



# The Guardian

June 2018

Newsletter of the Alton Educational Foundation

## Meet the AEF Board

F. Ryan Bemis D.C.  
*Chairperson*

Phil Trapani  
*Vice Chairperson*

Nita Whitten  
*Treasurer*

Angela McDowell  
*Secretary*

Cathy Droste

Susan Hatfield

Lisa Long

Doug Mendenhall

Martha Morse

Chuck Parr

Ginger Woodman

*District Representatives*

Mark Cappel

Elaine Kane

## Bricks, Blocks, & Benches

Bricks, blocks, and benches are available for purchase and will be placed at Alton High School. Proceeds from the sales are combined with the Guardians of Education funds. Click on the Brick Campaign tab at [altoned.org](http://altoned.org) for more information.

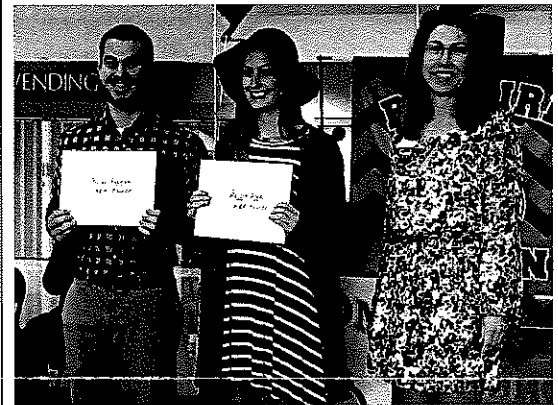
## Who We Are and What We Do *By Elaine Kane*

The Alton Educational Foundation, AEF, was founded in 2001 to raise funds for innovative projects that provide enhanced educational opportunities, support academic excellence and encourage student achievement throughout the Alton School District. The AEF Board is currently comprised of eleven local advocates for public education, including business owners, parents and retired educators. Over the past seventeen years, volunteers have launched numerous fundraising efforts, including Redbird Raffles and memorial brick sales. In 2014, the AEF Board of Directors developed The Guardians of Education membership program in hopes of raising more funds and retaining those funds for annual grants. The Guardians of Education program has raised over \$24,000 annually for the past two years and those funds have been given back as grants to educators in the district. The application process is simple for teachers and the money is awarded at the January ACUSD Board Meeting. Since the inception of AEF, an astounding total of \$187,000 has been awarded to teachers in the Alton School District due to the generosity of donors.

Local Guardians of Education include businesses and individuals who donate annually.

Many of the individual donations are from the very teachers and educators who have witnessed the academic benefits of the grants provided.

In addition to teacher grants, this generous organization also provides scholarship opportunities to Alton High School Graduates. This year the AEF awarded \$1,000 Burjes scholarships to Alicia Dyer and Brian Formea. How do students benefit from the work of the



*AEF scholarship winners:  
Brian Formea and Alicia Dyer.*

Alton Educational Foundation? The foundation annually funds grants that lead to improved technology, materials and equipment, as well as teaching aides that enhance student learning and engagement. As a small list of examples from 2017, students in Alton have hands on books, ipads, sewing machines, musical instruments, preserved biology specimens, 3D printers and robots. All thanks to the AEF.

## Support AEF through AmazonSmile & Schnucks eScrip

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Alton Education Foundation (you must type Alton Education Foundation as the recipient charity). Every item available for purchase on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) is also available on AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)) at the same price.

Once you sign up, you earn up to 3% of your purchase amount for AEF.

1. Stop in at Schnucks and pick up a *My Schnucks Card*.
2. Register your card online at [escrip.com/schnucks](http://escrip.com/schnucks) or by calling 1-800-931-6258.
3. Show your card each time you check out.

If you are new to eScrip, create an account and register your card.  
If you already have a card, add it to your account.



**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

## District Awards

Each year, Alton teachers and staff are recognized for excellence by their peers and by prestigious organizations of educators and business leaders.

The AEF salutes the 2016 & 2017 year's recipients!

### Boys and Girls Club of Alton "Teacher of the Year"

Lynda Willings  
Carey Cappel  
Natalie Gordon

### Carl Perkins Award

Regina Birch

### Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award

Angela Kuchnicki  
Janice Northway

### ISBE - Those Who Excel Award Recipients:

Eric Bogel  
Vicky Osborn  
Title I Team – Gilson Brown Elementary  
Chrissie Turner  
Cathy Stolze  
Melinda Fensterman  
Edmond Gray  
Elaine Kane  
Title I Team – North Elementary  
Letoya Ware

### 100 Black Men Education Award

Felicia Rush-Taylor  
Lisa Lovett

### 100 Black Men Resource Officer of the Year

Jeremy Dunham

### 100 Black Men Volunteer of the Year

Sandra West

### 2016 Illinois Democracy School

Alton High School

### State Transition Award

Joe Michalski

## Picture Perfect Science *By Shannon Stanton • 2nd Grade Teacher*

*West Elementary School*

With the \$441.00 amount I have been able to purchase not only the two resources books, *More Picture Perfect Science Lessons* and *Even More Picture Perfect Science Lessons*, but I also was able to purchase over 40 paired fiction and non-fiction children's books. In addition to these items, I had such a great time ordering books to accompany each science lesson! Now whenever a teacher or parent volunteer wants to teach a certain science concept, they have the lessons, the materials, and the books right at their fingertips.

Our teachers are so appreciative of the books and the many fun, age-appropriate science activities included. The teachers also seem to enjoy having the choice to select from a variety of science lessons and books. Finally, the students are getting to experience hands-on science lessons with quality children's fiction and non-fiction books. And as an added bonus, all the children's books purchased are on the Accelerated Reader Computer Program that our district uses. So the students are able to take tests on the AR program to show their comprehension of the books used for the science lessons.

My student teacher, Carlie Wiesehan, read the book *How Big Is A Foot?* to the students.

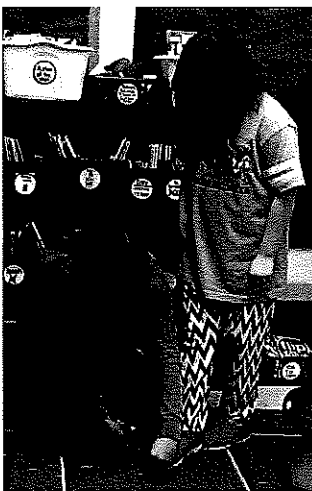
The book tells the story of a King who orders the little Apprentice to make a bed for the Queen that is 3 feet wide and 6 feet long. The Apprentice makes the bed, but because he has little feet, the bed doesn't fit the Queen.

Carlie stopped in the middle of the book to ask the students why the bed didn't fit the Queen. A discussion took place and the students were able to explore how big their own "3 feet" would be using yarn. Carlie then put all the measurements up for the class to see. Another discussion took place about who had the biggest feet.

After Carlie finished the story, the students wanted to continue to measure. They measured out how big 3 feet wide and 6 feet long would be with a ruler. Then of course, Miss Wiesehan had to be the Queen and lay in the bed. "My students had such fun with this activity, but more importantly, they all walked away with a better understanding of accurate measurement and using a ruler."

More often than other books, fiction and nonfiction picture books stimulate students on both the emotional and intellectual levels. They are appealing and memorable because children readily connect with the imaginative illustrations, vivid photographs, experiences and adventures of characters, engaging storylines, the fascinating information that supports them in their quest for knowledge, and the warm emotions that surround the reading experience.

Thank you so much for your generosity in making this grant possible!



## **Illuminating History** *By Lexa Browning, Alton High School*

**A**dvocates of The Benjamin Godfrey Legacy Trail are leading the charge to bring the history of this local sea captain to life in Alton. Part of the project included a children's book about the life of Benjamin Godfrey, and the Alton High Graphic Arts class was invited to illustrate the book.

[advantagenews.com/news/authors-team-up-with-ahs-students-for-godfrey-book](http://advantagenews.com/news/authors-team-up-with-ahs-students-for-godfrey-book)

Teacher Lexa Browning applied for and

received a grant to access Blippar technology that was incorporated in the book illustrations.



This feature allows readers to scan pages of the book and bring the story of Benjamin Godfrey to life. Take a look at the KSDK segment featuring the book:

[ksdk.com/article/mobile/news/local/alton-students-local-authors-publish-book-about-community-history/440222381](http://ksdk.com/article/mobile/news/local/alton-students-local-authors-publish-book-about-community-history/440222381)

## **Weather Bug** *By Bridget Lyles and Jeff Alderman, Alton Middle School and Alton High School*

**T**hanks to the AEF, we now have an onsite weather camera and alert system. Using the technology provided by Earth Networks, we have constant on the spot weather reports and a live camera on campus. Take a peek: [owc.enterprise.earthnetworks.com/OnlineWeatherCenter.aspx?aid=7102](http://owc.enterprise.earthnetworks.com/OnlineWeatherCenter.aspx?aid=7102)

This tool is used in our science classrooms coupled with a STEM curriculum to provide real data that students can

analyze and interpret.

In addition, our student athletes now have a warning system fueled by the latest technology

to ensure safety during practices and competition. As a convenience factor for parents, this weather station is also linked directly to our district website at [altonschools.org/](http://altonschools.org/).

EARTH  
NETWORKS®

## **Redbirds Recycle!** *By Kristen Belcher*

**T**hank you so much for making recycling a huge success at AHS this year!

We have recycled:

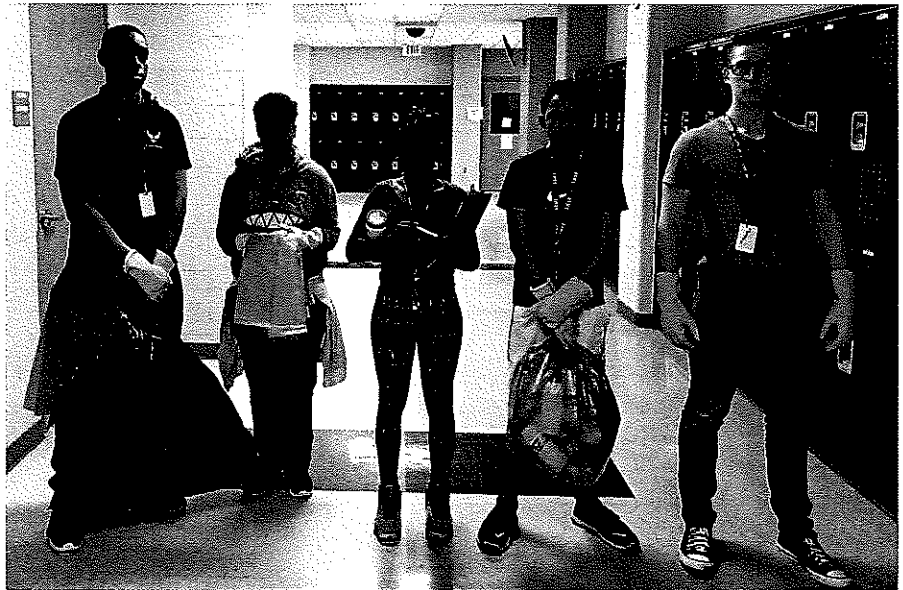
- 13,000 lbs. of paper & cardboard!
- 3,800 water bottles!
- 2,050 aluminum cans!
- 325 markers!

We had hundreds of students and staff contribute time to this effort totaling over 330 volunteer hours!

HUGE thanks for Ms. Grove's students and aids as well as ROTC. These groups did the majority of the collecting.

Other helpers included NHS, Graphic Design Club, Bio Club, Mrs. Poettker's Bio I class, Mrs. Hilgert, and Bio II.

All of these programs will be back in the fall thanks to the volunteer's willingness and an AEF grant.



## Athletic Wrap-up 2017-18

Starting with the Fall of 2017 our Athletic Program at Alton High School enjoyed many successes. The Boys and Girls Golf teams both had strong seasons. **Morgan Bemis** was an IHSA Sectional qualifier and will be attending Monmouth College next school year where she will continue her golf career. Girls Tennis won a very competitive Jacksonville Tournament as well as their own inaugural Andy Simpson Tournament early in the year. Boys Soccer experienced a winning season playing against a very tough schedule. Girls Volleyball was also very strong and featured a winning record in the always tough Southwestern Conference. The Cross Country season featured a strong season with the Girls Team qualifying for IHSA Sectionals and the Boys Team had 2 Sectional qualifiers in **Cassius Havis** and **Kelvin Cummings**. The highlight of the Fall Season was the Football Team qualifying for the IHSA Play-offs for the first time in 11 years and winning vs. Chicago Lincoln Park in the first round before falling to Lincoln Way West in a very exciting 2nd round game at Public School Stadium. Congratulations to all of our Fall Athletes and their coaches.

The Winter Season featured many successes as well. The Boys Bowling Team won the Jerseyville Regional led by individual champion **Justin Milliman**. The Boys Team went on to qualify for the IHSA Finals and competed admirably in those finals. The Girls Bowling Team qualified for IHSA Sectionals led by individual regional champ **Alex Bergin**. The Cheerleaders had a very strong competitive season and just missed qualifying for the IHSA State Finals by .50 of a point in scoring. The Dance Team qualified for the IDTA State Finals for the first time in several seasons. The wrestling team had a very strong season and qualified 6 wrestlers for the IHSA Sectional that was hosted at Alton HS on February 9th and 10th. Senior **Courteney Wilson** qualified for the state finals from this group. Girls Basketball finished in 6th place

in the Southwestern Conference and were consolation champions of the Hillsboro(MO) Tournament. This was a considerable improvement for the girls. Boys Basketball won 15+ games for the 4th consecutive year, finishing in 3rd Place in the SWC and gathering a 4th Place Centralia Holiday Tournament finish and a 2nd Place finish in the Alton Redbird Tip-off Classic. The boys fell in the regional championship game to Quincy. The Girls and Boys Swimmers also did well. The highlight of the swim season was that the Boys Team of **Matt Daniel, Cade & Coie Akal** and **Noah Clancy** qualified for the IHSA State Finals in 5 different events, a first for Alton HS. Noah Clancy finished 9th overall in the 100 Backstroke his 2nd consecutive top 10 finish at the IHSA Finals.

The Spring season also produced successful teams. Girls Soccer, led by Florida Gulf Coast University commit **Brianna Hatfield** and UIS commit **MaKayla Cox**, finished the season with double digit wins for the third year in a row. Baseball, featuring Lipscomb University commit **Charlie Erler**, finished the season with 16 wins. Girls Softball had 17 wins and was led by St. Louis Community College commit **Miranda Hudson**. Boys Volleyball and Boys Tennis represented AHS proudly in their various competitions. Boys and Girls Track started with indoor competitions and the Boys won the Jacksonville HS Indoor Invitational. Team success this Spring led to individuals getting some special recognition. The Redbirds had 36 All-Conference selections: 10 in Boys Track, 7 in Girls Track, 6 each in Girls Soccer and Softball, 4 in Boys Tennis and 3 in Baseball. Also, All-State selections were awarded to **Brianna Hatfield** (Soccer), **Katie Manns** (Track), **Tami Wong** (Softball) and **Ashlyn Betz** (Softball).

Check out [altonathletics.org](http://altonathletics.org) for any updates, schedules and notifications of Alton High School and Alton Middle School Athletics.



## ALTON MARCHING100

- On January 19-20, we had 4 students participate in the Bi-State Band Festival on the SIUE campus – Malia Esquivel (10), Sam Wieseman (11), Katie Scoma (12), and Sean Caporal (12). Students played under guest conductors and gave wonderful concerts!
- Fundraising has occurred for AHS Music Department (Band, Chorus, Orchestra) for the trip to Disney World in October. We appreciate all the support we've received so far!
- The AMS and AHS Winter Guards traveled to Fayetteville, Arkansas in February for competition.
- Alton High School hosted the IHSA Solo and Ensemble festival in March where 21 schools participated. Small groups/solos performed for a judge to receive feedback and a rating.



## Music News

*The Alton High School Music Department would like to announce the students selected to the 2018 Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Festival*

## All-State Orchestra

Thomas Frosch (11), viola  
Alyssa Plummer (12), cello

## All-State Choir

Gerald Chanerl (12), Tenor II  
Spencer Domer (11), Tenor I  
Jayson Heil (11), Bass I  
Audrey Neace (10), Alton I

## All-State Honors Choir

Sam Brown (11), Bass II  
Any Jones (12), Soprano I  
Kevin Neace (12), Tenor I  
Austin Turnbull (11), Tenor II  
Spencer Domer (11), All-State Choir

## Alton High School 2018 Illinois State Scholars

Allen, Suzanne	Cox, Makayla	Formea, Brian	Lambert, Taylor	Schmalbeck, Andrew
Asher, Leif	Das, Norma	Gehrig, Madeline	McKinney, Alexander	Schultz, Megan
Bagley, Ariaah	Davis, Levi	Godi, Emily	Meyer, Chaz	Smith, Breana
Baker, Eleanor	Douglas, Kami	Held, Rachel	Miller, Graham	Snyder, Brooke
Bemis, Morgan	Dyer, Alicia	Hunter, Gwendolyn	Nguyen, Simon	Vroman, Griffin
Bevenour, Emily	Eagleton, Rebecca	Kane, Ryan	Pimentel, Dinah	Wilson, Courteney
Bond, Alexander	Felix, Liberty	Keay, Mallory	Plummer, Alyssa	
Brumfield, Geneva	Fischer, Abby	Kercher, Ethan	Presley, Darian	

### 2018 National Merit Program Commended Student

Leif Asher

### 2017 Elijah P Lovejoy Memorial Scholarship

Tyler Stevenson

### 2017 Lovejoy Memorial Academic Achievement Award

Logan Clark  
Abigail Day  
Savannah Fisher  
Brooke Frank

Kiara Hardmon  
Elizabeth Hanke  
Alexys Williams

## Thank you to our Guardians of Education!

### 2018 Guardians of Education

#### Emeritus (\$1,000 or more)

Alton Memorial Hospital  
BJC Healthcare  
CNB Bank & Trust  
HWRT Oil Company  
Karen Wilson State Farm  
Liberty Bank  
Phillips 66  
Charles & Ann Sheppard  
Charles & Joan Sheppard  
The Loading Dock  
Steve & Laura Thompson  
Woodman Collision Center

#### Valedictorian (\$500-\$999)

Kristie Baumgartner  
Catherine Droste  
Kenny & Cindy Inman  
Phil & Teri Trapani  
Smith, Mendenhall, Selby & Cole

#### Salutatorian (\$250-\$499)

AHS Class of '82  
John & Barabara Hoelscher  
CB & Ellen Jackson  
Angela McDowell  
Barb & Dit Panfile  
Laura & Todd Plummer  
Sonya Porter  
Jane Saale  
Theresa & Reuben Willis

#### High Honor Roll (\$50-\$249)

Julie Basler  
Steve & Barb Batchelor  
Michael & Barbara Beaber  
Julia Beckham  
Michael Bellm  
Frank & Donna Bemis  
Ryan & Kristin Bemis  
Karen Botterbush  
Mike & Elizabeth Brey  
Mark Cappel  
Jim Claywell  
Claywell Asset Management  
Sandra Crawford  
John Cunningham  
Dr. Robert & Mrs. Denby  
John Ducey  
Cathy Elliott  
David & Paula Fritz  
Teena Funk  
Edmond Gray  
Laura Hill  
Tawnya Hooper  
Nancy Ikard  
David & Annette Jacks  
Christine Jones  
Moe & Jo Juhlin  
Elizabeth Kane  
Melissa King  
Joyce Kniepkamp  
Angela Kuchnicki  
Victoria Lehman  
Rance & Lisa Long  
Amy Maberry  
Ann McLaughlin  
Jody Meggos  
Robert Miller

Vivian Monckton  
Vicky Osborn  
Charles Jr & Susan Parr  
Dean & Lisa Pearson  
Debra Penning  
Elaine Pflieger  
Martha Price-Darr  
Sonya Ptah  
Dr. Bradley & Susan Roberts  
Stacy Saffell  
Joy Sawyer  
Vicki Schilling  
James Schrempf  
Maria Scott  
Joe & Shannon Stanton  
Denise Stidd  
Cathy Stolze  
Pat Taulbee  
Katherine Walters  
Peter Wangler  
Weiner Family  
Marjorie Wheeler  
Tom & Nita Whitten  
Katherine Willings  
Lynda Willings  
Jan Wrischnik

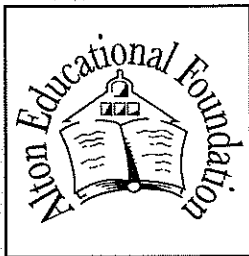
#### Honor Roll (\$5-\$49)

Jeff Alderman  
John Bannister  
Susan Beers  
Jetta Blair  
Amy Brainerd  
Melvin & Monica Bristow  
Lexa Browning-Needham  
Thora Buis  
Carey Cappel

Carey Clayton  
Sonja Collins-Fordson  
Paige Dawdy  
Heather Decker  
Trudi Douglas  
Julie Gallivan  
Cami Giertz  
Julie Gorsage  
Jenny Hammond  
Sharolyn Hartman  
Carrie Henderson  
Lisa Holland  
Michelle Klasner  
Angela Laaker  
Christine Lafikes  
Karen & Robert Lowe  
Cindy McCormick  
Deborah Miller  
Linda Nevlín  
Christina Petrea  
Brian Saenz  
Carrie Schildroth  
Kara Twichell  
Kara Wagner  
Jaris Waide  
Danette Watt  
Angel Weber



to **HWRT Oil Company**  
for their support by donating  
\$20,000 over the past  
four years!



Alton Educational Foundation  
 P.O. Box 514  
 Alton, IL 62002

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 US Postage  
 PAID  
 St Louis MO  
 Permit 2828

Founded in 2001, the Alton Educational Foundation's mission is to enhance educational opportunities, support academic excellence and encourage student achievement in the Alton School District.

We're on the Web!  
 Visit [altoned.org](http://altoned.org)



\*\*\*\*\*AUTO\*\*5-DIGIT 62035

The Trapani Household  
 5221 Dover Dr  
 Godfrey, IL 62035-1401

## Guardian of Education Registration Form

(Mail to AEF, P.O. Box 514, Alton, IL 62002 or register online at [altoned.org](http://altoned.org) and click on the Membership tab)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am paying by (check one)

Check  Credit Card Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks payable to Alton Educational Foundation**

(A portion of the dues are tax deductible) Alton school district employees can also use a payroll deduction option. Corporate gift matching is another opportunity for donations as the AEF is a 501(c)(3) organization with a tax exempt ID.

VISA  MC  DISCOVER Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**You can be a Guardian** – The Guardians of Education program offers a unique chance to aid the educational opportunities of Alton students. An annual membership is available to individuals as well as businesses.

Select membership level

**HONOR ROLL** – \$5 minimum (name in newsletter and AEF website)

**HIGH HONOR ROLL** – \$50 minimum (name in newsletter and AEF website)

**SALUTATORIAN** – \$250 minimum (name in newsletter and AEF website, invitation to annual breakfast, 4 tickets for district event(s) of choice)

**VALEDICTORIAN** – \$500 minimum (name in newsletter and AEF website, invitation to annual breakfast, 16 tickets for district event(s) of choice, name on engraved plaques in each school building)

**EMERITUS** – \$1000 minimum (name in newsletter and AEF website, invitation to annual breakfast, a pass to all district events, name on engraved plaques in each school building, individual engraved plaque)

Name as you want it to appear on website/publications \_\_\_\_\_