



# Altoona Intermediate School

## Altoona, Wisconsin



# November 2023 Newsletter

Hello AIS Families! I hope the middle of November finds you at a good time with you and your family. As I am writing this, we are just getting ready to complete Day 53 of the school year with students and we have earned this well-deserved, upcoming break for the Thanksgiving holiday. Students are now firmly settled into the school year with the high expectations we have in our classrooms, the routines to engage students in deliberate practice of concepts and skills, and the relationships they have made and sustained with each other and the adult role models within our building. We are looking forward to this break for our students and staff, but are ready to come back even stronger to end November and December. As a family, it is HIGHLY helpful to have a routine for your child when they are on a break from school. We don't ask you to plan your child's day out minute by minute, but it is very beneficial to engage in some skill work at home whether that be independent reading, mathematics practice, or just engaging your child(ren) in a discussion about a topic!



Every student. Every day.

As we journey throughout this school year together, I will always keep families in the loop when it comes to our main outcomes that we are looking to accomplish. This month, I wanted to update you on our full-day attendance for the months of October and November as well as our current universal behavioral data. Our Full-Day attendance rate for the month of October was 94.04%, which is 1.66% higher than October of 2022 and 1.73% higher than October of 2021. Currently, for the month of November, the Full-Day attendance rate is 93.22%, which is 0.35% higher than November of 2022 and 0.06% higher than November of 2021 THANK YOU for ensuring your child(ren) are at school, on time, and ready to be successful learners.



From a lens of universal behavioral data, as of November 17th, 91.85% of our students have received 0-1 Skyward Behavior Referral, compared to this time in the 2022-23 school year, 90.91%. This data point is a vital one to continue to track and respond to, as we utilize it as a 'systems check' with the effectiveness of our universal social-emotional curriculum. Additionally, our students completed the Panorama screener back in September, providing us data on how supported they feel with their relationships at school, their ability to self-manage their emotions, and how they feel they can regulate their emotions when they become heightened. 89% of our AIS responded favorably to feeling supportive relationships at school, 81% responded favorably to being able to self-manage their emotions, and 55% responded favorably to being able to regulate their heightened emotions.

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Students just completed our first celebration assembly that was centered around the goals of gratitude and memorizing home phone numbers! For the past few weeks, students have been intentional with the daily practice of gratitude. Students kept their own documentation of what they are thankful for, along with their whole class as well. Students also participated in 'The Great AIS Phone Challenge' and we reached our goal of over 80% of our student body being able to recite their home phone number - a great life skill to have as they get older! Our goal area for our next celebration will be on minimizing 'disruptions' throughout the day. Teachers will be intentional with recognizing and reinforcing positive choices that limit disruptions throughout the classroom, hallways, and other areas that students find themselves in during the day. We appreciate ALL the discussion you have with your child(ren) at home to align our focus areas at school with what is expected, practiced, and followed through on at home!

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  
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715-838-7111 ext. 3009

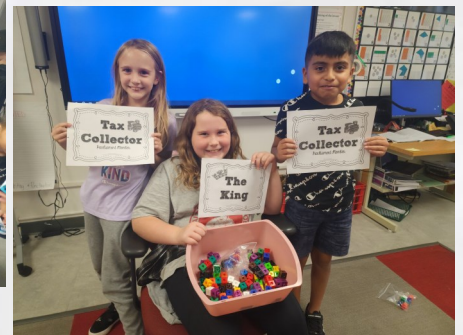
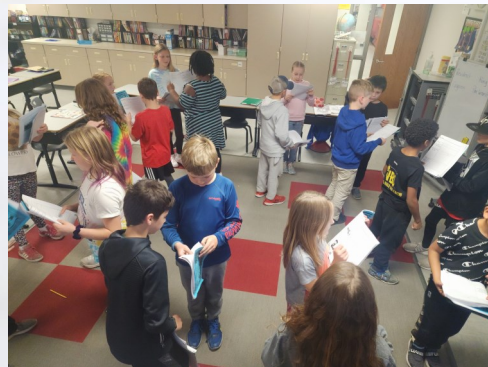
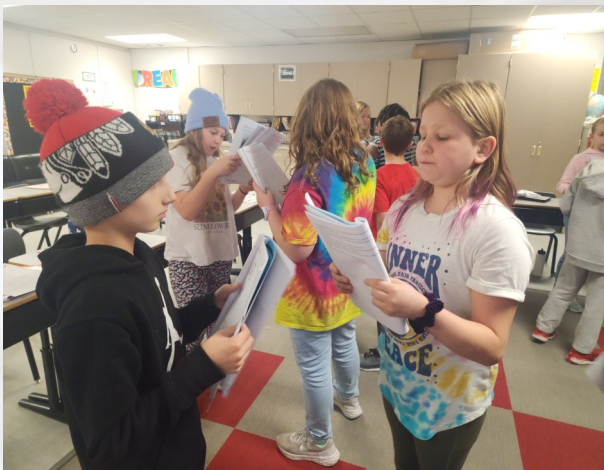
"It takes years to build a culture, and you will always be looking to improve it"



*“Listen my children, and you shall hear, of the midnight ride of Paul Revere”.*

The 4th grade students at AIS are studying the American Revolution! This Social Studies topic is integrated with ELA to give students a chance to sharpen their reading and writing skills while learning about this important time in American history. As students follow the historical points leading up to the Revolution, they are working on how to answer questions accurately and thoroughly. First, this is demonstrated by the teacher, then students work in partnerships, then alone when they complete their formative and summative assessments.

Taxation is a key reason that the American Colonists chose to fight for their independence. To model the taxation system that was imposed on the American colonies, students spent an afternoon with King George and some tax collectors. Students were taxed for certain attributes such as, “if you ate lunch today” or “if you are wearing the color blue”. They soon realized that being over-taxed without any representation could be very frustrating

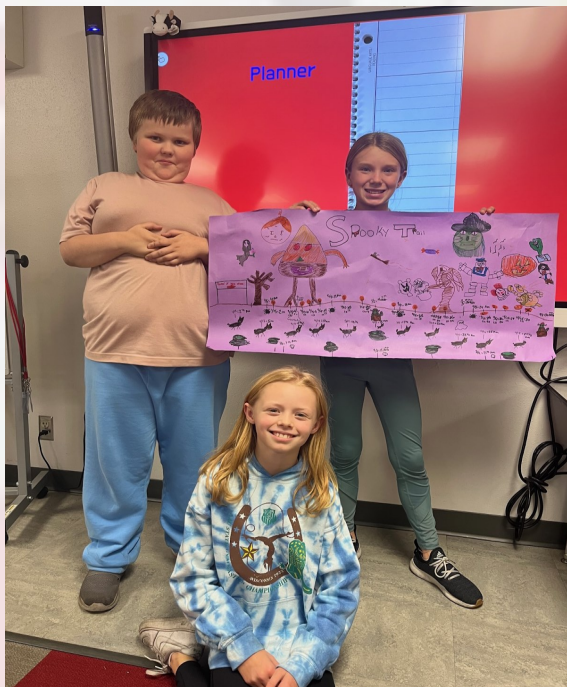


# What we are doing in math

by Tsyce Goebel and Emma Gilge

*In Math we are working with fractions. We must find the common denominators to add and subtract fractions. Recently we did the spooky trail. We did it for a few days and we got a lot of interaction with our peers. We put fractions on the 30 kilometer trail with fractional stops along the way. We had so much fun doing it. We hope to do something like it in the future. We've also been using clocks and money to help us add and subtract fractions.*

*We learned so many fun math games. Some of our favorites are Beat the Calculator and The Multiple Game. We are doing better buys such as which is a better buy \$5 for 4 cans and \$9 for 8? We are doing clock fractions.*

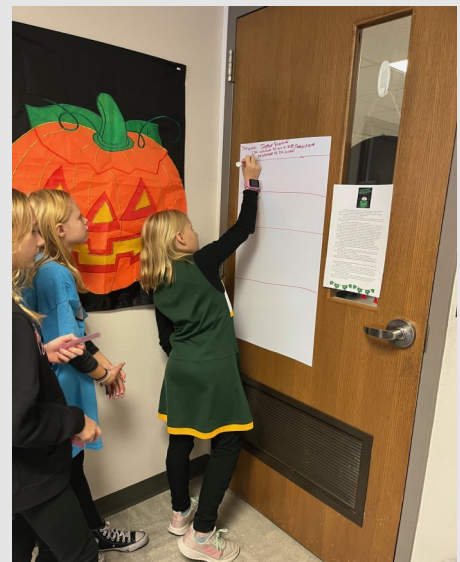
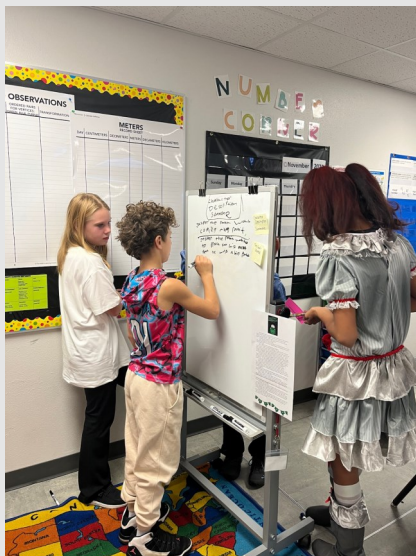


# 5th Grade ELA Recap

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For ELA we are also working on summarizing texts and finding themes. For summarizing we use the strategy of somebody, wanted, but, so, then. What we do for somebody is the main character and we will describe them. Then, we do the wanted, so for that we do what the character wants. Next, we do the but, this is the challenge that the character or characters had to face. After we do so, this is the solution and what the characters do to fix the problem. Lastly, we do then, this is what happens at the end. For theme we work on figuring out the message of the story. Then we give evidence to support the main message. To get a 4 though we will have to find something in the story that does not support the theme. We are having so much fun figuring out the theme and summarizing. Something that we also have done so far are group white boards. For this we read a story, and then we write our story elements and theme on the white board with a group. We can't wait for more fun ELA lessons this year.

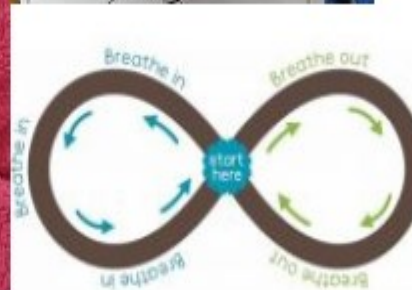
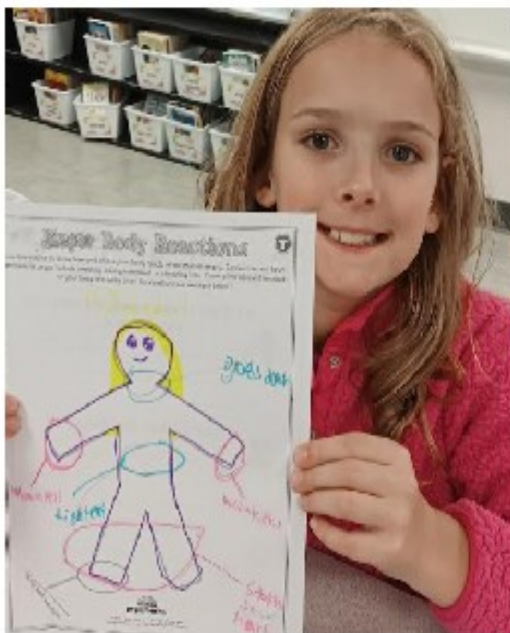
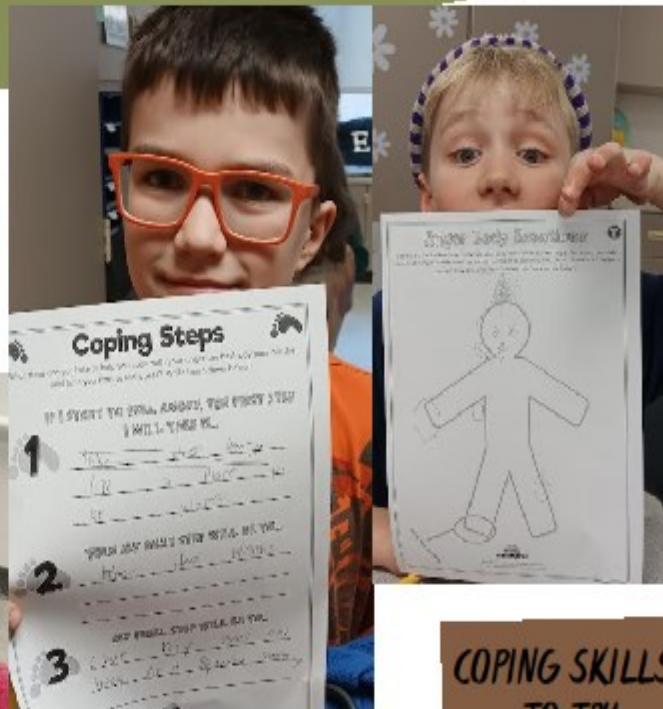
This report was made by: Annabella Eslinger and Avery Kreiner



# SCHOOL COUNSELING UPDATE

## LESSON GALLERY

4th graders from Ms. Ruppelt and Mrs. Ohms' classes show how sadness and anger effect them physically (body signals) and share their coping plans.



## COPING SKILLS TO TRY

A 4th grader recommends figure 8 breathing (left). Miss Brown likes bee breathing (below).

## SAVE THE DATE

HOPE GOSPEL MISSION

**FREE HOLIDAY MEALS**

Nov. 23 & Dec.16 11:30am-1pm

Dine in or carry out

2650 Mercantile Dr. Eau Claire



- Breathe in
- Breathe out with your mouth closed, while you HUM like a bee
- Repeat this breathing sequence for a few minutes

[www.localfalls.com](http://www.localfalls.com)

## Weekend Meals & Care Closet

Need food, hygiene products, winter gear? Clothes & shoes too. Free of charge! Need a hard to find size?

We can help. Contact me at 715-838-2206 or visit <https://sites.google.com/altoona.k12.wi.us/asdcarecloset/home>

**There will be no school from November 20th thru  
November 24th!**



