

# Athol-Royalston Regional Schools Parent Community Newsletter

September 2019

Volume 3

## ACES Welcome School Bus



This year, for the first time, the Athol Community Elementary School held a welcome back school bus to allow students and families a casual way to meet and greet the teachers and staff. The event launched with teachers and staff boarding a school bus and stopping in designated areas of town to connect with students and families. Students and families who took part were welcomed with flavored ice.

## ARMS Welcomes New Students



Athol-Royalston Middle School held a cookout for all new students in order to ensure they had an opportunity to get familiar with the building prior to the first day of school. The cookout included incoming grade 5 students and any new students to the school in grades 6-8.

## RCS Red Carpet Treatment

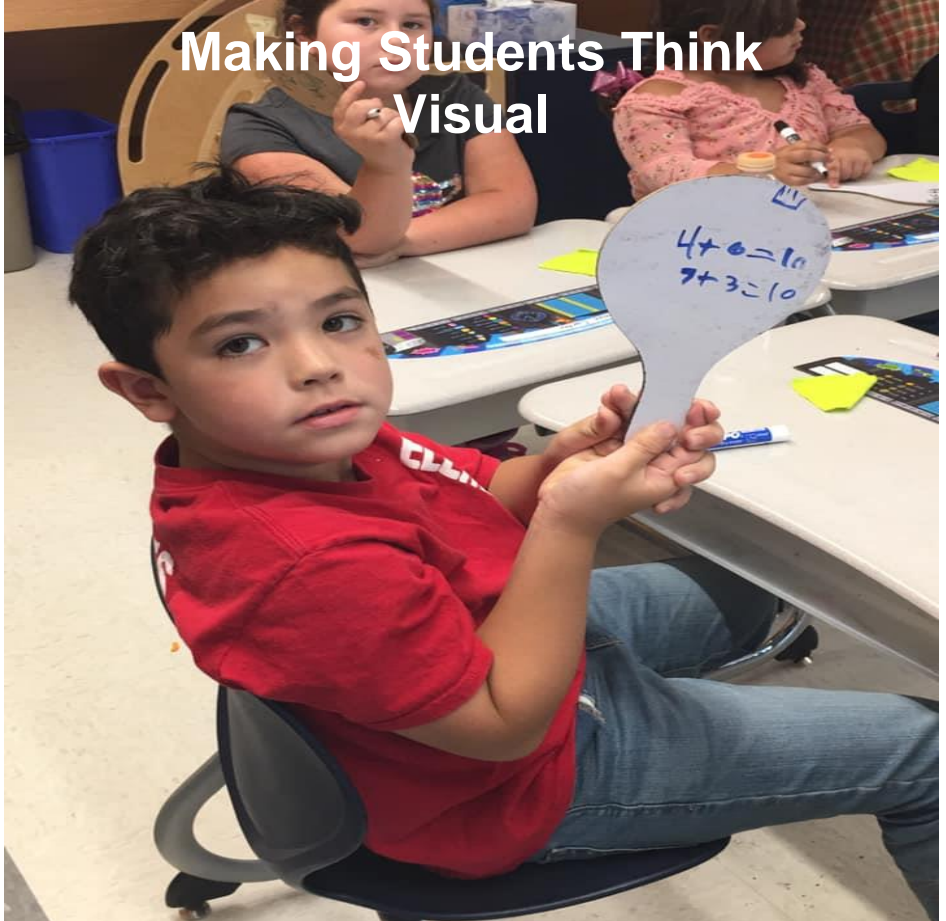


Cindy Reilly, the new principal at Royalston Community School, pulled out all the stops by lining the entrance of the school with a red carpet and star balloons to make students and families feel welcomed.



## KIDS FIRST

## Making Students Think Visual



## AHS Welcomes New Students

With the help of our PRIDE Crew (mentor students), AHS had a fun-filled orientation for all of the new students. In small groups, PRIDE Crew members led team building exercises that entailed building bridges out of newspaper and masking tape which were tall enough to fit a gallon size paint can under and strong enough to hold the weight of the paint can. One condition was that the students had to remain silent and communicate in non-verbal ways. After the bridge building, expectations were reviewed and the groups did a scavenger hunt around the building to help students be prepared for the first day of school.



# Superintendent's Message

The most exciting day in schools is always opening day. Students come to school ready to meet their teachers and friends. Schools are freshly painted and cleaned. Teachers are rested and staff is rearing to go.

This is the start of my third year in the district. I cannot tell you how pleased I am to continue leading the district. The community continues to invest in our schools and this has been recognized by the state during the review of our district. I am here to serve. If you would like to meet with me please feel free to contact my office to set up an appointment or join me for one of my coffee hours.

- Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 7:30 PM at the Middle School Library
- Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 7:00 PM at RCS Cafeteria
- Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 8:30 AM at ACES Library
- Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 5:00 PM at AHS Library

The district will continue to focus on the same objectives as promised.

1. Design classrooms where student literacy skills are consistently the focus of daily instruction.
2. Create and use a tiered system of social, emotional and behavioral supports to improve overall student engagement in classrooms.
3. Use data to drive decision-making in the areas of curriculum, instruction, student learning and social emotional supports.

You will notice this year the following:

- Students will demonstrate thinking more frequently in classrooms through writing and/or speaking.
- Students will learn the five Social Emotional Learning competencies and the district will look for families to support students in their learning of these at home as well.
- Teachers will use data to provide more support to students and parents will get benchmark test results on their students in grades K-10.

## Photo Compliments of Mitch Grosky



The Towns of Athol and Royalston invest in Athol High School by replacing the boiler system, school doors, windows and phones.

## Five SEL Competencies

This year, the district will begin teaching all students how to effectively deal with life challenges. Each week all students in the district will take part in a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) class. The class will focus on the five SEL competencies, which are:

- Social Awareness
- Responsible Decision Making
- Relationship Skills
- Self-Management
- Self Awareness



Throughout the year the district will ask parents to support their students at home with learning and modeling the five SEL competencies. A newsletter will go out each month giving parents tips on how to do this. The district will also provide workshops 4 times during the school year.