



# TIGER TRACKS

AKRON MIDDLE SCHOOL

June 1, 2023

Edition 5

[www.akronschools.org](http://www.akronschools.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK



Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

It is hard to believe that in just a few short weeks we will be winding down another school year. For many, summer break means time for travel, relaxation, and more time spent with friends and family. Before we can fully celebrate the close of another school year, remember to utilize these last few weeks to turn in all assignments and prepare for any final exams scheduled. With the weather as beautiful as it is, it is important to continue to get a good night's rest and arrive at school on time!

This past month, Akron Middle School partnered with the Erie County Board of Elections to vote for our Middle School class officers. The collaboration with the ECBOE provided our students an authentic voting experience, much like what they will experience when they turn 18. We had several students running for officer positions and look forward to working with all our student leaders throughout the 23-24 school year.

On June 16th, our students will participate in a "Team Building" afternoon. Mrs. Darian Papia, our 7th and 8th grade Health Teacher, has planned several team building activities for the students to rotate through. Additionally, students will attend a virtual Meet & Greet with Jon Pritikin, motivational speaker behind "Feel the Power." Students will each get a copy of his book "Feel the Power: A Survivor's Guide to Happiness." To learn more, feel free to explore <https://jonpritikin.org/> and <https://feelthepower.org/>. We will end the day with ice cream provided by the PTA. Most importantly, our Team Building Day emphasizes that we are **stronger together!**

Finally, we would like to wish congratulations to our 8th graders, the Class of 2027, as they embark on their next adventure: High School! Our students have faced adversity the last few years and have remained positive and resilient. We know they are well-prepared to begin their High School careers and are proud of all their accomplishments. Go Tigers!

## IMPORTANT JUNE DATES

- |    |  |           |                                   |
|----|--|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1  | Student of the Month Luncheon Grade 6-8  | 14        | LE Regents Exam - HS Café         |
| 1  | 7:00pm MS Music Awards Concert - AUD     | 15        | Grade 6-8 Social Studies Exam     |
| 2  | 8:15am-6pm MS Darien Lake Music Festival | 15        | Algebra 1 Regents Exam - HS Café  |
| 5  | 8th Grade NYS Assessment                 | 16        | Anti-Bullying Assembly            |
| 6  | MS Biology Club Mtg - M134               | 16        | Grade 8 Spanish Exam              |
| 7  | 6th Grade NF State Park Field Trip       | 16        | MS Field Day                      |
| 7  | MS Tech Club Mtg - M201                  | 16        | 8th Grade Awards Assembly - AUD   |
| 7  | BOE Regular Business Mtg - HS Cafe       | 16        | Grade 8 Semi-Formal Dance - Gym 1 |
| 8  | MS CARES Club Mtg - MS Cafe              | <b>19</b> | <b>Juneteenth - No School</b>     |
| 9  | HS Graduation Walk - Campus Wide         | 20        | Grade 6-8 ELA Exam                |
| 14 | Grade 6-8 Science Exam                   | 21        | Grade 6-8 Math Exam               |

## NATIVE AMERICAN OFFICE



Lost in translation. Have you ever tried to explain beef on weck to a non-western New Yorker? Or Aunt Rosie's? Or sponge candy? We all have foods that are culturally unique. One food that is hard for us to describe is cornbread. Most people think of the yellow, cake-like cornbread that is served at barbecue places. I like it with visible corn kernels and jalapenos - ooh and loaded with butter! But when Haudenosaunee talk about cornbread, it is a much different fare! Belinda Patterson came to the Middle School to talk about our cornbread and allowed students to make their own loaf!

First of all - we must keep in mind that all corn is indigenous to the Americas. Before contact, Europeans did not have any corn varieties. And our corn is much different than the popular corn on the cob corn. I know it as Tuscarora flour corn but is also known as Iroquois white corn or just Indian corn. It is a useful variety because it dries very well. At harvest, the picked corn is husked and each ear is braided with maybe 20 other ears, creating a long braid that is hung to dry. The kernels become hard to protect the flesh, making it perfect for lengthy storage.

Making cornbread is incredibly labor-intensive as well as time-consuming. So when there is an opportunity to eat cornbread - it is such a treat! Students were hands-on during the whole process.

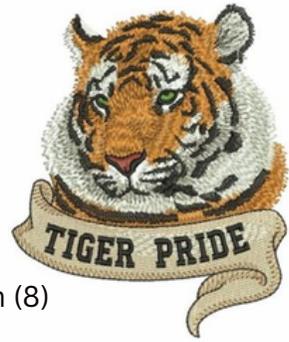
They shucked the corn kernels off the cob. They boiled it, with ashes, to remove the hull. Then they rinsed it like crazy to remove the eyes. They did not wait to dry it because it is an overnight process so Belinda had pre-dried corn available. Students pounded the corn in a hollowed-out log and a heavy pounder (think giant mortar and pestle!). Once the corn was pounded into flour, the cooking began! Boiling water was added to the corn flour along with kidney beans. Once it was the perfect consistency, students shaped it into mini-wheels. Those loaves were then gently boiled until ready, about 20 minutes.

Plant, harvest, dry, shuck, boil, wash, dry, pound, mix, boil, eat. After a morning of labor, students ate their mini-loaf with loads of butter and salt. It was a delicious time!



"Tiger Talk, our peer mentorship program between middle school and high school girls, will have our End of the Year Party on Wednesday, June 7th from 3:30-4:30 pm in C-120. Come join us in celebrating our first year as a group, planning future events and meetings, and getting to know our group and its members."

# MAY STUDENT OF THE MONTH



**Computer Science:** Quinn O'Malley (6) and Adelaide Mandell (7)  
**ELA:** Elsa Cottle (6), Nathaniel Gehl (7), and Peyton Waterbury (8)  
**Math:** Brooke Warren (6), Jacob Sommers (6), Gabe King (7), and Leah Smith (8)  
**Reading/Writing:** Thomas Schurr (6)  
**Science:** Brooke Wood (6), Annabella Rodriguez (7), and Austin Vandenbosch (8)  
**Seneca:** Anthony Abrams (7) and Nathan Lomayestewa (8)  
**Social Studies:** Carson Flanders (6), Kennedy Kozlowski (6), Sophia Brady (7), and Sofia Estevez  
**Spanish:** Kelsey McIntyre (7) and Nathaniel Mekarski (8)  
**Art 7:** Kiley Kumpf  
**Band:** Brock Lamont (8)  
**CDE 8:** Madigan Regan  
**Chorus:** Trenton Paxton (8)  
**Health:** Alyssa Jago (8)  
**Music 7:** Anastasia Los  
**Orchestra:** Anna Schneider (6)  
**PE 6/7/8:** Jesse Borynski (8) and Sawyer Ranney (8)  
**Reading/AIS:** Briana Wind  
**SRO 8th Grade:** Aiden Boshart, Jackie Mest and Kolton Vandenbosch  
**Academic Learning Center:** Lilyanna Dean (6) and Dallas Wilson (8)  
**Academic Achievement:** Leah Smith, Madigan Regan, Quinten VanPelt, Gabe King, and Takoda VanEvery

## FROM THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

We Made It! It's the final few weeks before summer break.

This month has so much happening, from finals, dances, graduations, to kiddos being home for the summer. Things to keep in mind to help make this hectic month a bit easier include:

### **Communicate, Communicate, and Communicate!**

**Final tests:** Make sure your kids are on track to finish the school year to the best of their ability.

**Dances:** Have a solid plan, know times of events, who your kids are going to be with, how they are getting to their destination, and what the plan is after. Be aware of illegal substances that may be present.

**Set a curfew!** If they are staying the night somewhere, have the address and contact information of the guardian there. Stay in contact with that guardian and your child.

Be available if there is an emergency or unforeseen change in plans.

**Parties:** Know where the party is, who will be there, and if you aren't staying, what adult(s) will be there and if there may be access to illegal substances.

**Enjoy the summer and stay safe!!**



# CARES CLUB RECAP

This year in Cares Club, students worked together to identify areas in need of improvement as it related to our Character Counts! Pillars. At each monthly meeting, there was open discussion about the previous month's pillar, and how things could be better addressed for next month's pillar. Students also put their acting skills to the test by modeling appropriate behavior for Morning Show videos. We are proud of each and every member of Cares Club for being our eyes, ears, and voice promoting our CC! Pillars within the student body at AMS.

A special thank you to:

Stephanie Amirian  
Brooke Ground  
Rieley Stuber

Hunter Bilicki  
Bentley Jones

Emma Fink  
James Johnson

Nathaniel Gehl  
Gabriel King

Some tips from Cares Club and Student Support Services for how to have a good, safe summer:

- Maintain contact with your friends
- Take breaks from electronics and social media
- Challenge yourself to explore a new hobby
- Organize yourself before school starts
- Check out these local attractions if you can:



- Darien Lake
- Galleria Mall
- Russell or Akron Falls parks
- Eternal Flame
- The Library

## CHARACTER COUNTS

For the month of June, Character Counts! will focus on the Pillars of Caring and Fairness. Students can earn Tiger Tickets by demonstrating these traits . . .



### Caring

- Be Kind
- Be Compassionate
- Express Gratitude
- Forgive Others

### Fairness

- Play by the rules
- Take turns and share
- Be openminded
- Don't take advantage of others

## MS JUNE LUNCH MENU

Monthly lunch menus can be accessed through our school website at [www.akronschools.org/menu](http://www.akronschools.org/menu).

If you would like a paper copy, please reach out to the Middle School Office.





## ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S CLIPBOARD

Spring Sports goes by in the blink of an eye every year! Our middle school student athletes were excellent this season and they contributed at the modified, junior varsity, and varsity level!

The Modified Mixed Boys and Girls Track Team had a very successful season with the most athletes competing on this team ever. Each athlete competed in many different running and field events and showed great progress! Akron's strongest events were the 200 M hurdles and 800 M run - sweeping those events in many of the 7 tri-meets! Coaches Guyton and Borden would like to congratulate the team on the impeccable sportsmanship the athletes exhibited all season! Shout out to our middle school students who contributed to the Varsity Track team this year! The list includes: Alex Brandl, Sam Crooks, Sofia Estevez, Brooke Milhollen, Emily Odachowski, Kylee Rebmann, and Madigan Regan.

The JV baseball team just finished a fantastic season. The team had a nice combination of experience in Conlan Luck and Collin Miller who led the team on the mound and at the plate, and youth in Jackson Schlabach and Hunter Haist who were key players in the field and the plate. The future is bright!

The Akron JV Softball team had a great 2023 season! The girls fought hard to end the season with a 9-2-1 record. This group of girls never gave up which led to such a successful run! Go Tigers!

Modified Lacrosse is having a strong second half of the season. They tallied several big wins in the month of May! They played their final game on Wednesday May 31st, so look for a team recap in the next edition of Tiger Tracks!

Please be sure to keep an eye out for all-important registration information and team meetings that coaches may be setting up for Fall Sports. Check the [Athletic](#) page on the website for frequent updates.



## The Gab from AMS Government

From the voices of: Danny Blask & Mackenzie Tomporowski

This May was a rollercoaster of emotions! We have had many thrilling days lately with the very tense elections and super-close votes for our 2023-24 class officers.

Congrats to our new MS Government officers, 9th grade class officers and Native American Ambassadors!

We are now planning for the upcoming 8th grade semi-formal dance and awards ceremony on June 16th! We have not had an 8th grade dance since Covid; needless to say, MS Government students are excited to end our year on a fun and exciting note!



We just received a new order of joggers! We have both youth and adult black joggers available at the Tigers Den School Store and Market on Main.

The final 9th period school store for the school year will be on Thursday, June 2. 9th period school stores may be coming to an end for the school year but look for us on June 23 in the Aud Foyer for graduation and all of our school apparel and merchandise can be bought at Market on Main, 57 Main Street, during the summer months.

The Tigers Den appreciates your support throughout the 2022-2023 school year! Your support this year has helped us award \$500 scholarships to two students who are pursuing a career in a business-related field. We will announce the winners at the awards ceremony on June 8.

Look forward to the following products being offered in the fall:

- Orange Shirt Day t-shirts (we will be ordering more of the shirts from last year)
- A new fall apparel design
- School Supplies
- Stickers for water bottles and notebooks

The Tigers Den school store takes debit/credit cards and Apple Pay!

Follow us @akronschoolstore on Instagram! We post updates on promotions, sampling, and everything the school store has to offer.



## MS TECH CLUB

Akron Middle School Tech Club members enjoyed great success at the 2023 ECC Tech Wars for middle and high schools held on May 25, 2023, at the Erie Community College City campus. Carson Flanders took 1st place and Lucas Watts placed 3rd in the Middle School Bridge competition. The team of Ira Mitten, Hannah Witkowski, Alison Mapes, and Gabe King earned 2nd place in the T-Shirt Design competition. The Middle School team of Quinn O'Malley, Lucas Watts, and Nate Mekarski competed in the High School competition of R/C King of the Hill and took 2nd place! 22 students from Akron Middle participated in the day-long event that is sponsored by the Western New York Technology Educators Association.

