

# Albert Bridge School

CURIOUS. CREATIVE. CARING.

## Principal's Report : June 2020

*the Mt. Ascutney School District is committed- To honor,  
encourage, and celebrate the excellence, diversity, and aspirations  
of each learner through creative and motivating challenges.*



Dear Albert Bridge School Family,

I wanted to reach out to you all during this extraordinarily painful time for our nation. This is not new, but has been highlighted once again, as do other expressions of oppression and not being heard. As we take in the atrocities by those in power to those who are marginalized, specifically, our black community over the past few weeks, and consider the prevalence and persistence of these atrocities, this horrible event brings focus to the history of injustice that we must all address together. Sadly, this is only the most recent example of the injustice that has existed for many years. It is painful and shocking to recognize that even in the year 2020 – nearly 60 years after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – injustice exists to this degree across this country.

At ABS, we are committed to helping us move towards a better understanding and take action towards creating equity. We stand by the AOE's expectation: "Educational equity means that every student has access to the resources, opportunities and educational rigor they need at the right moment in their education, whatever their race, gender/identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, language, disability, family background, or family income may be."

I want to remind us all that we, as any community, are as strong as the relationships we build *with* each other. During this time of unrest, uncertainty, and fear, please take care of yourselves, your families, your friends, your communities – and each other.

Thinking of You,  
Your ABS Crew

# Resources for Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity

As many of you have reached out seeking ideas about how to talk with your child about the current events and discuss the issues of race, oppression, and our country's harmful history surrounding marginalized groups of people, I've compiled some helpful links.

[Child Mind Institute](#)

[Scholastic](#)

[Global and Cultural Awareness](#)

[Diversity and inclusion](#)

[Talking with kids about race](#)

# Next Year

Dear Parents/Guardians;

We know many of you have been wondering about plans for the fall and are wondering about what school may look like. We are working to address the guidelines of the Vermont Department of Health and Vermont Agency of Education to determine a way to provide our best possible learning experiences in the fall.

The current guidance from the State about reopening in the fall is likely to change. Therefore, we are in the process of developing plans that we think are best for students and have flexibility across a variety of settings (remote, in-person, hybrid).

We will wait until after boards discuss financial issues; the teaching team develops focus around goals and format; and the process becomes more clear before we officially assign teachers to grades. This will allow for flexibility to adjust class sizes and prepare creative programming that will address multiple situations and help us in planning to reopen in person.

We will present the teams and have students start connecting with the many adults once we have a reasonable plan. At ABS, we recognize it takes a village to raise a child and we're committed to creating the best village ever!

Thank you for all your work in sharing in the learning experience, your patience, and your understanding. Please contact us with any questions. As we learn more about what schooling will look like, we will be sure to update the community.

Best,

Jenifer Aldrich



# Music and Current Events

Dear Families, It has been my privilege to connect with your students as a music educator this year. Music is powerful. It connects and unifies us in many different ways. Back in January, we started learning our "All-School" song, "I'd like to Teach the World to Sing." Little did we know what the current events would bring and how appropriate this song would become for us this year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIR0KElxxVg>

Please also check out my video to ABS students for the last music day.

<https://youtu.be/2qgAwf7j91I>

**Next week on June 12th, please watch for more information about our exciting Music Day!! We are going to have a virtual field trip and then make our own instruments from ....yes....Vegetables...!**

# 4th-6th Graders Respond to Covid 19

*Impacts*

*Community*

**FRIENDS**

Pets

Spontaneous

History

Scary

Helping

*Family*

*Microbes*

**Bubbles**

Keep on growing and exploring my kindergarten friends,  
never stop trying!





Ms. Yates is putting together **summer learning** materials for families that are interested. Some options for families to consider:

- 1) Skills packets-traditional worksheets
  - 2) Do-It-Yourself, hands-on activities that play to your child's creative, inquisitive side.
  - 3) Summer reading! Ms. Yates and librarian, Mr. Money will work with your family to coordinate summer reading for your child
- These are all optional.** If you're interested, speak with your child's teacher, or Amanda Yates (ayates@wsesu.net)



*Summer Learning*

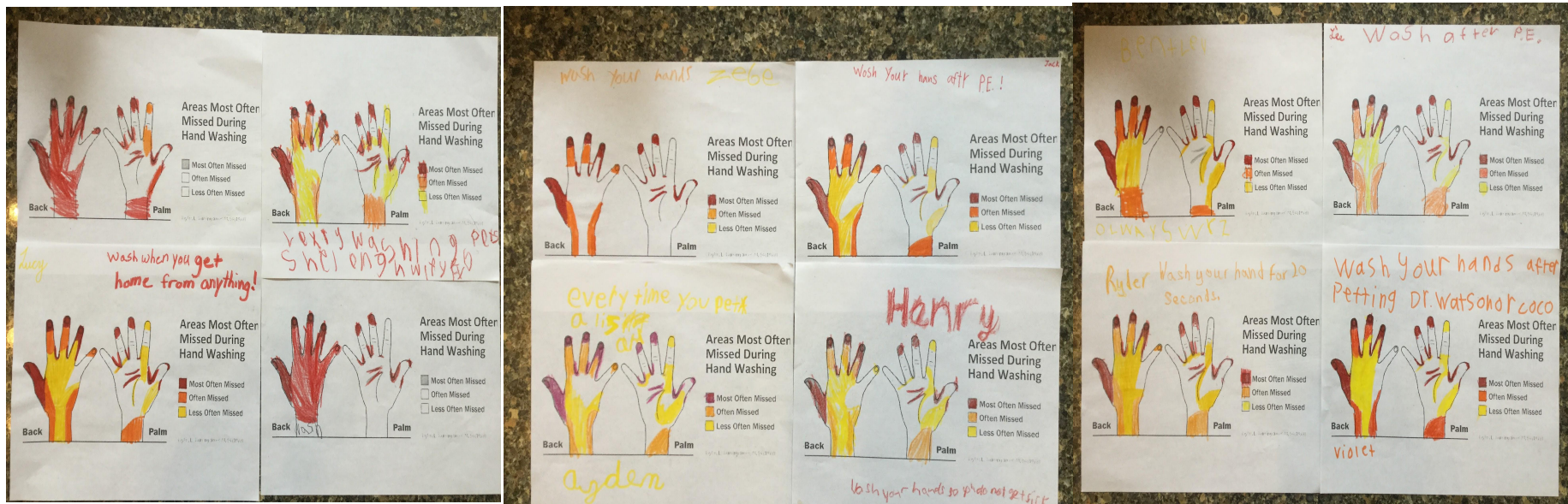




Enjoy the beautiful outdoors and time together with family and friends. Continue to make smart decisions to stay well!

We all have learned so much about handwashing, COVID 19, facial coverings, physical distancing, online creativity and community strength.

**Questions about handwashing?? Ask our 2nd and 3rd grade Handwashing Super Heros!!!**



# ABS Gardens Keep Growing!

Classes will be planting their class beds next week. The 4th grade virtually explored the beans that we grew last year, harvested, dried them all winter and now enjoy examining the results. The original plan was to serve our ABS beans at the Brownsville Bean Supper. These will be stored until we can all share them together!





# GET OUTSIDE AND EXPLORE VERMONT STATE PARKS THIS SUMMER!

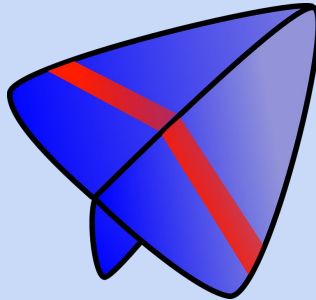
**All Parks Open June 26!**





Second and Third graders have been exploring paper airplanes!  
Some even came up with their own designs and shared it with  
classmates!

Thank you Mr. Wood for sharing this  
activity!





# *What the $\frac{2}{3}$ miss about their outdoor classroom!*

Smeyl i mis the Smel

I miss being able to climb trees and being able to build forts. When I go back I will sit and listen to the brook, climb trees and build forts.

i miss the sounds of nature.

I mis mi fort thet i bildid

I miss the  
brook.

I miss building a fort with my friends, making cairns, climbing trees, swinging from vines and the bonfire. When I go back I will look for the vine regrowing and skip rocks in the brook.



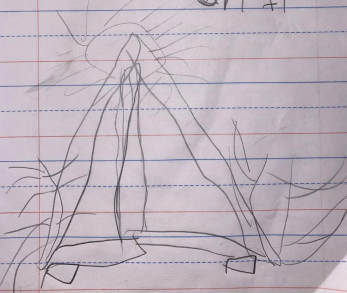


First grade has been working hard on their writing skills!  
Everyone has found creative ways to practice writing sight words  
& new ways to learn in the outdoors surrounding their homes!



I am looking  
forward to see a  
new classroom in  
second grade.



It is 7  
feet tall  
I can stand  
on it  


# Congratulations First Graders!

What's something you will miss about school  
in the summer?  
I will miss all  
of school.

Journal 6/5/20  
I will miss seeing  
my friends at school  
during the summer.

# Saying Goodbye

Our year has come and soon will be gone~  
We wish those heading on to other adventures,  
wherever they may be, the very best and thank you  
for sharing a part of your journey

Class of 2020



Graduation ceremony on June 12 at 9:00

Event will be streamed for families and later posted on website

# Last full week of new teaching

Hello ABS Families,

We hope you are all well and enjoying the beautiful weather. This is our last full week of new learning. We will have new Material through the 9th, then our focus and attention during the mornings will be to help those who need extra support catch up with their peers so that they can be a ready for next years and the many years beyond. Our crew is here to help, so please let us know what we can do to support you all. While school will likely be a critical source of instruction~ intellectual, social and academic growth should extend outside the walls of the classroom – if you want to really enhance a child's desire and ability to learn.

Here are some quick tips:

- 1) Read~create an atmosphere of reading. Children who develop a love of reading, develop a love for learning. Reading not only helps children develop a much richer vocabulary, it helps their brain learn how to process concepts and formal communication.
- 2) Share your passion~Enthusiasm rubs off, especially when it comes to learning new things. If your child or student sees that you're sincerely enthusiastic about learning, they're likely to become enthusiastic about learning.





# Mrs. Mary Kay Cronin: An ABS Legend

Mary Kay will be retiring this year. Her contribution to our children, school, families, our community can not be overstated. She is the consummate Kindergarten educator. She sees the possibility in everyone, has the patience that us mere mortals can only dream about, advocates tirelessly for every child in her care and beyond, and never stops learning and experimenting. She has been a central driver of our place-based and outdoor curriculum. Her love of literature inspires us all. She has served as a mentor for all of us educators that have had the distinct privilege of learning alongside her.



# Mrs. Sykes

Hello ABS Families! I can't believe this is the end of the school year! Most of my end of the year work has been focused on our incoming Preschoolers for next school year and of course getting everything together for our 6th grade graduates. I just want to say that it has been a pleasure and an honor to watch you grow over the last 7 years. We have truly become lifelong friends. I wish you all the best and hope that you will always know that Albert Bridge School's doors will ALWAYS be open to you and we want you to come and tell us all of your accomplishments. Best of luck!!





# Mrs. Wendy Bodley: An educator with many hats

Mrs. Bodley is fully retiring this year after serving as a writing/ math teacher for our multi-age classes, classroom teacher, and spanish teacher. She always found creative ways to engage students in their learning and gave us sayings we'll never forget!



# Ms. Ann Ackley: The Joyful Giver

Thank you for making us a better, stronger, kinder community.

