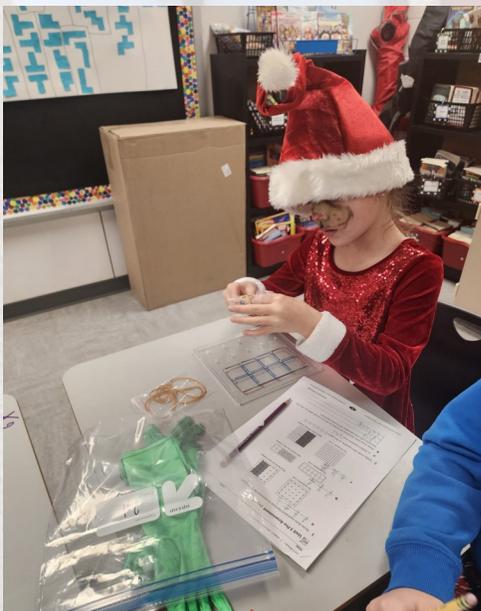
IT'S BIOGRAPHY TIME!



Students in 5th grade will be reading a biography of their choice and they will create a **“Who Am I?”** project to present to the class! As they read their biographies, students will identify interesting facts, character traits backed by evidence from the text, and multiple clues about their person to enhance their project. In the end, they will write a T(DA) Text Dependent Analysis of their person which is high level writing!

Fun with Fractions & Decimals!

Fourth graders at AIS have been having fun with fractions and decimals. Our 3rd unit in the new Bridges math curriculum allows our students to work with a number of manipulatives to solve problems. These manipulatives include egg cartons, base ten pieces, tiles, and geoboards. Manipulatives help students to bridge from concrete thinking to more abstract thinking. Building a solid foundation in their fraction and decimal learning will help them as they continue into 5th grade and beyond!



American Revolution Projects & Presentations

Did you know that there were over 10 battles during the American Revolutionary War? Our AIS 4th graders spent time this month researching the important people and events during this time period. After researching, they turned their information into a 5 paragraph essay. Then, they created a presentation with graphics to share with their classmates. Many students enjoyed learning about this time period in American history, and it was an excellent way to meet our Wisconsin learning standards in the areas of reading, writing, and speaking.

